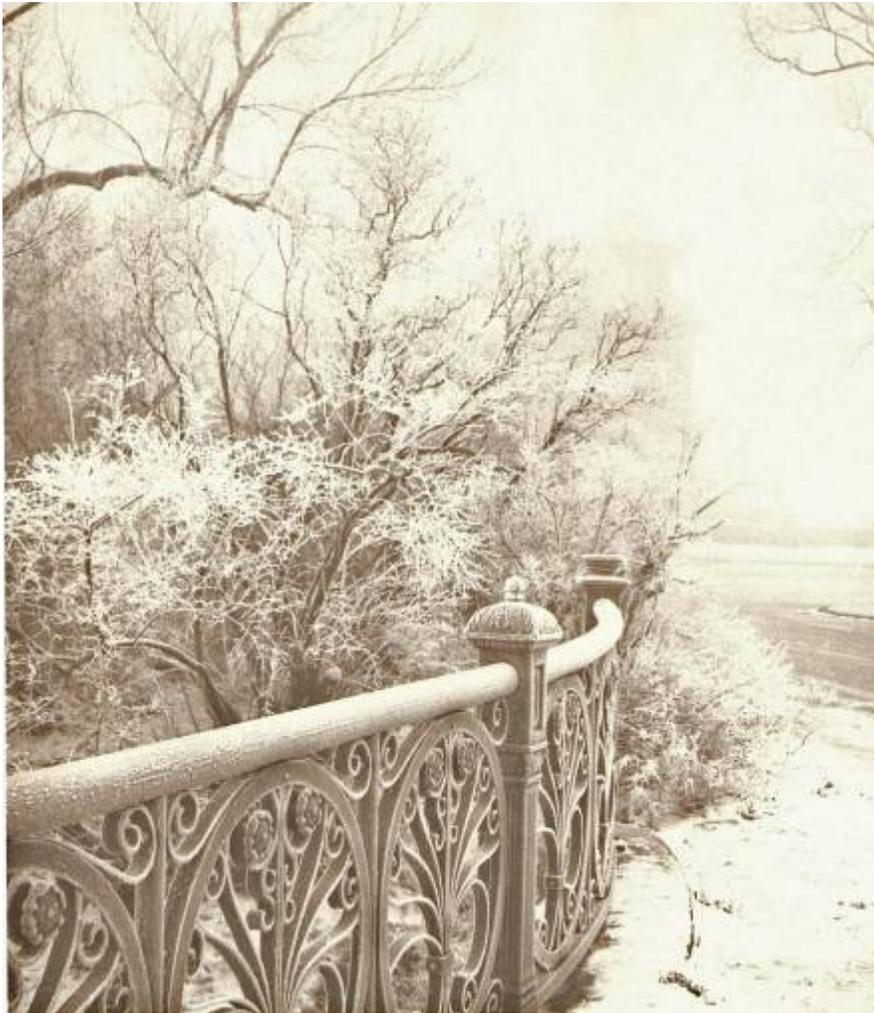


Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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Volume 8 Number 6

March 2010

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:

Borealis
Stan Cain
3584 Village Circle Dr.
Traverse City MI 49686

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Richard R. Hopfner	231-946-7204	locsecnmm@gmail.com
Deputy Loc Sec	Erik A. Snyder	989-370-0993	easnyder@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bernard Hanchett	231-946-5177	barneydulittle@hotmail.com
At Large	Judith W. Lindenau	231-947-2050	judith@judithlindenau.com
At Large	Dwayne A. Bean		dwaynebean@gmail.com

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Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
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Co-Chairs	Bobbi Walker		bobbiraw@att.net
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Scholarship Chair	Margaret Scott	231-879-3140	mjscott@localnet.net
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Financial Overseer	Thomas Barnhart	231-946-3242	tom_barnhart@sbcglobal.net
Petoskey Area Subgroup			
Coordinator	- vacant -		

As the ExComm is working to fill vacant positions, please let any voting member know if you are interested in a position or willing to help in any capacity!

OTHER MEMBERS

Proctors	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Regional			
Vice-Chairman	Betsy Y. Mark	734-434-5757	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: Frost on a Belle Isle bridge. Photo by Stan Cain

March 2010 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 13 March 2010 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.

Mystery event - Saturday, March 20, probably 12 Noon to 4 p.m.

The March 20 event will be a "unique experience" but we have no idea what it will be (yet.) We will have details at least two weeks before the event. Members will be notified by e-mail. Those members not having an e-mail address on file will receive a post card.

T.G.I.F! - Friday, 26 March 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Note New Location!

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. We will meet in the **Right Brain Brewery** located at 221 Garland Street, Traverse City.

