

# DSA Newscast

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*The official newsletter of the Dozenal Society of America*

7 October 1200

## ANNUAL MEETING, 1200

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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.*

**W**E HAD A GREAT annual meeting this past weekend, with a lot of

great discussions, new information, and fascinating presentations.

**1** It was a beautiful weekend in Atlanta,

**2** with ideal weather, and Michael de-

**2** Vlieger (#378) found us an excellent

**2** venue for a very manageable price at

**2** which to share our ideas.

**2** The meeting of the Board of Di-

**3** rectors went very smoothly. Al-

**3** though a few committee member-

**3** ships were juggled, all officers re-

**3** mained the same.

**3** The general membership meeting

**3** also went smoothly. Due to the failure

**4** to assemble a quorum at our annual

**4** meeting last year (1188), the member-

**4** ship elected two classes of our Board

**4** of Directors, the class of 1201 and 1202.

We also elected two new directors.

We welcome Dr. Paul Rapoport, #230

(a long-time DSA member), and Mr.

Dean Canfield, #531, a member new to

us this year, to the Board. Thanks for

your willingness to serve; we're ex-

ited to see what kind of contributions

they'll be able to make to our Society.

Our editor, John Volan (#418), is currently assembling material for the next issue of our *Duodecimal Bulletin*. Send him your submissions, if you have any (editor@dozenal.org); we will be publishing it before Christmas.

We had several presentations, which were of great interest to attendees. Prof. Jay Schiffman (#288) presented some studies he had undertaken regarding primes in the integer sequence A064617 (9, 98, 987, 986,

98765, and so forth). Recasting the sequence in dozenal (8, 82, 829, 8298, and so forth), he explored the locations of primes and how to determine them. Mike deVlieger (#378) also briefly explained a Mathematica program he had written to check the members of this sequence automatically.

Dr. Paul Rapoport (#230) gave a brief presentation on the history of his love affair with dozenal time, including photographs of functional diurnal clocks, both analog and digital, that he has produced over the years. He further presented a program that he had been developing for the Pebble Smartwatch, which can present dozenal time and weather information in a variety of different units.

Mr. John Volan (#418) presented "Primel Zoom," a digital presentation of pretty sweeping scope. After explaining the units he used for the remainder of the presentation (primarily his own system, Primel, alongside the very Primel-compatible system TGM), he examined the scale of the universe from the Planck length to the entirety of physical existence.

After the general membership meeting, we were joined by Gene Zirkel (#67)'s wife Pat at local restaurant Il Localino, where a good time was had by all.

The next day, Jay Schiffman, John Volan, Don Goodman, and Paul Rapoport met again and continued to discuss dozenals, particularly some integers sequences;  $\tau$  and  $\pi$ ; some concepts of dozenal measurement;

plans for producing video and audio to demonstrate the concepts of dozenal; furthering Paul's dozenal smartwatch project; and much more.

For several years, we have wanted to offer better options for participat-

ing in our meetings digitally; two years ago, John Volan was able to attend digitally, but otherwise we've had little success. We continue to investigate options to allow this, and hope that we will be able to be joined by many

more members, well-wishers, and interested people next year.

Detailed minutes from the Board and the membership meeting will be published in the next *Bulletin*.

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Ideas about dozenals? Brilliant plans for furthering dozenals? Thoughts on notation; measurement; arithmetic; mathematics in general? Send them in to the Editor of the Bulletin:

[editor@dozenal.org](mailto:editor@dozenal.org)

Many people seem to think that their ideas are too small to be of interest to the *Bulletin*, or that others have already written about them. The former, though, is *never* true, and the latter is irrelevant. New takes on old ideas are always interesting, and no idea is so small that some cannot learn and be edified by it.

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

our members a better, more useful website. Soon!

### 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 professions 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](mailto:contact@dozenal.org)

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

### REVISED MODS PUBLISHED!

The DSA is delighted to announce the publication of *two* new volumes, which we hope will be useful to our members and to those new to dozenals alike.

