

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 **Borealis**
Northern Michigan Mensa

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Borealis is published by Northern Michigan Mensa (3/496) once each month under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

After mandatory items, priority in the newsletter is given to matters appealing to members of the group which relate to their membership in Mensa. The content of the newsletter shall appeal to the general membership of Northern Michigan Mensa.

The newsletter shall not include matters which are indecent, scandalous, libelous, or invade someone's privacy, nor shall copyrighted material be used without the permission of the owner. Ethnic, racist, sexist, or religious slurs shall not be printed. Northern Michigan Mensa recognizes that the newsletter is addressed to both minors and adults; material printed will be appropriate for distribution to minors.

All matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

All submissions are welcome and encouraged. They may be sent via email or snail mail. They may be sent as attachments or in the body of the email.

Submissions requiring major editing are also welcome. If requested, the author may approve the editing before the article is published.

Photographs are also welcome. Please include a brief description of the photo, and the name of the photographer. You may also include an entire article to accompany the photo.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nmm.us.mensa.org

ON THE COVER: Winter's first snow, by Jack Schultz

Northern Michigan Mensa

December 2005 Calendar

BOOK CLUB – Saturday, 3 December, 2005 at 12:30 p.m. We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *State of Fear*, by Michael Crichton. This group is open to all members, attendance can be each meeting, or only for those meetings that present books in which you have an interest.

EXCOMM MEETING – Saturday, 10 December 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at Cottage Café. All members are welcome to attend.

BRUNCH – Saturday, 10 December, 2005, at 11:00 a.m. We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den which is on the right as you enter the front door.

TGIF – Friday, 23 December 2005, at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café, located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. Coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps, and desserts are available for purchase.



From the Editor

Surprisingly, I did not receive any more letters from members on the subject of censorship in the newsletter. I did get an opinion from Al Baltis, which you will find a little further on. This was in response to a request for said opinion from Sherry McNamara.

Since the overwhelming majority of the responses I received on the subject last month (all of them) were in favor of allowing free speech, I will abide by majority rule.

I will still use my best judgment, and will not print anything I think could reasonably be considered offensive. I will not, however, refrain from printing something simply because it falls under the umbrella of political or religious topics. Or any other, for that matter. I use these two as examples because they are "hot buttons" when it comes to controversy.

I'm not looking to open the doors to political or religious debate. I would actually prefer to keep such things out of the newsletter, since they can cause problems. However, if someone wants to report on a trip they took with their church group, or to a political town meeting, I will print it.

Just for the record, I will not print anything that is obviously supporting any political party or candidate. Nor will I print something promoting any religious affiliation.

I'm sorry if this offends anyone, but I agree that this is a country where free speech is allowed, and should be supported. That will be my policy. I do retain my editorial right to refrain from printing anything I find inappropriate.

If anyone should have a complaint in the future, please send it directly to me at nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com. I will only print it if you wish me to.

I know I can't please everyone, but I will try to make this an enjoyable publication. I hope everyone can find something they like to read within its pages.

Happy Holidays (if you celebrate them), and stay warm!

Kelleen Bingham

AI-literations

By Alan Baltis, your RVC for Region 3

Hello, everyone! I hope you're all having a wonderful autumn. The fall colors are *spectacular* here near Cleveland, as I suspect they are throughout our Great Lakes/Ohio Valley Region. It's one of the things I missed most when I was out in San Francisco doing the dot-com thing for a few years. Though some revel in having beautiful (but unchanging) weather 350 days out of the year, I really like the change of seasons, and the cycle of planting and harvesting, of activity and hibernation.

Let's talk about that this month. I think Mensa, and Mensa's local groups, and Mensans themselves, often go through similar patterns of planning and doing, of working and then reaping the results of their labors. And not to get too "The Grasshopper and the Ant" about it, but most often to have anything to harvest and make it through the winter, you need to be doing regular work throughout the year to enable that to happen.

