AUGUST 2019

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 544



HEAD-LINE NO. 544 AUGUST 2019
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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Mid-Michigan Mensa Facebook Group

Head-Line and Calendar items are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Camera ready contributions are appreciated, but not necessary. Calendar entries may be emailed, telephoned, or snail-mailed to the Calendar/TGIF Coord. Permission is granted to reprint material from the Head-Line in any Mensa publication, with appropriate credit, unless the material is copyrighted.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I don't have any rants or raves to expound from this soapbox this month, so I'll just use this space to discuss a few Mensa-related business topics.

1. The eternal call for volunteers.

We do have a few positions that lack appointees. We need one or more proctors who can help with testing of potential new members. This position requires that you have at least a Bachelor's Degree, and it requires a background check. Let someone on the steering committee know if you are interested, and we will help you get the process in motion.

We also need someone to be our Gifted and Talented Coordinator. This does not have to be a member per se; a spouse/partner of a member, or a parent with an interest in supporting our youngest members, and perhaps reaching out to potential new young members can be appointed. It could also be a young member, as long as you are at least 18 years old,.

2. What happens if a Friday night TG venue suddenly changes?
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A few weeks ago we had a situation where our scheduled restaurant had a sudden power failure shortly before we were all due to arrive. One of our group arrived early, during the power failure, and alerted several others so we could decide what to do. We quickly chose a nearby alternate restaurant to go to, and alerted as many of our regulars as we could reach by phone or text. We also went to the assigned restaurant to put a sign up notifying anyone we missed.

This has happened before. Occasionally we find that a restaurant, where a reservation was made several months earlier, has unexpectedly gone out of business. Once, a restaurant's water supply was temporarily suspended. Just so you all know, we will follow the above protocol and do our best to alert people in time, and put a sign up at the restaurant to catch anyone we miss.

This is a perfect time for members who don't typically attend a Friday night TG dinner to introduce yourself in a very casual and relaxed setting. Ginny and Bob have plenty of room. Children are welcome.

RVC 3 August 2019 Column

John Voymas

Welcome to the final full month of Summer. As I write this the days have changed from cool and rainy to ninety degree days here in southeast Michigan. Enjoy your local group's picnics, dine outs, museum trips, and especially ice cream trails. I hope to join you all on the next one.

The Annual Gathering (AG) is the beginning of the next two-year term of the AMC (American Mensa Committee - our Board of Directors). A number of items were on the agenda. More on the results of both the AMC Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in my next article.

As we enter the upcoming U. S. Presidential election season, I remind you that American Mensa (which includes the local groups) holds no opinions. It can sometimes be a difficult line to walk, but any official Mensa communications (including officer columns in newsletters) and monthly meetings, must respect the fact that members personally hold varying opinions at all points on the spectrum. In choosing speakers this can be achieved by not scheduling political presenters or by having a panel of speakers with opposing views. By having only one viewpoint presented at an official meeting, it can create the perception that Mensa does hold a particular opinion.

The next Regional Gathering (RG) is hosted by Western Pennsylvania Mensa (WPAM) RG which takes place over Labor Day weekend and lasts from Friday through Monday. This year it will be at a different hotel - the Pittsburgh Marriott North. More info can be found at http://wpamensa.com/regional-gathering/.

See you at the WPAM RG!

MINUTES OF JUNE 14 STEERING COMMITTEE

The June 21, 2019 MMM SC meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM following our TGIF dinner at Harrison Roadhouse with committee members Wendy Carnegie, Elizabeth Evangelista, Bob Henderson, Squire Jaros, and Sharon Plavnick attending.

New Business: Wendy distributed copies of the current (since 1997) and proposed MMM Bylaws for our review over the next month, after which she will consider our comments before issuing an updated version planned for August.

Three candidates agreed to serve for the next two years on the MMM Steering Committee: Bob Henderson as our new LocSec, Elizabeth Evangelista as our new Vice LocSec, and Wendy Carnegie as our new Scribe. We also intend to name a second MMM Proctor to take office after passing a background check to be conducted by AML.

Wendy will compile a list of MMM members who are not receiving a printed copy of the Head-Line newsletter because she does not get their mailing labels from AML. MMM officers will then share the task of contacting those members by telephone to advise them how to read online copies of the Head-Line at the MMM and/or AML websites. Wendy will verify that at least the six most recent issues of the Head-Line have been uploaded to the AML site as pdf files.

Sharon showed the Steering Committee an advance copy of her July 2019 Head-Line editorial to remind MMM members of our commitment to civility when meeting with one another, new members, and guests (see the "Parting Thoughts" column in the January 2019 Mensa Bulletin).

