

# MUFMECH at 50

Greetings from a 1973 Organizer

As we were organizing.....

- nobody paused to ask the question: will MUFMECH be alive in 50 years?-----BUT, if the question were asked, we would have all said:
- “Hope so”.
- SO, thanks to all of you for organizing and keeping it alive !!

In the beginning-----

- Victor Goldschmidt, Purdue, visited TOSU and discussed with Bob Nerem his idea for a midwestern gathering of FM faculty and grad students. (IN, MI, OH and IL)
- They contacted known colleagues to be the focal points at each PhD granting university

## Choice of Venue-----and History

- Victor was a lay preacher: Methodist church, He knew of the Methodist retreat facility at Lake Wawasee
- The Methodists had broken away from the Church of England over the issue of alcohol in the colonies
- Hence, no beer at the Facility

## Frog Tavern-----

- Bob Brodkey, on a scouting trip, located the Frog Tavern near the Retreat Facility.
- That became our evening's gathering spot for the Friday nights of the first two years.
- The Frog coasters became our 'award' for misbehavior in year two.
- As general chair in '75, I coined the term 'KOTGOF'

## Price Control-----

- 1974, One dollar per Frog
- 2023, One dollar per Frog
- Inflation denied !!
  
- (Except, \$ needed for Friday eve, so the number of Frogs must increase proportionately)

## Geneva Center-----

- 1975, moved to the more forgiving Presbyterian retreat center....BUT, with a stern warning regarding beer on-site.
- Ca 2000, a decree----no more beer!
- Existential threat avoided: MUFMECH would buy out the Center Thurs-Sat noon.
- However, that makes the finances SCARY !!

## Benefits, a partial list-----

- Idea sharing, feedback, insights in an open/friendly environment.
- Presentation environment > campus, < APS
- Exposure to a wide range of topics within FM
- Network of contacts
- Comradery of those who take on a challenging subject area



2023, MUFMECH IS ALIVE !!

- Thanks to the intrepid Organizers and to all in attendance.
- May its benefits prevail into the future.
- (2073, FM will still be a challenging subject area. Will MUFMECH be alive in 2073?? Hope So!)