

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: Crocus: A Sign of Spring. Photo by Stan Cain.

Northern Michigan Mensa

May 2009 Calendar

WILDFLOWER HIKE - Saturday, May 2 at 10:00a.m.

Meet at the parking lot at Traverse City's Hickory Hills Ski/Recreation area at the end of Randolph Street on the west side of town. Following the relatively short hike, we will plan to meet for lunch about 11:30 a.m. at Shelde's Freshwater Lodge on M-22 just north of Tom's on West Bay. For those who can't make the hike (or would rather not do so), just join the rest of us at 11:30.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 9 May 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.

WILDFLOWER HIKE - Saturday, May 16 at 10:00a.m.

The second hike of the month will be held at Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Preserve, a 3 000-acre natural area owned and managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. This special area in southern Benzie County is located along highway M-22, just about two miles south of the Herring Lakes. Meet at a designated parking area on the west side of M-22 just north of where St. Pierre Road comes in from the south (but not at the St. Pierre Trailhead). This is a little less than a half mile north of the Old Baldy Trailhead (so do not meet at that trailhead either). Our trail takes right off into a beautiful, dense stand of hardwoods and the spring wildflowers should be nicely on display. A map of Arcadia Dunes can be found on the Internet at www.gtrlc.org/pdf/ArcadiaDunesTrails.pdf. Look for the northernmost of the designated parking areas on M-22.

TGIF Friday, 22 May 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 May Birthday

7	Harold A Kranick	18	Kymerli A Wregglesworth
8	Aaron Stander	19	Robin E Wottowa
9	Julie L Hill	20	Laura A Weiss
13	Ryan B Nelson	22	Judith W Lindenau
		28	Marc Batway

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

29 Years	Suzanne L Cook	6 Years	C L Dickson Laura A Weiss
9 Years	B Begeman	5 Years	Dorothy Vogel
8 Years	E Monahan	2 Years	Jessica Mary Sullivan Shaun E Roark
		1 Year	L Jonson

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Sara L Quigley

Welcome back to Northern Michigan Mensa

Robert B Pierson Thomas Rasmussen

March 2009 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	57835	108
New and reinstating membership	1360	3
Offers of membership	627	0
New members since April 2008	4410	6
Reinstating members since April 2008	5185	11

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 3/31/2009. 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, Local Secretary

SPECIAL EVENTS SEASON

While we have activities scheduled on a regular basis throughout the year, we're entering the season when we have more of what I would call "special events." It all started out with our involvement in Mensa's national trivia contest among teams in Culture Quest. This year, we again fielded two teams, although one of them had four participants and the other had only three. (Five is the maximum allowed on a team.) Only time will tell as to whether or not either of our teams did well enough to be "in the money." Because of scheduling difficulties, both of our teams met at Stan Cain's home and then they, along with John Porter (Mensan) and two spouses, had a potluck supper afterward.

May will have us going on two spring wildflower hunts. Quite a few years ago, after looking for several weeks in the Traverse City area for a place where an abundance of spring ephemerals (as they're called) might be found, I discovered that the old road cut that passes through Traverse City's Hickory Hills Ski Area had a nice variety of wild plants in flower. We'll return there this month on Saturday the 2nd. Check our Events Calendar for details. Then, on the 16th, we'll visit the special area called Arcadia Dunes located south of Frankfort and north of Arcadia.

We will plan one or two canoe/kayak trips again this summer. I'm open to suggestions for places folks would like to paddle. We haven't done a trip on the Boardman River, so that's a possibility. We've made two trips (two years in a row on the Betsie River in Benzie and Manistee Counties), two on the Platte River (from M-22 to Lake Michigan), and a couple of trips on the Crystal River in Leelanau County. We've, over the years, made several trips on the Cedar River (also called Victoria Creek) on the stretch that runs from the village of Cedar down toward the mouth in the south end of Lake Leelanau. It's usually best to schedule these trips in July or August, so this gives us time to think/plan ahead.

REPORTING ON APRIL EVENTS

Eleven of us met for brunch in Traverse City on April 11 and had some lively discussion. That was just a week after nine of us had met to discuss Bill Bryson's humorous book titled *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid – A Memoir*. Some folks thought it was hilarious, but a few thought it was "over the top" and others simply were let down and didn't think it all that funny. That's fairly typical of how our discussions go.

OVER THE TOP

As predicted, we set a record for total members in our local group as of the end of the Mensa membership year on March 31. There were 108 of us and that is four higher than we've ever had previously. Now the process of building back up is with us because we always lose some members through non-renewal. At any rate, I hope those of you who haven't yet renewed will do so. You can avoid receiving reminders from your officers if you send in those dues ASAP.

Regional Vice Chair

RVC 3 Thoughts

By Dave Swanka

Let me begin by giving a heartfelt Great Lakes and Ohio Valley welcome to our next RVC, Betsy Mark. Betsy is a member of the Southeast Michigan group and begins her term on July 1st. Please give Betsy all the support and encouragement you've given me over the last three years. Being your RVC is a memory I will fondly look back on in the years to come and I genuinely thank each of you for this opportunity.