Member News

Happy March Birthday

1	Kenneth F Bryson	20	J E Dasef
3	Margaret J Scott	26	Charles R Fricke
15	Brett A Pharo	30	Sherry Marie McNamara

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

28 Years	William Earl Hagan	6 Years	T L Slater
23 Years	Harold William Smith	2 Years	Kenneth F Bryson
10 Years	J A Thorne		Stefan Dragicevic
9 Years	Charles R Fricke		Bernard Hanchett
8 Years	Sherry Marie McNamara		Susan M Krause
	M K Shaw	1 Year	Robert B Pierson
	S A Styles		Thomas Rasmussen

Welcome Back to Northern Michigan Mensa

E Monahan

2010 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	55686	99
New and reinstating membership	979	1
Offers of membership	232	0
NMM members Transferred Out		1
New members since April 2009	3517	7
Reinstating members since April 2009	3293	9

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 1/31/2010. 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".

CULTURE QUEST XXI

Bobbi Walker is coordinating our group's participation in the national Mensa trivia game this year. Culture Quest XXI will take place on **Sunday, April 11, 2010**. All across the country, teams from many of American Mensa's local groups will sit down to scratch their heads and puzzle over questions that will tax the brainpower of everyone. Teams can have as many as five participants (plus a sixth as an alternate), but signup for participation must be done no later than **March 31**. Anyone interested in participating this year should first go to the Mensa Web site (www.us.mensa.org/cq) to read about Culture Quest and then contact Bobbi directly so she can form the teams.

There is a team fee of \$40 (which averages \$10 per person for a team of four and \$8 per person if five participate), and this amount must be submitted by Bobbi when lists of team members are sent in. Two divisions – Classic and the Youth Division, called The Next Generation – exist for the competition. All members of Classic teams must be paid-up members of Mensa as of 1 April, 2010, but only the team captain of The Next Generation group need be a paid-up member...but he or she must have been born AFTER April 11, 1992.

We always hold a dinner get-together immediately following the CQ event, and all members of NMM are invited to attend. Details on that will be provided in the April issue of Borealis, but you can count on it being on Sunday, April 11.

INDIVIDUAL TESTING OFFERED

By Jack Schultz

The Mensa Admissions Tests are scheduled both as group sessions and as individual testing sessions. In past years, we've had some fairly large groups of people take the tests, but recent years have seen those numbers dwindle and often no one would show up when a session was scheduled. As a consequence, most of the testing this past year has been done on a one-on-one basis. This works out reasonably well because it allows for responding to inquiries received from folks who want to take the test by telling them we can work it out for them practically any time they wish. There's a fairly quiet room on the second floor of the Traverse Area District Library, which we can use at no expense to our local group, so that's where I have tested most of the time. (Three individuals took the tests from me at the library during February.) If you know of anyone who is considering taking the Mensa Admissions Tests, please make it known that all that needs to be done is to contact me by email or phone--nwoodpc@chartermi.net, or at 231-275-6735. Thanks. (This information is also on our Web site under "Testing"--at www.nmm.us.mensa.org.)

WEIGHT LOSS

After a long winter, our Borealis is looking a little thin. Please use your skills to provide a little food to help bulk him up! In other words, we could use more articles, photos, puzzles (would anyone like to be the puzzle editor?) and anything else you can think of.

The LocSec's Login

By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

"Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown"
-Bob Dylan

Hello, fellow Mensans. As I write this towards the end of February, I sit and look out my window at fine snow falling over a snow-covered field leading away to the dusted trees of the tree line. Does it look like spring out there yet? Hardly. Can the leaves and blossoms be detected by sight, smell, or touch? Not yet, I think. I know though, that in a handful of weeks, I'll be able to walk out and smell the perfume of spring, and the snow and cold of winter will both be going away and be well forgotten in the riotous green of new growth. Winter sleeps, spring wakens.

Though not as dramatic as what Mother Nature will offer us soon, we at Northern Michigan Mensa have been nurturing our own changes, and I'd like to take the chance to pass them along to you here.

If you get the chance to say hello to our newly reinstated Membership Officer, Jim McDermott, please do. If you are new to our family, Jim will be the one saying hello to you, and welcoming you here on behalf of all of us.

Bobbi Walker and Pete Turkus have been gracious and kind in sharing the responsibilities of Program Officers. This is such an important and vital position that to do it correctly has taken the effort of two great personalities working together. I know that I'm certainly eager to find out what they glean from our members' ideas and present them back to us in the form of activities, ideas and events. Give them both your support and ideas, please, and we will all be richer for it.

Also, remember that we are the group that we make. If you bring your ideas, your companionship, and yourself to be with the others here, we grow and blossom, even as winter gives way to spring.

Leaving you with green thoughts, I'll now return to our present temporary season of hibernation, trusting the cycle of renewal to come in its way and time, properly.

"You know you're getting old then all the names in your black book
have 'MD' after them - Harrison Ford



Book Club

“The Alchemist” by Paul Coehlo was the book discussed at the February book club meeting at the Cottage Café. The group seemed about evenly divided as far as liking or not liking the book and a lively discussion ensued. Attending were (left to right): Bernard Hanchett, Stan Cain, Jim McDermott, Sherry McNamara, Nancy Dady, and Richard Hopfner. Photo by Jalene Moore.

