

1056-G5-282

**Lida K. Barrett\*** (lidak@bellsouth.net), TN. *Minorities and the MAA, Initial Steps.*

Len Gillman, while President of the MAA, appointed a Task Force on Mathematics and Minority Participation chaired by Louise Raphael. Of the 42 recommendations of the Task Force on Mathematics and Minority Participation (1989) the most important was the establishment of an MAA Office to increase minority participation in mathematics. The Strengthening Underrepresented Minority Mathematics Achievement (SUMMA) Program of the Mathematical Association of America was established in 1990 with the charge to increase the representation of minorities in the fields of mathematics, science and engineering and improve the mathematics education of minorities. Bill Hawkins was its first director. At the same time the Committee on Committees of the MAA, aware of all the recommendations of the Raphael Committee in 1989, appointed 39 minorities to the various committees of the MAA. There had been minority membership on committees in the past but this was an effort to increase the participation of minorities in the network of leadership of the organization. Over the years these two efforts have contributed in highly significant ways to the MAA. (Received August 25, 2009)