
DSA Newscast

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The official newsletter of the Dozenal Society of America

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EDUCATING IN DOZENS

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The Dozenal Society of America is a voluntary, nonprofit educational corporation, organized for the conduct of research and education of the public in the use of dozenal (also called duodecimal or base twelve) in calculations, mathematics, weights and measures, and other branches of pure and applied science.

FOR MANY OF US, dozens are a hobby, an interesting way to learn more about mathematics and pass the time. For some of us, dozens are a passion. For all of us, though, dozens are an *interest*, or else we wouldn't be here. Moreover, dozens are an interest which we are interested in spreading. That is, indeed, one of the primary purposes of our Society, as explained in the statement in the column to the right. We are a nonprofit *educational* corporation, and one of our primary purposes is to educate the public about dozenal. So how can we do that?

From the very beginning, one of our founders and the first Editor of the *Bulletin*, Ralph Beard, emblazoned a motto on every issue that he published: "Each one, teach one." It is a motto that we have begun to place at the end of each issue of this *Newscast*, as well. It is, transparently, a fundamentally educational statement, and one that we can take to heart. But here I don't want to focus on the "teach"; I want to focus on the "one." Each *one*, teach *one*; that carries an important lesson for the members of our Society today.

As a Society, we conduct many educational outreaches. We have for the last several years been presenting programs for teachers of mathematics and related subjects; at the annual conference of the American Society for Engineering Education, at two regional conferences of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics,

and this very month will conduct another at the Ohio Conference of Teachers of Mathematics. These are all wonderful programs eminently in accord with our goals as a Society.

But despite reaching a large audience, these efforts are necessarily limited in scope. Fundamentally, we are a Society of individuals who love dozens and want to share that; so it's important that we approach our educational goals *as individuals*. We can stand in front of groups of people and preach the glories of dozens as much as we like; but until personal contacts are made, it is often of little use.

People learn from *people*, not from programs and campaigns; that's why we've dedicated so much effort in the last few years to teach the teachers. But really, we are all teachers. There are people in our homes; in our offices; in our churches; in our other clubs and places of interest; and all around us who don't know that dozenals even exist, much less how much clearer and easier they make mathematics and our everyday lives. These people are no longer in school and never hear from teachers; they are not "math people" and only dimly remember even their arithmetic from grade school.

These are the people we need to reach.

We must guard against becoming proselytizers; there are much worthier subjects for such activity. The eccentricity of our interest in dozens can already make us look like

cranks, and that's an appearance that we should avoid. But we must also not be shy; if people express an interest, we should share our interest with them. And we can prompt such expressions by our actions.

For several years, the DSA has published a monthly calendar, coil-bound, which can be hung from the wall. Such a calendar in an office is unobtrusive; but will often prompt questions when people observe the odd-looking numbers on it. This is, moreover, not an innovative new calendar proposal; it is our own, familiar calendar, but written out in dozens. This is an easy opportunity to explain

dozenal to people; it may not excite much interest in them, but at least the concept will now exist for them.

We hope to soon offer clocks and similar items, which can be put up in the same way.

Even more importantly, we should *use dozenals ourselves*. It's all very good to read the *Bulletin* and know the concepts; but if dozenals truly do make things so much easier, we should surely be using them ourselves. Count things in dozenal; do our own math in dozenal; perhaps keep our books, number our pages, keep our calendars and time in dozenal. If you have a metric system that you prefer,

consider using it for your own measuring needs as much as possible. Not only will this more familiarize yourself with this wonderful base; it will also prompt interest when people see you using it.

These are not deep or ponderous proposals; they are basic suggestions that doubtless many of us are already doing. But as the new biennium approaches, let's consider how we can use this opportunity to further our Society's mission. I can think of no better way to close than by echoing once again the (deep and ponderous) words of our founder:

Each one, teach one.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

REMINDER: ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1188

Our annual meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Cincinnati-Riverfront at 10 E. Rivercenter Boulevard, Covington, Kentucky 41011. Our meeting itself will be on October 15, 1188.