So it goes with Mensa. To maintain a healthy local group, you need to have a number of activities throughout the year to get smartfolks to spend some time together, to get to know each other and enjoy each other's company. You need to have a vibrant newsletter that shares that calendar of events, and reports on those good times and those good people. You need to have a regular testing program that continually offers the opportunity to prospects to see if they have The Right Stuff. You need to have an effective publicity and public relations program to let the outside world that we exist, and invite them to check into joining us. And so on and so forth.

Of course, all of the above don't just happen- it takes volunteers willing to put in a little time and effort (okay, in some cases like Editor and LocSec, *more* than a little) to get these things done. It (often) takes money to pay for materials and permits and chocolate and such. And it takes some smarts to see where our time and money (since both have limits) are best spent for maximum benefit to our members.

So let me come to the RVC point of this column. Sometimes some of these

activities don't happen because of something as simple as lack of knowledge, or lack of funds, and I and Mensa the Mothership will be happy to help you with those things.

So far as knowledge, Mensa as an organization dedicates a lot of time to capturing "how to" and best practices for just about every volunteer activity you can think of. We have excellent handbooks on how to be a LocSec, and how to be a Proctor, and how to be a Membership Officer, and how to be an Editor. We have monthly mailings where we distribute the latest news on various different topics. We have email lists for many areas of interest, be it editing or gifted children or PR. If you're not taking advantage of some/all of these facilities, I heartily invite you to do so.

So far as funds, there are of course the local group stipends that go out to each group based on membership, and which often make up the bulk of the money used to publish the newsletter, to hold monthly meetings, to conduct local elections, etc. But there are also discretionary funds available to each RVC for their region, which can enable local groups to do things outside of the monthly budget.

So how might that assist your local group? Maybe there's a software package that your web-master or -mistress could use to spiff up the local web site, or your editor to produce an even better newsletter. Maybe there's an event that seems like a natural hunting ground for prospective Ms, and it costs something to set up a booth in the "vendors" section. Maybe there's a membership in a local library or school program that could benefit your gifted children's program. I think you get the idea

I've got about \$2,000 to work with each year. I would love to sprinkle that selectively throughout the region, to kick-start various programs, to extend services to our members that we would otherwise be unable to offer, to invite others to join this wonderful smart tribe of ours. I'd love for local members to think about this, local group ExComs to brainstorm about it, and LocSecs to submit those ideas to me so that we can make some of those Good Ideas into reality. I'm always available at RVC3@us.mensa.org.

Not everything can get funded, nor does everything deserve to be. I'm

looking for those things that seem to offer a reasonable “bang for the buck” in terms of member service or new member outreach. But I’m often amazed at how little it takes to tip a situation from “out of reach” to “let’s see if this works.” Please, let me play Santa (actually, I’m kinda built for it, but we’re working on that) and help you to try something your local group hasn’t done for a while, if ever. Let’s kick off 2006 with some bold ideas and new energy!

Happy Holidays to all!

A Recipe from Ellen Monahan

Here is a favorite of my family for the holidays. It keeps, and makes nice gifts, too, with colorful plastic and a ribbon.

Spiced Pecans

1 egg white

1/2 c sugar

1 tsp cold water

1/4 tsp salt

1 LB pecans

1/2 tsp cinnamon

Beat egg white and water till frothy. Add nuts, coat well. Mix sugar, salt and cinnamon. Add nuts and mix till well coated. Bake on a buttered cookie sheet in pre- heated 220 degree oven for one hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Store tightly covered

Merry Christmas.

NMM’S PROGRESS: A TWO YEAR SUMMARY

By Sherry McNamara, Local Secretary

Well, here it is and two years have passed since the current Executive Committee (ExComm) was formed and I am sitting here wondering if it was fun, challenging, controversial, amazing, too much work, too many problems, or all of the above! While I can’t speak for the whole committee on every issue, I think I can safely say it was an interesting two years.

