



# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 11 Number 11

August 2013

**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.

**Advertising:**

Borealis accepts only short, "classified"-type advertisements from individual members. Notices should be of a non-commercial nature and include contact information.

**Deadline:**

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

**Email submissions to:**

Stan Cain

[nmborealis@yahoo.com](mailto:nmborealis@yahoo.com)

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## Executive Committee

### VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Richard Thibeau	231-590-2052	locsecnmm@gmail.com or rthibeau@coslink.net
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Program Chair	Pete Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Publicity Chair	Vacant		
Scholarship Chair	Vacant		
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Testing Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
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### OTHER MEMBERS

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	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](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

ON THE COVER: July hike leader, Bernie Hanchett (L) and Jim McDermott take a break at the “Hippie Tree” on the hills above the old hospital grounds in Traverse City. Photo by Jack Schultz.



Northern Michigan Mensa

[www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

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# August Calendar

## **BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 3 August 2013 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 La Franier, Traverse City. The August book club selection will be: ***Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*** by S. C. Gwynne and presented by Heather Gruenberg-Seger.

## **ANNUAL PICNIC - Sunday, 11 August 2013 at 1 to 4 p.m. Rain or Shine.**

The location is the Elmwood Township Pavilion next to the township offices and fire station on Lincoln Road just off Cherrybend Road. Follow Grandview Parkway north past M-72 West and then follow M-22 to the light at Cherrybend Road. Turn left and follow Cherrybend to Lincoln Road. Signs will be placed at Cherrybend/M-22 and at Cherrybend/Lincoln. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for cooking on site as well as buns and condiments for these. Pete Turkus will be bringing barbecued chicken which will be pre-cooked. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass as well as beverages. Disposable dishes, cups and utensils will be provided as well as charcoal for the two on site grills which are small but adequate for hamburgers and hot dogs. Our members have always brought tasty dishes to pass so we can be assured of being well fed! We have always had nice weather but if it should rain we will not cancel or postpone. Join us! And bring your family!

## **T.G.I.F. - Friday, 23 August 2013 at 5:30 p.m.**

We will meet at the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available. Join us!

## Member News

### Happy August Birthday

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12 Corinne Mowrey       | 20 Cynthia L. Dickson |
| 13 Lynn A. Durling      | 23 Suzanne L. Cook    |
| 15 Delberta R. Windiate | 26 Susan M. Kraus     |
| 16 Cori Nielson         |                       |

## Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

11 John Porter

6 Jill S. Minor

10 Lynn A. Durling

### May 2013 Statistics

	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	48,873	71
New and reinstating membership	503	0
Offers of membership	357	0
New members since April 2013	835	15
Reinstating members since April 2013	896	18

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 5/31/2013. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

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## **Browsing the Brunch**

**by Judith Lindenau**

Our July brunch speaker was Nancy Flanagan. Nancy is a 30-year teaching veteran, a Michigan teacher of the year, and a columnist and speaker on education topics. Our small-but-mighty Mensa brunch band much appreciated her presentation and the discussion afterward. Nancy chose to speak on the question, "Is the US Education System Dead—or Should it Be?" and she offered ten observations about current issues in education policy including the role of standardization in education, the relationship between competition and collaboration, education based on merit and competence as opposed to equity where everyone deserves equal services, skill-based education vs. theoretical and intellectual training, and the role of local determination of education topics in an era of increasing proliferation of federal standards.

Thoughtful topics indeed! Nancy concluded with the core question, "What's the purpose of the US school system?" In times past, she said, schools existed to build citizens—people who could read, vote, and carry out everyday life functions. In the 50's and 60's, the purpose of education morphed into vocational training and job skills. Current thinking about education is that it is more concerned about credentialing: results are measured in terms of standardized test scores, diplomas, and certification.

Our thanks to Nancy Flanagan for a most thoughtful presentation—and to Pete Turkus for arranging an excellent venue, The Bay Town Restaurant. The food was very good and the ambiance was perfect! We hope to see you all at the August annual picnic which will take the place of our brunch that month.

# Hike at the Grand Traverse Commons

## by Jack Schultz



On Saturday, July 20, three intrepid (and aged) Mensans spent awhile hiking on the hills of the Grand Traverse Commons. I say "aged" because the average age was 75, plus or minus, giving the benefit of the doubt to



"youngster" Jim McDermott. We visited the so-called "Hippie Tree" [see front cover] to see the graffiti that "artists" have painted and carved into the barren trunks and large branches of a very large willow tree that went down many years ago. This is a favorite spot visited by countless hikers every year. We also saw a spring, emerging from a hillside, that gave way to a larger stream that eventually flows into Kids Creek. A beautiful display of tiger lilies beckoned to us and all but swallowed up Bernie Hanchett as he waded into them. It was a lovely day for a hike; we just wish more had chosen to join in.

## Scholarship Awardees Recognized

### by Jack Schultz, Scholarship Chair

Two residents of Grand Traverse County were winners in Mensa's 2013 annual scholarship competition. Joshua Tabbert of Interlochen has been awarded the \$500 Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship, and Chantal Konopka of Traverse City is the recipient of a Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship for \$300. We are hopeful that one or both of these scholarship winners will be able to attend our annual picnic on Sunday, August 11. The NMM Scholarship is funded by our local group, and the Mossip Memorial Scholarship is funded by the Mensa Foundation. Each local group that funds a scholarship is guaranteed, in addition, to have a competing individual receive a \$300 scholarship.