During the annual conference of the Ohio Conference of Teachers of Mathematics, we will be presenting a program on dozenals and other non-decimal bases; titled "Alternate Bases and CC Connections to Programming, Music, and History," this program will be presented at 10:00-11:40 (12:00-13:20) on Friday, 14 October 1188.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

As noted in our last issue, the next issue of *The Duodecimal Bulletin* will be released later this year, and will focus on dozenal's contribution to metrology. If you have ideas about metrology, please write them out and send them to the Editor:

editor@dozenal.org

We're all very excited about this issue and hope to have a great deal of input from our membership to include. Thank you.

DOZENAL NEWS

MATHAMERICA PUBLISHED

Grover Cleveland Perry, back in 1149, wrote a passionate plea for the institution of the dozenal system. The DSA has recently republished this work, formerly not only out of print, but never digitized and almost impossible to find:

<http://www.dozenal.org/drupal/content/mathameric>
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Mathamerica is a particularly chauvinistic piece of

dozenal advocacy, explicitly arguing from an Americanist perspective. It was written during the interwar period by an individual who clearly did not share the international sentiments of our own founders, and so it does not reflect the culturally neutral outlook of those other earlier works. However, it not only presents an important stage in the development of dozenal thought, but also does present some more neutral supports for dozenals. We're pleased to be able to make it available.

POETICAL DIVERSION

Do! Do! Do!

You may talk o' Dec and El
When you're meetin' in hotel,
With yer dozen lovin' friends and peers.

But when it comes to others and their tens
And their slo to get it friends
Then it's Do! Do! Do! Where ya' been?

I was brought up usin' tens, unaware,
Til one teacher did other bases share.
And now it's Do! Do! Do! Every day!

Of all the bases I would hear
It became so very clear
And it's Do! Do! Do! Glad yer here!

Ah! The friends that I have made
On our Dozenal crusade!
Oh, it's, Do! Do! Do! Glad yer here!

—Gene Zirkel (#67), with apologies to Rudyard Kipling

DONATIONS

Members, please remember that while dues are no longer required for membership, we still rely on the generosity of members to keep the DSA going. Donations of any amount, large or small, are welcome and needed.

A donation of \$10; (\$12.) will procure Subscription membership, and entitles the payer to receive both a digital and a paper copy of the *Bulletin* if requested. Other members will receive only a digital copy. To invoke this privilege, please notify the Editor of the Bulletin, John Volan, at

editor@dozenal.org

As members know, we are a volunteer organization which pays no salaries. As such, every penny you donate goes toward furthering the DSA's goals.

It may be worth considering a monthly donation; say, \$3, or \$6, or whatever seems reasonable to you. This can be set up quite easily with PayPal or WePay, both of which are available at our web site.

Of course, if you prefer to donate by check, you may send them

to our worthy Treasurer, Jay Schiffman, payable to the Dozenal Society of America, at:

Jay Schiffman
604-36 South Washington
Square, #815
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4115

Remember, too, that the DSA will likely soon be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; when this happens, your contributions will be tax deductible under applicable law.

FOR SALE

The DSA is pleased to offer the following for sale. These are all either at cost, or the proceeds go to the Society.

Item	Price (\$)
Wall Calendar for 11gg, coiled binding	10.05
Weekly Planner for 11gg	8.29
TGM: A Coherent Dozenal Metrology	8.00

Prices are, unfortunately but by necessity, in decimal. To find these works, simply go to:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/shop.ep>

and enter the appropriate terms. E.g., searching for "11EE" will turn up these calendars and the planner; searching for "TGM dozenal" will turn up the TGM book.

We hope to offer other titles, and even some other items (such as dozenal clocks and the like), in the near future.

EACH ONE, TEACH ONE