Prior to becoming the Local Secretary and being involved in the ExComm, I can’t say I really understood or knew what they were doing and how that impacted NMM. Therefore, in giving you an update of our current term, maybe you will get a better understanding of why we have an ExComm in the first place and the critical need for each member of that group. In our initial phase, we delineated the assignments each member would take and then made appointments for the non-voting positions which you are probably more familiar, such as ombudsman, proctor coordinator, publicity coordinator, editor, webmaster, etc. Those appointments are very important and are held by very active and busy members. They are what keep NMM functioning and moving forward with testing and encouraging membership, sending out newsletters, updating the webpage, etc. In addition to those functions we have the core group of voting officers, their work is...less noticeable, it is sort of the underlying framework, the foundation, if you will.

Well, that foundation was laid by the first ExComm. Without it, the next layer of support would not have been possible. We took what they had started and we added to it. This provided us with a beginning and allowed us to move forward. During these past two years we have created a more formalized budget plan, and we have created a communication page on Yahoo Groups which assists in instant communication as well as retains for historical purposes past communication for the voting officers of the ExComm. We have moved into the electronic era even more by encouraging members to accept Borealis via the Internet to save expenses. We worked toward the creation of a NMM webpage. We awarded the first NMM local scholarship, we sent members to a Region 3 Leadership Development

Workshop, and we created an indigent member fund for those who would not be able to otherwise pay for memberships to Mensa. We fixed problems and complaints, and we dealt with issues and anything else that came our way. Needless to say, we were busy. But, we did not get everything accomplished. There are still goals that we had which were unattainable for lack of time, or lack of a volunteer, so we worked on the most critical things first. Now, at the end of our term, we find that we still have things on our "to-do list."

So, I guess we have placed another row on the NMM foundation and have created a jumping off point for the next ExComm. Perhaps that is always the case. You work hard, but the job is never done, there is always one more thing to do, another problem to fix, another member who needs something. I know that the next ExComm will find this experience just as rewarding as we did. Its members will be just as busy and will have just as many ideas of what needs to be accomplished, and, I presume, will find at the end of two years that they still have something more they want to do.

I don't know what we would do without the dedication of each and every elected member of the ExComm, each appointed member, and, in reality, each member of NMM. Without the involvement of all of us, there is nothing. So I would like, as the Local Secretary and member of NMM, to thank you one and all for your tremendous support and hard work; without you, NMM would certainly falter and fail. It has been a pleasure being a part of the continuing success of NMM!



Alan Baltis was asked his opinion on censorship in the newsletter. Here is his response:

There are very few rules re: editorial policy for Mensa newsletters; freedom of the press is a Good Thing. What we DO encourage/discourage is well-outlined in the Editor's Handbook, which is available from the National Office and is also posted as a PDF in the members-only section of the website. The balance to be struck seems to be between topics interesting enough to get people to read the darn thing, and evoke comment, without them being SO controversial as to alienate or offend members such that they would STOP reading. I would hope that Mensans, more-so than the general population, like intellectual stimulation and see the value of spirited discussion, and therefore there's no need to blandify things or dumb them down. I think that some sections of our guidelines (for instance, Offensive Material) evoke the usual ghosts of "think of the children" and "also read by the public" to suggest that we take an overly-cautious approach to what should be included. I've always been of the opinion that I came to Mensa to escape many of the restrictions of the "madding crowd," not to embrace them, and I want to think that Mensans in general have a more tolerant (or at least curious) attitude to strong opinions and language.

Another way to think about this is that the member who complained has every right to reply to the material that he objected to, and should be actively encouraged to do so. What he does NOT have, and no one does, is the "right" to say that such a thing should never have been published in the first place. The cure for "bad" free speech is MORE free speech, not less; whatever he didn't like should be replied to and refuted, not suppressed.