There being no further MMM business to discuss, the June 2019 Steering Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Henderson, Scribe

JULY 12, 2019 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wendy Carnegie, Scribe

PRESENT: LocSec Bob Henderson, Vice LocSec Elizabeth Evangelista, Scribe Wendy Carnegie, Sharon Plavnick, John Garrison, and Squire Jaros.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM
There was a discussion about print vs email newsletters. Those members who receive email newsletters might not know why they aren't receiving the print version any more. The default newsletter for members with emails at the National Office (NO) is email. Those members who haven't given their email to the NO will receive a print version. If you have an email and would like a print version, contact the NO and request a print version. It was decided to send a letter to all email subscribers to let them know they can receive a print by requesting one from the NO. Wendy will do this.

Bob will be sending a list of the new officers to Tim Brooks, the National Membership Chair.

Mid-Michigan Mensa (MMM) will be participating in the National Scholarship Program this year. We have a fund with the Mensa Foundation and a scholarship is given in our name, however, we have no say in who receives our scholarship. The scholarship is open to members and non-members alike, so notify your friends and relatives.

We had a recent problem with power being out at a Friday TG. The board discussed what to do if or when it happens again. The first member should put a sign on the restaurant door stating where the TG moved to or if it was cancelled. We also thought it would be a good idea to do a text thread. Please text or call other members you know usually attend.

Bylaws were discussed and the Board will start working on a revision at the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Elizabeth and seconded by Squire Jaros. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chairman
August 2019

119 Members

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you

1 Jennifer Feasal
6 Kevin Dyke
13 Ian Smith
22 John Hunt
30 Josepn Werner
5 Brenton Wilburn
13 Kristina Dombroski
14 William Deary
29 Kenneth Bonifield

MENSAversaries

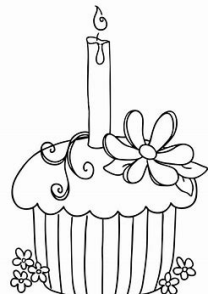
Congratulations on Your Years With Mensa

38 Years Dardanella Becker
29 Years Wendy Carnegie
15 Years Matthew Carter
10 Years Brenton Wilburn
1 Year Kevin Dyke
29 Years Thomas Allor
22 Years Leonard Peterson
10 Years Gordon MacDonald
2 Years Jeffrey Buchhop

New Member

Welcome — We're glad you joined us

Neal Forss — Owosso



MID MICHIGAN MENSA TREASURER'S REPORT

QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2019

Bob Henderson, Treasurer

BEGINNING BALANCE		**$5,337.43**
INCOME		**$311.91**
National Subsidy rcvd. Apr. 2019	$113.35	
National Subsidy rcvd. May 2019	97.05	
National Subsidy rcvd. June. 2019	101.45	
Savings interest	0.06	
EXPENDITURES		**$138.09**
Culture Quest Reimbursement to WC		
To AML	50.00	
Refreshments	16.94	
Head-Line		
Printing - April	33.23	
Postage - A, M, J	37.92	
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
5/3 Checking		$3,264.05
5/3 Savings		1,997.66
US Postal Service		249.54
ENDING BALANCE		**$5,511.25**

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN

by Sharon Plavnick

Most of our face-to-face contact in this group comes through socializing at Friday night TGs and occasional other events. Since many members do not attend these functions, I'm going to attempt to introduce as many members as I can to each other through these pages.

I'll start with introducing the people whose names you see most often in this monthly newletter; officers and committee folk. Then the other regulars I see almost every week. After that, I'll tackle people I've met, even though they are not regular TG attenders. Eventually someone I've never met…you, or you, or yes… YOU…will get an email or a phone call from me, asking you to answer a few questions and let us get to know you. Don't worry; you've probably got a good two years or more before that happens, and it's okay to say no.

I'll go first so you can all see that this is not something to be dreaded like root canal. A one or two sentence response to a bunch of questions that you can pick and choose from is all I am asking of you. Here it goes:

MEET SHARON PLAVNICK, your Headline co-editor, and a new Steering Committee member

Your first job? Your best job? Your dream job? Your worst job?

First paying gig: day camp counselor
Best job ever: High school guidance counselor
Dream job: I'm living it. Went back to school late in life for a law degree, and now practicing law.
Worst job: typing labels for a library switching from the Dewey Decimal system, to the Library of Congress system. I lasted half a day.

Marriages/Divorces/Children

One marriage; separated and later widowed
3 children and 5 grandchildren
One significant other with whom I'm happily growing old. (Happy about the SO, not about the growing old part)

Favorite travel experience

Costa Rica. Alaska. New Zealand. Those are the standouts.

Earliest childhood memory:

3 years old; climbed up on a table and fell; had to get stitches.

