
DSA Newscast

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The official newsletter of the Dozenal Society of America

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ANNUAL MEETING, 1203

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Annual Meeting, 1203

Dozenal News

Unicode and Dozens 2
Building an American Flag in
Dozenal 2

Society Business

Volunteers Needed 2
Our Next *Bulletin* 2
Annual Meeting 2

Poetical Diversion

Who has Need of Five? 3

Donations

For Sale

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.

OUR ANNUAL meeting was held on Saturday, 2 November, at the CIC Center in Boston! It was an excellent location, secured for us by our vice president, Graham Steele (#320). In attendance were Graham, John Volan (#418), Jay Schiffman (#228), Donald Goodman (#398), and new member #571, Mikey.

Of foremost discussion were our struggles releasing the *Bulletin*. Our editor, John Volan, has been experiencing a great press of personal and professional business for some time, preventing the release of our next volume. Remembering that we are an all-volunteer organization, this sort of thing can happen, and in fact has happened from time to time in the past. Jay Schiffman, our longest-serving member, having been through similar situations, suggested that one or more associate editors be appointed to ease the burden of preparing the next issue. In that vein, Donald Goodman and Graham Steele were appointed associate editors, and we formed the goal of having the next official issue released sometime this December.

Michael deVlieger (#378), our secretary and formerly both president and editor, had already volunteered to produce a special issue honoring Gene Zirkel (#67), a long-time stalwart of the Society, without whom it arguably would have died several dozen years ago. Gene joined the Society in its seventh year, in 1167 (1951.), and took up the presidency in 1190 (1980), shortly after the death of president Tom Linton, when it appeared that the Society was very near the ashbin of history. He and his wife, Pat, not only saved but revitalized it, and Gene played an

important role in bringing in many of the leaders of the Society today. That special issue should also be released this week.

The Board voted a special award to Gene for his long-time service and dedication to the Society and the cause of dozens and of non-decimal bases in general, which we will present to his wife, Pat, in the next few months. The particulars of the award will be determined shortly.

Jay Schiffman, by far the longest-time friend and comember of Gene, gave a moving paean to his friend, for which the Board thanks him.

The Board further discussed that, for several years, our education committee chair, Jen Seron (#322), had arranged for our annual meetings to coincide with educational conferences, enabling some cross-pollination with these systems. She was further able to have the Society make actual presentations to these organizations; e.g., to the American Society for Engineering Education and to the National Conference for Teachers of Mathematics. Since family concerns have prevented much of her activity in recent years, the Society has been unable to do much of this. Graham suggested that he still has some connections at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and also noted that Boston is a city with many institutes of higher learning that are bound to have math clubs and similar organizations with significant overlap with the DSA's mission.

The membership therefore voted to have our next annual meeting in Boston again. We would like to have it earlier, perhaps in August or September, and try to coin-

cide with various conferences that occur in Boston at that time. We will also attempt to advertise the meeting at local universities and similar locations in the hopes of drawing further interest.

Finally, our annual meeting this year was organized much too late to be able to gather the attendance that we'd like, or that we've been accustomed to in recent years. The Board resolved to have the meeting arranged much earlier, to facilitate the attendance of those in a position to come in per-

son. We further would like to have in place some real video-conferencing systems to allow digital participation (we had several members ask about this, but unfortunately no ability to really effectuate it), and perhaps explore live-streaming options. If you have knowledge or experience in this area, please contact us and let us know; we'd love to have your help!

We closed with John Volan giving a very interesting presentation on a piece of software he had developed, which permits the

development of an entire metric system, in any base, from the beginning setting of a few parameters. We discussed a number of the aspects of metric system design, and had a very informative informal discussion about this issues before adjourning.

So keep in mind, until we have some further details, August or September of next year, in Boston.

Happy dozens!

DOZENAL NEWS

UNICODE AND DOZENS

A quite note from Josiah Hulfers on dozenal and Unicode:

<https://josiahulfers.com/2017/06/15/how-unicode-can-save-math-part-2/>

This is just a quick discussion of dozenal, transdecimal symbols, and Unicode, but it may well be worth dropping in on.

BUILDING AN AMERICAN FLAG IN DOZENAL

Kevin Tracy (#75z) lovingly details his construction of a large, wooden American flag using dozenal numbers:

<https://www.ktracy.com/2019/07/31/making-a-wooden-american-flag-with-build-details-in-dozenal-numbers-or-base-12/>

It's likely more interesting to woodworkers than to dozenalists; but it is an interesting look at a practical project using dozens.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As mentioned earlier, the DSA is an all-volunteer organization, and we pay no salaries. As a result, everything that we do comes out of the spare time of our members, time that they have to take away from their families, jobs, or other obligations.

We all love dozenals and enjoy assisting the Society in educating people about them; however, as the Society expands and does more, we find ourselves in need of more help.

Fortunately, the Society has a large membership with a very broad range of pro-

fessions and experience. If you think you can spare any time or effort for the cause of educating the world about dozenals, please let us know:

contact@dozenal.org

You can help as much or as little as you'd like. Thank you.

OUR NEXT BULLETIN

We talked in this issue about our next *Bulletin*, and are excited to have it released soon. But there's still space that can be filled! Have an article? A letter containing

a question (common or uncommon) you'd like answered? Send them in!

editor@dozenal.org

Remember that our *Bulletin* is designed to cover all aspects of mathematics, from the most basic to the most advanced, from a dozenal perspective, so no question or topic is too easy or too complex. Don't be shy!

ANNUAL MEETING

Our next annual meeting will be in Boston, sometime in August or September. Further details will be provided as they are available.

POETICAL DIVERSION

WHO HAS NEED OF FIVE?

Ask any who loves numbers: who has need of five?
Though every fifth, when counting, fits it very well;
but every third fits three! No matter how we strive,
we rarely find that one upon the other fell.

The fifth is such a joke! We need our quarters, thirds,
and halves, of course, but when need we the other part?
We need our half of thirds; but there are never words
that we should add the clumsy fifth to lovely chart.

Oh, no! With twelve we have our lovely third and half,
our quarter, sixth, and eighth; our dozen-fourth are swell;
we may still lack the fifth; but at this lack we laugh;
our riches far outweigh what decimal tries to sell.

To lack the fifth but have the third is truly wealth;
the opposite's a sick man bragging of his health.

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 \$16; (\$18.) 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, which is 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 is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; as such, your contributions may be tax deductible under applicable law.

Thanks again for your assistance; it's your donations that keep the DSA going. We can't keep doing it without you.

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. The exception is *Basic Dozenal Arithmetic*, which is a private production.

Item	Price (\$)
<i>Dozenal Wall Calendar, 1204</i>	9.05
<i>Dozenal Planning Calendar, 1204</i>	8.32
<i>TGM: A Coherent Dozenal Metrology</i>	8.00
<i>Manual of the Dozenal System</i>	3.46
<i>A Dozenal Primer</i>	4.50
<i>Basic Dozenal Arithmetic</i>	15.00

Prices are, unfortunately but by necessity, in decimal. If for some reason the links above do not work, simply go to:
<http://www.lulu.com/shop/shop.ep>
and enter the appropriate terms. E.g., 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 future.

EACH ONE, TEACH ONE