The 2014 essay competition will begin on September 15 of this year and entries must be submitted by January 15, 2014. Information about the annual scholarship competition can be found on the American Mensa website or on our own Northern Michigan Mensa website ([www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)).

Any member of Northern Michigan Mensa who wishes to donate to this competition can send a contribution to the Mensa Foundation and request that it be credited to the Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship Fund. Such contributions are tax-deductible because the Mensa Foundation is a 501(c)(3) entity and donors can take a tax deduction for the full amount of their donation. For any questions about this, please contact Jack Schultz at [jsvoyageur@gmail.com](mailto:jsvoyageur@gmail.com).



# Meet your New RVC3!

I'm your new Region 3 Vice Chair. Thank you for your support and hats off to my esteemed opponent and colleague, John Voymas. I've made two appointments: Katie Weihl, Region 3 Scholarship Chair and Betsy Mark, Region 3 Ombudsman.

Help Wanted -- Region 3 Webmaster. Please contact me if interested. I would like to see demonstration of prior work or your notes on improving our website.

I am also seeking a clever name for this column.

Congratulations to the ECOM Culture Quest Team, Uncle Churd, earning first place this year. Region 3 took five of the top 20 positions:

2nd Place: MECCA, Cincinnati Area Mensa,

9th Place: Burning River of Knowledge, Cleveland Area Mensa,

12th Place: The Original Standard Deviants, Western Pennsylvania Mensa and

16th Place: Mental As Anything, Cincinnati Area Mensa.

Congratulations to Chairman's Service Award recipients from Region 3: Betsy Mark, Jean Becker, Mary Lee Kemper and the Hell's Ms SIG. The Margot Award was given to Gary Skinner Porter in April before his passing and also recognized at the AG.

At the AG in Ft. Worth, the Board voted to revise and rename the Group of the Year Awards. The Name of the Award is now: The Local Group Jewels. The achievement levels will be (Lowest to Highest): Emerald, Sapphire, & Ruby with recipients to be awarded July 2014 and continuing each year thereafter. Chapters obtaining the highest points in their individual Classes will be specifically recognized separately as the Diamond Group for that year. The new program will help local groups measure their own progress and identify offerings and functionality they wish to maintain.

The Board also:

- Created the position of National Testing Officer to support Admissions Testing activities at the local level.
- Created a Local Group Logistics Team to be charged with coordinating information, best practices, and technology templates for use by local groups should they so desire.



- Created a Local Group Support Task Force to analyze areas of concern regarding support of Local Groups, including funding, and to develop policies in accordance with that analysis.

If you are on Facebook, you may join Region 3 - American Mensa for current news and events. Next up is Pittsburgh, PA 33 1/3 - the Long Play weekend! WPAM drops the needle and spins you four days and three nights of non-stop food and fun. That's 33 1/3% more than your average RG! Look forward to interesting speakers, themed meals, a sock hop, silent auctions, book sale and games. The RG runs Aug. 30 through Sept. 2, Labor Day weekend.

Full Registration:

- postmarked thru Aug. 25, \$110 adult/\$55 child (ages 7-14)
- Aug. 26 and after, \$120/\$60

Single-day registrations are:

- Friday - \$35 adult/\$15 child
- Saturday - \$55/\$25
- Sunday - \$55/\$25
- Monday - \$25/\$15

Children 6 and under are free, and families of four or more receive an additional \$10 off for each child. To register, contact [auntkitti@aol.com](mailto:auntkitti@aol.com) or send a check payable to WPAM RG with name, email, phone, address and days attending for each registrant to Marty Flowers, 303 Diamond Dr., Moon Township, PA 15108.

DoubleTree Greentree  
500 Mansfield Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
800-222-8733  
Website: 2013-WPAM-RG

Room rates are \$94 and are guaranteed through Aug. 15. Use reservation code Western Pennsylvania Mensa. For more information, contact Jodi Chase at [jodi.liv.strong@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.liv.strong@gmail.com) or 412-867-8576.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julia Ashley, RVC3  
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# Puzzle Page

## CRYPTOGRAM

Submitted by Ruth Minshull

The cryptogram consists of a simple substitution code. Each letter has been replaced by another. No letter represents itself, and substitutions remain consistent throughout the puzzle. For example:

ORAB AB ZK WLZSXHW GU Z YGIW.  
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CODE.

**LQF MHVFML MERZ LQNL EZLFYYERFZL YEOF**

**FDEMLM FYMFAQFVF EZ LQF HZEBFVMF EM LQNL**

**EL QNM ZFBFV LVEFC LP UPZLNUL HM. ~KEYY**

**ANLLFVMPZ**

(The answer will appear in next month's issue)

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**Answer to last month's Cryptogram:**

If you see ten troubles coming down the road, you can be sure that nine will run into the ditch before they reach you. ~Calvin Coolidge