Hobbies/interests

Reading, writing, contradancing, knitting, bird watching, people watching.

At the top of your bucket list

Visit the Grand Canyon; see the northern lights in Iceland, spend a night at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Barb Ford

I believe in Angels. I believe they are God's army of protection for inhabitants of Earth. I know I have a legion of Angels helping me 24/7; and they can manifest in many forms, even animal forms. I'm blessed with so many Angels, I can send them out on special missions to help other people and situations. Just ask, and they are directed by God to help.

My favorite Angel story involves my Late husband, Gary. I am writing this to honor him on the 9th anniversary of his death, August 14th, 2010. An avid bird watcher, Gary's favorite North Carolina birds were mockingbirds. He used to sit on the patio and have conversations with them. It made me laugh, but he was so amused that he could interact with them. Gary was an extremely spiritual man, believing that when we pass from our lives on Earth, we go to The Other Side, aka Heaven where we are so much closer to God. Gary's, idea of Heaven was never of a place of pure rest, but rather one of enlightenment and service. He believed once we cross over into Spirit form, we can choose to help people still living on Earth. I believe he works with Angels to help a lot of us. He is busy, but never too busy to send me a sign.

This particular story happened the night he died. I was so distraught, having never experienced anything as traumatic as his passing. I could not sleep, so I decided to walk the dog in the middle of the night. As soon as we went outside, a mockingbird started frantically singing at us from a bush by the door. It followed us all the way up and down the driveway, flying from tree to tree. It was so loud, and close enough for me to hear its wings flutter. I knew in my heart Gary caused this bird to sing to us, and the Angels helped him do it. Bird lovers know that most songbirds NEVER sing at night, let alone fly next to you as you walk in the dark.

For weeks after Gary died, a mockingbird was usually waiting to sing to me during the many times I sleeplessly ventured out in the middle of the night. I still have mockingbirds that call to me in the yard, and even when I am out doing errands. I think he and the Angels feel I need to be reminded I am under their protection. This means the world to me. Sometimes I ask for help, and birds appear and linger so close I can speak to them. They are seldom afraid, and remain close, as if listening to and comforting me.

One other thing…Gary loved honeysuckle, one of the first fragrant blooms in the springtime. I often smell it in the frigid winter if I am walking in the yard, worried about one thing or another. It is always intense and amazing.

Whenever I see a mockingbird giving me special attention, or smell honeysuckle in the winter, I say hello to Gary and thank him for sending me a special Angelic greeting from Heaven. I just wish he were still here in the flesh.

AUGUST 2019 CALENDAR

Fri. Aug 2 **TGIF - Red Lobster:** 3130 East Saginaw St, Lansing, just north of the Frandor Shopping Center. Delicious seafood, especially lobster!

Sun. Aug. 4 **MMM Summer Anniversary Party:** At the home of Bob and Ginny Henderson, 3369 Harper Rd, Mason, MI. We typically gather at 4:00 PM and eat at 5:00 PM. Meat dishes will be provided. Bring your favorite drinks and a veggie dish or dessert to share.

Fri. Aug. 9 **TGIF - Acapulco Mexican Grille:** 300 N. Clippert St, in the Frandor Shopping Center, Lansing. Generous servings of flavorful Mexican food, reasonable prices, and fast service. Highly recommended!
Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

Fri. Aug 16 **TGIF - Lucky's Steakhouse:** 3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos, formerly Gilbert & Blake's. Famous for their seafood, steaks, and prime rib with all the trimmings.

Fri. Aug. 23 **TGIF - Blue Gill Grill:** 1591 Lake Lansing Rd, Haslett. A traditional American restaurant with a casual vibe, featuring seafood.

Fri. Aug. 30 **TGIF - Bravo Cucina Italiana:** 2970 Towne Centre Blvd, Lansing, in Eastwood Towne Center. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance, serving pasta, grilled dishes, and pizza.

Fri. Sept 6 **TGIF - Bangkok House:** 402 E Saginaw St, Lansing. Laid-back eatery known for spicy noodle dishes and other Thai specialties.

Fri. Sept 13 **TGIF - Delhi Cafe:** 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mid-Michigan Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.
Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about 5:30 PM and order about 5:30 PM but you're welcome at any time. Come and get acquainted. All members and friends are welcome at the events above. Any member may schedule an event. Please remember: **Who**, **What**, **Where**, **When**, and **Why**. The deadline to schedule an event is the **15th of the month before the event**. Contact Ginny Brunke Henderson, Calendar Coord. at: gbrunkh@peoplepc.com or 517-676-3369
Calendar event information can also be found on the Mid-Michigan Mensa website at http://midmichigan.us.mensa.org/calendar.html