Entries and Judges Needed

1. Are you planning to enroll in college in the fall of 2006?

Each year the American Mensa Education and Research Foundation makes available more than \$50,000 in scholarship funds. In addition, our local chapter offers a scholarship of \$500. Prizes are awarded based on written essays submitted by the applicants regarding their academic and career goals. Along with writing the essay, the only other requirements are that the student must be a citizen or a resident of the United States and must be planning to enroll in a degree program at an accredited institution of higher learning in fall of 2006. Students need not be members of Mensa nor qualified for Mensa.

The entry form is easy to download from the scholarship link on the web site by using the zip code of 49684. Submissions must be postmarked on or before January 15, 2005. The completed entry forms and essays are to be sent to Mensa Foundation Scholarships (3-496), 405 W. 11 St., Traverse City, MI 49684. (This address is found on the application itself.)

Please share this information with students you feel would be good candidates. All of the details about the format of the essays are contained on the application form.

2. Do you enjoy reading about the dreams and aspirations of young people?

We need three judges for the contest. Essays are judged based on form, content, and impression. You will receive a copy of the essays (last year we had around 20 entries) without the applicants' names. In addition, there is a list of judging criteria and a handy form on which to enter your points. Then, you send the form back to me as the scholarship chair and I tally the information to send on to national. Please consider if you are willing to serve in this capacity and contact me via email at vogeld@chartermi.net.

Dorothy Vogel
NMM Scholarship Chair

Department Of Peace

"October 16 -19, 2005, The Peace Alliance participated in the first international People's Summit for Departments of Peace, in London, UK. There were forty people from twelve countries: Australia, Canada, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Netherlands, Palestine, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America, with written support from Nepal, Nigeria and Uganda. Presently there are five working groups with campaigns for Departments of Peace: Australia, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom (Ministry for Peace), and the United States. Throughout the four days it was evident that 'we the people' are ready, willing, and able to be together and communicate with one another in ways that demonstrate the change we wish to see.

Our day-to-day efforts are making a difference! Thank you for all you continue to do to bring this historic legislation to the forefront of politics in the United States. Let us continue to focus on our national campaign, now strong in 50 states with almost 300 congressional district team leaders, as we extend the hand of cooperation and stand with others around the world who are working for Departments of Peace in their respective countries.

There is a momentum for peace and justice that is unstoppable."
by Dot Maver, Executive Director of Peace Alliance

This Department of Peace is not about politics, not about war, it is about the next seven generations and creating a shift in consciousness for a better environment in which they can live. As a large group we can be instrumental in making a difference for future generations. This is already an international movement now and a first summit meeting both in Washington, D.C. in September and in Oct. in UK has taken place.

Maybe together and/or individually we can do something of significance that will impact many generations to come. Please go into the two following web sites and see how you can make a difference - NOT as a member of MENSA - but as a member of planet earth:
www.thepeacealliance.org <http://www.dopcampaign.org/action.htm>

There are some video clips on the peace alliance web site to which you can listen as well of the meeting/conference in Washington, D.C. this past September. Let's be the change that we want to achieve globally. Thank you on behalf of generations to come. Anyone with further

questions and/or interest in taking a larger step in our global peace movement, please feel free to contact me.

Dr. M. Teri Daunter tdaunter@chartermi.net
231-347-7665 Petoskey, Michigan

Trivia Tease

Submitted by Margaret Scott

Every once in a while the “initials” puzzles rise again. Try this one.
INSTRUCTIONS: Each question below contains the initials of words that will make it correct. The numbers are part of the sentence or title. Find the missing words.

