

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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Mensa:

Mensa's constitution lists three purposes: to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Mensa accepts individuals who score at or above the 98th percentile on certain standardized IQ tests, such as the Stanford-Binet.

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 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.

Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before the month of publication. Submissions received after that time may be considered if time and space permit.

Advertising:

At this time Borealis does not accept advertising from either members or non-members.

Email submissions to:

nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com

US mail:

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

ON THE COVER: Hungry finches and Chickadees gather at a snowy feeder. Photo by Stan Cain.

Northern Michigan Mensa

January 2009 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 10 January 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den, which is on the right as you enter the front door.

GAMES NIGHT - Friday, 16 January 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite games and drinks and a snack to pass and let's get together and revive an old Mensa tradition which has been neglected at NMM lately.

This will be at the home of Stan Cain. Call 231-938 1506 if you need directions.

TGIF - Friday, 23 January 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available upstairs.

Member News

Happy January Birthday

04	Louis O Isabell	21	W K Crowley
18	Jill E Daniels		Erik A Snyder
	Jennifer Lapoint	30	Donald L Curtis

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

8 Years	Jill E Daniels	2 Year	J L Patton
7 Years	Aaron Stander	1 Year	Brian S Kelly
6 Years	Melissa J Rennie		Jennifer Lapoint
	Margaret J Scott		G J Myles
5 Years	M T Daunter		
3 Years	Susan Lynne Pitzer		
	John J Roney		

2008 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	53206	99
New and reinstating membership	874	9
Offers of membership	414	0
New members since April 2008	2860	3
Reinstating members since April 2008	2154	6

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 11/30/2008. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz
NMM LocSec

NEW YEARS GREETINGS

The new year is off to a snowy start, much like the last month of 2008, so I hope that many of you either like to go sledding or else gear up to go skiing or snow shoeing. I gave up sledding years ago, but I love to put on my cross-country skis and get out on either "wild" snow conditions or on groomed trails. Few forms of exercise give one as good a workout as can be obtained on skis. (Those of you with NordicTrack equipment know what I mean.) Some folks ask if we stay in northern Michigan in the winter months or, instead, migrate southward as so many Michigan snowbirds do. While it is nice to escape the near-constant standing behind my 9.5-horsepower snow thrower, I wouldn't give up the beauty, solitude, and opportunity to enjoy Michigan's winter landscape.

Joanne and I have just returned from a two-week visit to our son and his family in Tucson, Arizona. We did well, travel-wise, until reaching Detroit on the evening of December 23, but then our travel-travails began as they have this winter for so many other people who live in northern states. It took us several hours of sitting on the runway, ostensibly aimed for Traverse City near midnight, followed by a flight cancellation. We then sat in the terminal waiting for another plane to be found to accommodate all 90 passengers who were our companions for more than nine hours. For years, we've vowed that Christmas-

time travel was just too iffy, but we hadn't seen our son in 18 months and his children in longer time than that, so we succumbed to the parental urge to travel. Next time we use such questionable judgment, my Mensa card will undoubtedly be revoked.

LOOKING BACK

As I assess the kind of a year that Northern Michigan Mensa has experienced, I take satisfaction in knowing that we tried to offer several new events during the year. It seems as though the membership likes to have guest speakers because the three times we did so resulted in greater numbers of attendees than we seem to generate for most other events. Although the Creative Writing Program at the Interlochen Arts Academy welcomed our attendance at their guest speaker series, very little interest was shown; therefore, I'll have to say that this "offering" didn't pan out. In the past, our outdoor-oriented activities attracted very good attendance but that wasn't the situation during 2008. Most such events were participated in by fewer than a half-dozen souls. I guess that the types of events just described point out that Mensans really do like variety in their lives and that sometimes the familiar becomes too familiar. We'll bear these things in mind as your ExComm tries to come up with ideas for ways to make your membership more enjoyable and worthwhile during the year ahead.

We also found that interest in testing didn't take off in 2008 as had been expected. We had many people express an interest in taking the admissions tests but when we scheduled testing sessions few showed up. Those who'd contacted the national office rarely even responded to our attempts to establish contact and even try to schedule special testing sessions to accommodate them. Maybe things will be different during 2009. I certainly hope so. I've now been testing people for nine years and I think this past year resulted in the smallest number of individuals being tested.

The new Petoskey Area Subgroup of NMM got off to a good start last summer and several gatherings were held. I wish Jennifer Lapoint and those members who live north of Elk Rapids a good year ahead.

... AND LOOKING FORWARD

We are continuing with Bibliomensans because there seems to be a genuine level of interest in reading books even though the number of members participating has declined from what it was in the first couple of years of the book club. I can't help but think that other members would find this activity very rewarding if they only came to a session or two to find out what goes on. Discussions have always been lively and the sharing of responsibilities for making presentations about the author and providing information about what other reviewers have said about the books being considered adds a dimension

not found in all book clubs. Please read about upcoming book selections and make an effort to join us. You'll find it is well worth your while.

On the other hand, an early interest in going to movies and then discussing them afterward just didn't pan out; therefore, we abandoned that activity early in 2008. It probably won't resume unless someone wants to take the bull by the horns and lead an effort to restart this form of entertainment.

As most of you by now know, my personal inclination to participate in anything dealing with the natural world will result in us scheduling a number of outdoor activities during the year — even if I have to go on them by myself. Maybe I can think of something yet that will draw out some of our members. Would a wild ride through Keystone Rapids on the Boardman River entice anyone? Who knows!

Last, but far not least, I hope to see a meaningful increase in our membership numbers during 2009. This requires some help from YOU. Certainly you've met people outside our membership who you know must qualify for Mensa. Please tell them that we offer testing several times during the year, and if they express an interest let them know we'll do our best to find a date when they can take the tests. Similarly, since more than half the people who join Mensa do so by submitting certified test scores, you can direct any of your very bright acquaintances to consider one of these two routes to membership. All I ask of you is that you take the step mentioned above and then let me know the names and contact information of such individuals. I'll take it from there to follow up with them.

I can't end this first "editorial" of 2009 without wishing each and every one of you my most sincere greetings for a very happy, healthy, and successful new year. It has been a pleasure to serve as your local secretary for this past year and I look forward to becoming even better acquainted with many of you during 2009.

Editor's Corner

By Stan Cain

I'd like to start off by thanking our faithful and talented Mensans who have submitted articles to Borealis in the last year. Keep up the good work and I would like to encourage others to try writing up something to share with the rest of us. I know that there are many of you out there with at least one interesting story to tell. Perhaps a great vacation trip or maybe something about your field of expertise? There are very few jobs from which we can't learn something useful. A big part of Mensa is about education and learning so please feel free to share.