Long-time members will likely recall the *Manual of the Dozen System*, published in 1974. It is still available on our website; however, though it's still a useful and informative document, it is definitely showing its age. Now available is a new, updated version, titled *Manual of the Dozenal System*. Clocking in at 40 pages, it reviews all the basics of dozenal arithmetic, its justifications, and how to use it, along with suggestions for further reading and some tools for working with dozenal.

Also now available is *A Dozenal Primer*, a very short (10 pages) booklet which very briefly explains dozenal, why it's important, and what to do with it, along with suggestions for further information. This booklet, printed in full color, makes a great introduction for people who aren't used to the idea of non-decimal counting.

Both of these documents are currently available only in print; the "For Sale" sec-

tion below gives the sources and prices (both are under five dollars each). When our new website goes up, they will be available, for free, digitally, there.

### NEW 1201 CALENDARS AVAILABLE!

Our wall calendars for 1201 are now available! They can be purchased at the usual place; see the "For Sale" section below for details. Please email [contact@dozenal.org](mailto:contact@dozenal.org) for a digital copy, if you'd prefer. One of these hanging on the wall, for display or for actual use, is a great conversation starter.

Also, our weekly scheduling calendar book, not published last year, is available for 1201, again from the usual location. This calendar consists of our monthly calendar, plus a two-page spread for each week of the year, allowing you to keep appointments and schedules entirely in dozenal. While most people do keep their calendars digitally these days (and there are dozenal options for that, as well), this makes a great conversation piece if you still prefer the paper option.

### WEBSITE UPDATE

No updates on this front, unfortunately; we remain ready and able to replace the current website, but still have been unable to coordinate with the host to wipe our old website prior to replacement. We're excited to get this done and give

## DOZENAL NEWS

A few dozenal-related articles, either wholly new or new to us, have been noticed lately.

“Fuzzy Notepad” wrote “The case for base twelve” recently:

<https://eev.ee/blog/2016/04/26/the-case-for-base-twelve>

The article is pretty informative, listing the new Unicode Pitman characters, noting the currently nice, round year number (1200!), and the effect of dozens on the clock.

“Sara” wrote “Can you imagine life without counting and number names?”

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/scuodeport/folio1/tag/dozenal-number-system>

Inexplicably, this article does not mention our Society (it does mention the DSGB, at least); but it briefly describes the nature of alternative bases and mentions devising a base-twelve writing system, called “decimals.”

Finally, Joanne Kennell published “Why We Should Forget Our Numbering System and Switch to Dozenal”:

<http://thescienceexplorer.com/universe/why-we-should-forget-our-numbering-system>

[and-switch-dozenal](#)

This article *does* mention our Society, briefly explains positional notation, and notes that twelve is a highly composite number.

Our editor, John Volan (#418) noticed that Numberphile, in a video discussing  $\tau$  and  $\pi$ , actually set the scores for the two arguments in dozenal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPv1UV0rD8U>

(For most of the video, the scores are in decimal; at the end, however, he converts them, where they remain.)

## POETICAL DIVERSION

### A DOZENALIST, TO HIS LOVE

Shall I compare thee to the hateful ten?  
Thou are more lovely and divisible;  
the primes do stand beyond old dec'mal's ken,  
and paltry factors make it risible.  
Division into five? Why need it I?  
When is it needful to divide things so?  
But two, or three, or four? Nay, more have I!  
Or six, or eight, or nine? Just let five go!  
O Twelve! Thy lasting glories shall not fade;  
Thy great, sublime abundance ever stands;  
Old ten, thou stand'st aside, in Dozen's shade,  
while Twelve takes rightful place in all the lands!  
As long as humans count and good sense see,  
so long the Dozen shall the best base be.

## 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 dig-

ital 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](mailto: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

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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.

Item	Price (\$)
Dozenal Wall Calendar, 1201	10.05
Dozenal Planning Calendar, 1201	8.32
TGM: A Coherent Dozenal Metrology	8.00
Manual of the Dozenal System	3.46
A Dozenal Primer	4.50

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 "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