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James R Choike* (choike@math.okstate.edu), Department of Mathematics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. *Writing a History of the OK-AR MAA Section.*

Records, informally passed down over the years to various Secretary-Treasurers of the Oklahoma-Arkansas (OK-AR) section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), indicated that the 1988 spring meeting was the 50th annual meeting of this MAA section. At the spring 1987 OK-AR section meeting, in anticipation of celebrating this auspicious anniversary, I was drafted to write a history of the first 50 years of the OK-AR section of the MAA. In this session, I want to share this experience through the following goals: (1) present a simple outline which can be used to put together a section history; (2) identify resources that I found useful in writing an OK-AR section history; (3) offer tips for "digging deeper" into the history of an MAA section; (4) highlight reasons why writing a history of an MAA section provides a strong local historical confirmation of the importance of the MAA in fostering, in its original intent, "a more organized and continuing concern for collegiate mathematics," which, in 1915, the year the MAA was founded, was "the large field between the fields of secondary school mathematics and the field of pure research"; and (5) share highlights of the first 50 years of the Oklahoma-Arkansas section, as it approaches its 75th anniversary 2013. (Received September 17, 2012)