Example: 8 - O. in a C. Answer: 8 Ounces in a Cup

1. 1 - G.L. for M. _____
2. 10- D. in a D. _____
3. 9 - L. has a C. _____
4. 13 - D. in a B.D. _____
5. 10 - Y. for a F. D. _____
6. 2 - S. of the Q. _____
7. 76 - T.L. the B. P. _____
8. 5 - L. in the M. S. _____
9. 16- T. (and W.D.Y.G.) _____
10. 9 - S. C. J. _____
11. 20,000 - L. U. the S. _____
12. 99 - B. of B. O. T. W. _____
13. 10 - D. in a T. N. (with the A. C.) _____
14. 4 - S. in a Q. _____
15. 212 - is the B. P. of W. _____

GOOD LUCK!
(answers on page 16)

HalloweeM

The Y chromosome is not a divining rod: men just don't get directions. I have always heard the stories, but really didn't ever think it was that bad. But I have lived the adventure that truly proves that men just don't understand directions, let alone maps.

It all started as the Chicago Regional Gathering (HalloweeM) was ending, and we were all standing around saying goodbyes, and seeing who would be the last to leave. I had spent four fun-filled days with friends of mine from all over the country, and now we were slowly but surely dispersing. A couple friends of mine — die-hard Cleveland Browns fans — insisted on watching their favorite team at a sports bar near Wrigley Field in Chicago called the “Chubby Bear.” Somehow, they talked my girlfriends and I into joining them under our threats of bodily harm if they got us lost.

So we all piled into cars at a hotel north of Chicago and made our way to Wrigley Field — one of the largest landmarks in Chicago, just off Lake Michigan. It is actually a really easy drive — if you know where you are going. We realized we had made our first mistake when the driver of the guys' car, Shawn, called us to tell us to take 190 to downtown. As we neared the toll exit, we all turned back to see the navigator, Jon, his face buried in a magazine, and Shawn talking animatedly to Jon. As we neared the toll booth, we were able to read the title of the magazine that Jon was so engrossed in — “Atlas.” Just then, Maria's (driver of the women's car) phone rang; “Maria, we took a wrong turn. We have to get back on the freeway towards the city.” Since we could not turn back onto the toll road at that point, we proceeded for a nice little tour around O'Hare airport's departure gates and took the exit toward the city. Shawn called back, “I know where I am going now, so just follow us.”

Meanwhile, another group of friends called us from the hotel. They were going to head in and meet us, which was fine. The more the merrier. We followed behind the guys into the city. Shawn called back when we were almost to the city, “We want the Addison exit. Follow us, we know where we are going.” We left the freeway on Exit 45, and followed Shawn and Jon to the stoplight, where they signaled to turn left. We found out later that Jon determined which way to turn — by looking to the sun to see which angle the shadows were falling off the nearby

buildings — and ended up turning northwest (yes, this is away from the lake, for those of you wondering). So we followed along nonchalantly behind the guys, down residential type streets, when my “lake sense” went off.

I was born and raised on the shores of Lake Michigan. I have an almost instinctual feeling of where Lake Michigan lies, so I turned to Maria and said, “This just doesn’t feel right, do you have a map?” Maria pulled out the map that the rental company gave her, and we found Wrigley field almost instantly. Then we started looking for streets as we passed by street signs — nothing. I didn’t recognize any signs until we passed Milwaukee. Then I said, “Here’s Milwaukee Avenue, but I don’t know where we are on this map.” Finally, the guys pulled over and we pulled up behind them. Maria leaned out and asked two guys on the street if they knew where Wrigley was. They answered, no. So I walked up to the passenger window and Jon, “the navigator” and Shawn were pouring over the atlas complaining that they didn’t have a good map of the city. I told Jon to take our map; it was much better. I pointed out where Milwaukee was, and Wrigley, and that I thought they were going the wrong way and had to go back towards the lake.

