

## An Open Letter to PICOs of MOEMS®

Many of you may have heard through the grapevine of my decision to resign my position as Executive Director of Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools (MOEMS®) effective on July 1, 2022. If not, you're hearing it officially from me now.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve in this capacity for the past twelve years (since July 1, 2010) and lead this great organization through many changes. Certainly, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented many challenges to which we, as a company of dedicated workers, have risen. One of the bright spots of that pandemic was the creation of the OnLine contests and tournaments so that our PICOs were able to administer our superb problems in a remote or in-person setting regardless of what may have been taking place in those districts throughout the world.

At the height of MOEMS enrollments (before the pandemic years of 2019 - 2021) we had served a total of over 5,200 teams from every state in the United States in addition to 42 countries around the globe. This past year, Mainland China joined MOEMS-USA as an affiliate, and in the near future, I expect multiple teams from Ghana, Africa, India and other countries to be signing up as well.

Working with everyone associated with MOEMS - coworkers, problem writers, and my executive board - has been a true joy; but the real recognition goes to you, the PICOs who have tirelessly continued to enrich your students' problem-solving skills and provide exciting opportunities for them while energizing your math curriculum.

Whatever paths our roads take, I wish MOEMS and each of you continued growth and much success in your teaching life. My parting wish is that each of us understand that mathematical problem solving (through the use of MOEMS contests) has value for children of *all* ability levels.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and above all, enjoy life!

Sincerely,

Nicholas J Restivo