Will Rogers

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash with Wylie Post in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known. Enjoy his following words:

ABOUT GROWING OLDER...

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra. No way !!!!

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

I met with Mensans from Kentuckiana Mensa and Bluegrass Mensa in January. I was the speaker at the former's Monthly Gathering -- a surprise to some of them and to me. No one left or threw anything at me (or one another). We shared good laughs and great food at Mark's Feed Store - now who planned that! I've attached a picture taken of me with the signage - your editor may not be able to publish it. Contact me if you want to see it. At the latter's dinner we shared good eats and lively conversation about Mensa policies. What a pleasure it is to meet with Region 3 members!

It gives me great pleasure to present to you and congratulate the most recently elected local officers in Region 3. (Remember to let National and me know when you elect new ExComm members.)

East Central Ohio Mensa: **John Schmid** - President, **Dr. Alma Houston** - Vice President, **Elizabeth Wilson** - Treasurer, **Janet Harriett** - Scribe, and At Large Members **Karen Goshen**, **Stan Heller**, **Joan Lukich**, **Chuck Scholl** and **Bill Maki**.

We are so very fortunate to have you serving your local group.

Region 3 LocSecs cast their votes and **Pauline Averbach** (Southeast Michigan Mensa), **James Draper** (Southeast Michigan Mensa) and **Dave Michel** (Cleveland Area Mensa) will be presented to the AMC for approval at the March meeting as our representatives on the National Nominating Committee. I am also asking that **Bob Crawford** (East Central Ohio Mensa) and **Betsy Hetzler** (Western Pennsylvania Mensa) be approved as alternates should anyone not be able to fulfill his/her duties. I am so grateful to **Joel L. Anderson** (Western Michigan Mensa), **Barry Austern** (Cincinnati Area Mensa), **Bill Carpenter** (Dayton Area Mensa), and **Tiffany Everett** (Cincinnati Area Mensa) for volunteering to serve. The vote was very close. I wish I could have every one of them on the NomComm.

The time to renew your Mensa membership is now. The easiest ways to renew are through the Mensa website at www.us.mensa.org/renew or by calling the National Office at 888-294-8035 ext. 199 during regular business hours (8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).

The 2010 Culture-Quest® competition will take place on Sunday, April 11th. Rules and registration forms are available for download at www.us.mensa.org/eventregistration. Registration and changes can be made until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, 2010. The Top 20 teams win money for their Local Group! For more information on CultureQuest®, contact CQ Chair Marilyn Sallee at Culture-Quest@us.mensa.org.

The 2010 MENSEA CONTEST is
"NAME THE EVENT"

There are **PRIZES!**

\$50 GIFT CERTIFICATES for individual winners

+ **\$1,000.00** toward each Regional Group's Event

TOTAL PRIZES: \$10,500.00!

Actual quote from member: "If we advertise 'leadership development workshop', it's guaranteed that nobody will show up."

Given how dependent Mensa is on volunteer power, we want to motivate and educate our volunteers so they will stick with us and, perhaps, take on more responsibility. Volunteers who do not get enough support, or who work without adequate knowledge, quickly burn out.

Your fresh ideas are needed. What should we call this kind of free educational training?

According to the Leadership Guidebook: *We provide free standardized courses to train a pool of Mensans from which local group officers can be recruited. The goal is to improve the skills and knowledge of local group officers, enabling them to better serve the group.*

Names that have been used in the past:

- o LEADERSHIP RETREAT (spiritual?)
- o PEP RALLY (frivolous?)
- o LOCAL OFFICER TRAINING SESSIONS (structured?)
- o LOCAL GROUP LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (military?)
- o LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP (sounds like **work?**)

NAME THE EVENT and WIN THE PRIZE! If you are the winner, you will receive a **\$50.00 gift certificate good for merchandise of your choice from the Fox Imaging Mensa gift store**. PLUS your local group will receive up to **\$1,000.00** for holding an event that you get to name. (American Mensa has 10 regions. One winner per region.)

Rules: Open to current Mensa members only. Send the NAME OF THE EVENT, along with your name, address, email, phone and the name of your Local Group to: LDW@us.mensa.org with "NAME THE EVENT" in the Subject Line, or by snail-mail to: PEGGY PANNKE-SMITH, National LDW Chair, 1009 Alder Way, Longmont CO 80503.

Deadline is June 15, 2010. PRIZES AWARDED at the Awards Luncheon in Dearborn, Michigan during the 2010 Annual Gathering.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

rvc3@us.mensa.org

3674 Oak Drive - Ypsilanti, MI 48197

734-434-5757 (Home) or 313-530-2055 (Mobile)

Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>

Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>

Facebook group -

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>