



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 13 Number 3

December 2014

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 15th 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

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Northern Michigan Mensa

Executive Committee



Northern Michigan Mensa

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Go high-tech! Get Borealis emailed to you. It's easy. Just email nmmborealis@yahoo.com and put "change delivery method" in the subject line. You'll get it faster, and in color!

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

ON THE COVER: Frozen Rain Chain. Photo by Stan Cain

December Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 6 December 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 Lafranier, Traverse City. This is near the corner of S. Airport Road. The December Book Club selection will be ***Men to Match My Mountains*** by Irving Stone, presented by Heather Gruenberg-Seger. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book.

Brunch - Saturday, 13 December 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

We will meet at the **Bay Town Kitchen**, 420 Munson Ave., Traverse City. Look for us in the far dining room.

Looking for an unusual Christmas Gift? How about a first edition of ... ? Our speaker, Paul Stebleton, owner of Landmark Books, will tell us how to get started on our collections. He specializes in the collection and sale of used books, including out-of-print, autographed and first editions.

DINNER OUT - At your house ... or the relative or friend of your choice. It's Christmastime!

And remember - behave yourself! No arguing with that crazy uncle. See you next year.

Member News

Happy December Birthday

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 7 Dennis J Olsen | 15 Carole Eberly |
| 8 Stan Cain | 28 Patrick Sullivan |
| 11 Robert Hawley | 28 Duane Anderson |
| 11 John A Thorne | |

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

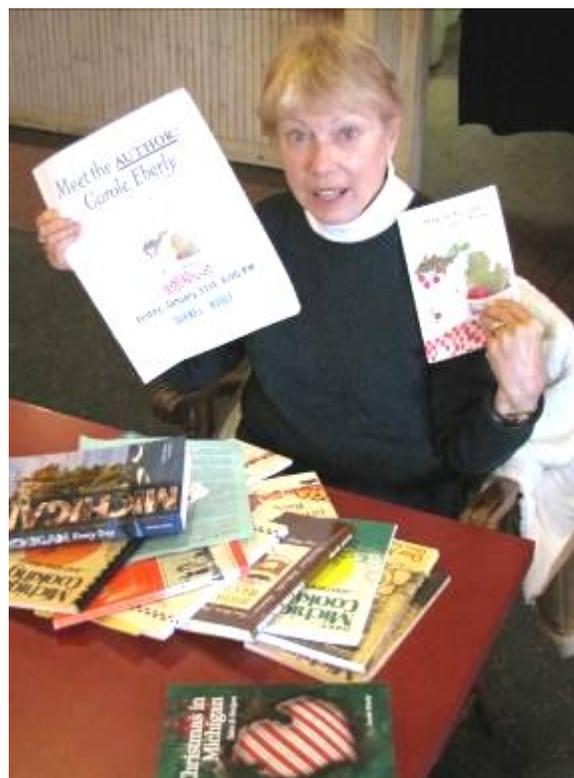
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 26 Peter J Turkus | 6 Bartholomew G. Halliday III |
| 8 Vicki L Carpenter | 1 Richard A Gavitt Jr |
| 6 Duane Anderson | |

October 2014 Statistics

	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	52,343	81
New and reinstating membership	597	0
Offers of membership	1,480	0
New members since April 2014	1,850	0
Reinstating members since April 2014	1,698	1

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/2014. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update"

November Brunch



As speaker at our November brunch, Carol Eberly, our Program Chair, explained how she has sold a million books over the last thirty or so years. One of the secrets is to have more than one book and being able to find an unfilled niche in the book market.

Another is hard promotional work after the book has been written. She mentioned book signings and many miles on the road personally distributing her books to bookstores and stores dealing in cooking supplies since many of her works are cookbooks, containing interesting stories and recipes related to Michigan.

Carol's latest book is *Christmas in Michigan - Tales & Recipes*.

News from the RVC3

The deadline for this column coincides with the deadline for petition signatures required to put bylaws referenda on the ballot next spring. Seven of the eight proposals have reached the minimum required signatures by electronic signature only. The last one may reach the minimum after paper petitions are tallied. That makes for a large ballot this time around.

Even if you have no interest in policy or politics, these issues pose interesting puzzles and many of us love a good puzzle. Beware of voting temptations to support an issue because you support the mover or to not consider it because you dislike the mover. Deliberate with yourself or others if you should vote yes on a halfway feasible policy instead of voting no for something that really needs to go back to the drawing table for fine tuning. Ask yourself if the bylaw is too limiting or too loose and if it stands on its own merits from term to term of a Board that changes every election.

I'll single one out: the issue on restoring/protecting the powers of the National Ombudsman. Having a role that handles disputes and complaints at the National level and supports/aids Regional and Local Ombudsmen does require knowledge of policies and communication with the Board. But deciding how closely to be entangled may jeopardize the effectiveness of an Ombudsman's role. He/she could make recommendations in support of the Board and be perceived biased from close association with that Board. Also, when there is an issue against a Board, it should be dealt with promptly, not waiting for a quarterly meeting. Any member is welcome to attend Board meetings; expensed attendance for observation with no issues pending is another matter, particularly when a paper report can be submitted as many other roles do each quarter. I have met the mover and hold her in HIGH esteem. I also respect the current National Ombudsman who suffers the same indecision I do at choice of deserts – more than once this past year, he has taken one, I the other, and we swap half to get the best of both. The proposed bylaw, as it stands, just isn't a convincing policy for me yet. Drop me a note before March if you have it all figured out...

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Please Take Note !

By Stan Cain
Editor, Borealis

Borealis will be moving to a new method of emailing the newsletter soon. My plan is to make the transition in time for the mailing of the January 2015 Borealis.

I currently maintain a list of email addresses for sending out Borelais. This is a holdover from when emailing was done using our own website. Due to changes made on the National Office servers where our website is hosted, this no longer works and I currently email Borealis using my own list.

This list is time consuming to maintain and usually out of date. Therefore, I will be shifting to using the email addresses on file with all your other data with the National Office. However, many of the email addresses I currently use are not on file with the National Office and therefore will no longer work once the new system is in use.

Members who are currently receiving a printed copy of Borealis and want to continue to receive it, don't have to make any changes.

But, all members who want to receive Borealis by email need to make sure that the email address that you currently use to receive Borelais is on file with your other data with the National Office. To check or change this information, you can use the link:

www.us.mensa.org then:

Click on "My Mensa".

Click on "Member Profile".

Then check/modify the "Local Group publication delivery" method.