The AMC meeting in Indianapolis was very positive. While the agenda was sparse and with the exception of voting on the budget no item was particularly critical, it was nonetheless one of the more productive meetings. A strategic planning lesson was incorporated into the meeting and this gives hope for the conduct of future meetings. While the best method of accomplishing this strategic facet is still up for grabs – a hired outside contractor versus internal resources – it is a topic needing continuing emphasis to optimize the effectiveness of your board of directors.

Let me quickly review and comment where necessary on the agenda items. As I've said all along in my columns, my comments are my opinions based on my perspective.

1. A Strategic Plan was approved. After years of operating without any formal game plan, this is a great step forward. Please keep in mind that this is a dynamic document and will change in goals and wording as the situation warrants.

2. The budget was approved. As Mensa goes, it was a very good budget – maybe even excellent. I was the lone vote against it because I firmly believe we need a zero growth budget on the expenditure side. It came close, but didn't make it. Maybe in future years, one will be produced.

3. Housekeeping motions were passed pertaining to the model bylaws and awards committee. Ideally, these would have been placed in the consent agenda.

4. A motion to grant local groups the authority to temporarily bar troublesome members from local activities was postponed until the July meeting. There was no dissent about the merits of this motion, just the wording. It wasn't specific as to why a member could be barred. Hopefully this will be rewritten well enough to add to the consent agenda. The idea behind it is solid and enjoys general support. We all have probably experienced or seen others victimized by epic boors who degrade the Mensa experience. This motion was intended to address the problem at the lowest possible level – the local group.

As I stated earlier, not an earth-shattering agenda. Believe me when I say that better days are ahead for Mensa governance. More thought will be given to the future and the focus shifted towards far-reaching goals. How quickly this happens depends on the personalities serving on the AMC. It will happen though. Once again, thank you all for making our Mensa community what it is.

Mensa Elections

Make your vote count in the Mensa elections!

Voting for both American Mensa and Mensa International elections began on April 15.

This year, for the first time in a number of years, your AML ballot and election information packet will be direct-mailed to you instead of included in your April/May Bulletin (which will still contain your international ballot and information). Both this direct-mailed piece and the Bulletin should have been received by April 15 in two separate packages.

The national voting period runs from **April 15 to May 31**. The international election ends earlier, on May 15. Voting information for each election will be included with each ballot. Please note that online voting will be available for the national election, but the international election will be by paper ballot only.

Voting is one of the most important efforts you can make to affect the course of your Mensa experience. Please take a few minutes to look through your election materials and place your votes.

For more information about AML's election, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/election>.

Letters

Campaign Statement for the Office of Mensa Chairman Submitted by Elissa Rudolph

American Mensa elects a new chairman come July – a chairman who looks to the future while paying homage to the past and recognizes how organizations evolve with the ebb and flow of changing demographics. I would be honored to lead our organization as it reaches its 50th birthday next year and safeguard its future with a strategic plan created by dedicated members over the last couple years. I am looking ahead, feeling confident that what I have to offer will appeal to our veteran members while capturing the enthusiasm of our younger members so that together we continue to strengthen and grow our society with opportunities for all. Charing the World Gathering in 2006 convinced me that greatness happens when Mensans of all backgrounds and experience work together. The Mensa round table has room for everyone; I want to look across it to see you there. Visit my website (www.elissa.com) and my blog (<http://hermensauniverse.blogspot.com/>) or throw a sheep at me on Facebook. Ask me for my business card that says it all: elissa12@bellsouth.net. And thank you for reading this.



April Brunch

Clockwise from left: Dorothy Cain, Jim McDermott, Bobbi Walker, Bernard Hanchett, Judith Lindenau, Dwayne Bean, Joan Dasef, Jack Schultz, Margaret Scott and Tom Barnhart.



CQ

Shown attending the pot luck after the Culture Quest are, from left: Tom Barnhart, John Porter, Margaret Scott, Jack Schultz, KC Mowrey and Bobbi Walker. Photos by Stan Cain

2009 AMC Election Candidates Submitted By Deborah Henry, Election Committee Chair

Here is the final list of candidates for the 2009 election. Individuals marked with "N" were nominated via the Nominating Committee process; those marked with "P" obtained the requisite number of petition signatures in order to run.

Chair

Elissa Rudolph (N/P)
Dave Swanka (N)

RVC 4
Ken Silver (N)
(unopposed, declared elected)

First Vice Chair

Dan Burg (N/P)
Cookie Bakke (N)

RVC 5
Bertie Clarke (N)
Nick Sanford (N)

Second Vice Chair

John Recht (N)
Craig Thighe (N)

RVC 6
Roger Durham (P)
(unopposed, declared elected)

Secretary

Guy Conti (N)
Heather Poirier (N)

RVC 7
Peggy Pannke-Smith (N)
George "Bud" Martin (N)

Treasurer

Cyndi Kuyper (N)
Cary Chilson (N/P)

RVC 8
Debra Reiger (N)
(unopposed, declared elected)

RVC 1

Lori Norris (N)
(unopposed, declared elected)

RVC 9
Clark Jones (N)
Art Mattson (N)
Lynda Evans (N)

RVC 2

Marc Lederman (N)
Lee Berkovits (N)

RVC 10
Mel Dahl (N)
Thomas George Thomas (N)

RVC 3

Betsy Mark (N/P)
(unopposed, declared elected)