At that point, we were not really sure the guys really knew where they were going, so we started asking passersby for directions (novel concept, I know). A guy finally said, “yeah, take Diversy Ave. right there (as he pointed to the next left) down to Clark. Wrigley’s right there.” It took about four blocks to get the guys’ attention after honking, waving out the window and then finally getting them to pick up the cell phone (they were taking a very long time to answer at this point). “Ah, we have to circle around and take Diversy to Clark, and Wrigley’s there,” says Maria. We all made the left and worked our way back over to Diversy. So now we were driving down Diversy looking for Clark Street. We were driving for a little while, and Maria occasionally asked passersby if we were headed the right way, and all the answers were in the affirmative. We had our eyes peeled for Clark when the guys blew right past it, and didn’t see it. We, of course, started honking and waving and finally decided to just find it ourselves when they didn’t pick up the phone. We made our way back to Clark and started getting excited, because we were now feeling the atmosphere that encircles a neighborhood around a sports arena. And then we saw it — Wrigley Field — dead ahead. So now our eyes were peeled for the “Chubby Bear.”

Just before the light at Addison, Maria leaned over and asked out the window to a gent who looked like he knew a good bar or two, “Do you know where the ‘Chubby Bear’ is?” The gent looked into our earnest and almost desperate faces, and just stopped himself from falling down laughing. He limited himself to just a chuckle, “It’s not the ‘Chubby Bear’, it’s the ‘Cubby Bear,’ and it’s right there,” as he pointed directly across the street. “Yes!” we all screamed, and moved forward with the light and grabbed a parking spot.

We grabbed a quick photo with Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs, to prove that we made it there first, then made our way across the street to the door of the “Cubby Bear” to take a quick photo at the entrance. We looked around for someone to take the photo and saw Stephanie and Jim (friends from the hotel) walking toward us. “Where were you guys?” they asked. They had arrived at the “Cubby Bear” over 10 minutes before. Five minutes later, after we had settled into our seats, in strolled Shawn and Jon nonchalantly. “Glad to see you guys found it,” one of them said. Needless to say, the guys took the ribbing pretty well, especially considering that the Cleveland Browns lost their game. (So did the Lions, so I couldn’t brag). But I learned a very valuable lesson: the first to arrive was the woman who asked at the hotel for directions, the second to arrive was the woman who stopped and asked directions, and the last to arrive were the guys who knew “exactly where it is.”

As we all got up to leave the “Cubby Bear”, we did ask if the guys would be able to find their way home to Cleveland. “Oh yeah,” says Jon. “It’s much more reliable to navigate with the stars versus the sun.”

By Melissa Rennie



Bibliomensans and Movie Group 2006!

By Sherry McNamara, Program Coordinator

If you are reading this and wonder what the heck a Bibliomensan is, then you have been missing a very interesting aspect of Northern Michigan Mensa. Bibliomensans is a book discussion group and we have been meeting for almost one year! We have had to step out of our comfort zone at times and have read books we might not otherwise have given a second thought to, but in doing so, found a way to expand our literary world. I guess that didn't hurt too much because we have added a few people along the way and are going to do this all over again in 2006. If you are interested in joining us for one month, or every month, just read the book and show up for the meeting.

We meet on the first Saturday of the even numbered months at the Cottage Café at 12:30 p.m. for our discussion. All members of NMM are welcome to attend. While the reading list for 2006 is posted on the webpage under "Book Club," here is what we will be reading next year:

FEBRUARY	Book: <u>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</u> Author: <u>Mark Haddon</u>
APRIL	Book: <u>Surfacing</u> Author: <u>Margaret Atwood</u>
JUNE	Book: <u>Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil</u> Author: <u>John Berendt</u>
AUGUST	Book: <u>The Quiet American</u> Author: <u>Graham Greene</u>
OCTOBER	Book: <u>The Kite Runner</u> Author: <u>Khaled Hosseini</u>
DECEMBER	Book: <u>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist</u> Explores the Hidden Side of Everything Author: <u>Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner</u>

So, by now you are probably wondering what we do on the "odd" numbered months if we aren't doing the book group, right? Well, we have a movie discussion group going and that is just as much fun as Bibliomensans, but without the fancy moniker! We have one week to

attend a specific movie title which is designated on the webpage and then meet on the first Saturday of the odd numbered months at the Flap Jack Shack at 2:00 p.m. for our discussion. Just like the book group, we see movies we might never have attended and experience and discuss why the director might have made the movie, why the actor did or did not portray the character adequately, why the cinematographer used one technique versus another, or any other aspect that a member finds worthy of debate. It is always a lively discussion and raises many interesting viewpoints. If you have not tried either of these groups in 2005, maybe 2006 is the year to begin!

Trivia Tease Answers

1. 1 great leap for mankind.
2. 10 dimes in a dollar.
3. 9 lives has a cat.
4. 13 doughnuts in a bakers dozen.
5. 10 yards for a first down.
6. 2 sides of the question.
7. 76 trombones led the big parade.
8. 5 lines in a music scale.
9. 16 tons and what do you get?
10. 9 Supreme Court Justices.
11. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.
12. 99 bottles of beer on the wall.
13. 10 digits in a telephone number (with the area code).
14. 4 singers in a quartet.
15. 212 is the boiling point of water.

All current members of Northern Michigan Mensa are entitled to vote in the 2006-2007 Executive Committee election. The ballots must be returned to the Election Committee and received no later than December 20. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted. The five candidates receiving the greatest number of valid votes cast shall be elected. Votes which are tied shall be determined by the Election Committee by a flip of a coin.

Mailing address for ballots:

Mensa Ballot
c/o John Porter
4460 Hillcrest Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684-9138

As there are five positions on the Executive Committee, vote for one to five of the six candidates. Fold the ballot and return to the above mailing address. Your return name and address on the exterior of your envelope will be used to confirm voting eligibility.

Mark up to five candidates

- Stan Cain**
- Don Hennig**
- Jim McDermott**
- Sherry McNamara**
- Melissa Rennie**
- Susan A. Styles**

Candidate Statements

Don Hennig

I've been a member of Mensa since about 1982. During that time my degree of participation in Mensa activities has ranged from very active to hardly at all, and I've learned that I get a lot more value from my Mensa membership when I actively participate. The outgoing ExComm has worked hard to provide a variety of activities that make it possible for members to actively participate. It is important for the next ExComm to continue that effort. The ExComm does a great deal more that is not so visible to the membership. That is the many details of running the organization, and it's another area where the outgoing ExComm has done a great job. During my working career I had a great deal of experience at handling large projects, taking care of details and getting things done. I'm sure that experience would come in handy if I became a member of the ExComm.

Melissa Rennie

I have tremendously enjoyed my time with Mensa so far. I believe that there is a part of Mensa for everyone - whether it is their local groups, gatherings, special interest groups, or just enjoying the Bulletin every month. Being part of Mensa is multi-faceted, at least for me, and I enjoy being part of making that system work, which is one of the main reasons I enjoy being on the executive committee. And I would love to serve another term.

Sherry McNamara

I am running for re-election on the Executive Committee because I am dedicated to Northern Michigan Mensa. The past two years I worked hard to make improvements in our organization and I would like to continue that effort. During my term, we created and began to work within a budget. We also encouraged members to accept the newsletter electronically in order to build our financial security as well as to be ecologically aware. My goal for the next two years will be to expand our foundation by making it even more financially secure, grow our membership, and work to appoint key members to facilitate more awareness of NMM within the northern Michigan region.

Susan A. Styles

I have been a Mensa member since March 2002. I have been an elected member of the ExComm (Deputy Local Secretary) for the last two years and an appointed member (Publicity Coordinator) before that. I am also a Proctor. My main interest would be in making sure the group has a solid foundation and retains members while attracting new ones, to ensure the long-term success of Northern Michigan Mensa. I am 34 years old and work full time as a Quality Manager in Traverse City. I have a M.S. in Information Science and a B.S. in Accounting and if elected, would be interested in being Treasurer for the group.

*No statement submitted by Stan Cain or Jim McDermott