

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 14 Number 4

January 2016

## **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

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

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## Executive Committee

### VOTING MEMBERS

|                 |                 |               |                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Local Secretary | Bobbi Walker    | 231-486-6114  | bobbiraw@att.net     |
| Deputy Loc Sec  | KC Mowrey       | 231-775-8785  | kcmowrey@charter.net |
| Treasurer       | Susan A. Styles | 231-357-5233  | seas@umich.edu       |
| At Large        | Brett Pharo     | 231- 322-2017 | brettpharo@gmail.com |
| At Large        | Carole Eberly   | 989-421-5086  | cmeberly@yahoo.com   |

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

|                     |                        |              |                            |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Newsletter Editor   | Stan Cain              | 231-938-1506 | nmmborealis@yahoo.com      |
| Financial Overseer  | Richard Thibeau        | 231-590-2052 | rthibeau@coslink.net       |
| Membership          | Vacant                 |              |                            |
| Ombudsman           | Pete Turkus            | 231-941-8321 | petencheri@chartermi.net   |
| Program Chair       | Vacant                 |              |                            |
| Publicity Chair     | Carole Eberly          | 989-421-5086 | cmeberly@yahoo.com         |
| Scholarship Chair   | Kymberli Wregglesworth |              | kymberliapril@src-milp.com |
| SIGHT Coordinator   | Melissa J. Rennie      | 231-889-0892 | renmeij@yahoo.com          |
| Testing Coordinator | John D. Schultz        | 231-275-6735 | jsvoyageur@gmail.com       |
| Web Contact         | Vacant                 |              |                            |

### OTHER MEMBERS

|               |                   |              |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Proctors      | Susan A. Styles   | 231-357-5233 | seas@umich.edu    |
|               | Melissa J. Rennie | 231-889-0892 | renmeij@yahoo.com |
| Regional      |                   |              |                   |
| Vice-Chairman | Julia Ashley      | 614.448.6023 | RVC3@us.mensa.org |

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

ON THE COVER: A really important message lies buried in the crowd. Electrical box in in Downtown Traverse City.  
Photo by Stan Cain



Northern Michigan Mensa

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

Send address correction c/o  
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Arlington, TX 76006-6103

# January Calendar

## Brunch - Saturday, 9 January 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

The December brunch will be held at the MI Grille, located at 420 Munson in TC. We will meet in the back dining room.

## And Coming up in February...

### Book Club - Saturday, 6 February 2016

The April Book Club selection will be **Orphan Train** by Christina Baker Kline, and presented by Sherry McNamara. (see the description on P. 3)

# Member News

## Happy January Birthday

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 17 Richard B Thibeau | 19 John R Phelps   |
| 21 Erik A Snyder     | 30 Donald L Curtis |

## Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 13 Aaron Stander     | 5 Ellen Monahan    |
| 12 Melissa J Rennie  | 5 Benjamin Whiting |
| 11 Sandra L Belyea   | 1 Mark L Banker    |
| 11 Dr M Teri Daunter | 1 Eric Laitala     |
| 9 Susan Lynne Pitzer |                    |

| <u>November 2015 Statistics</u>      | <u>AML</u> | <u>NMM</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Total membership                     | 52938      | 90         |
| New and reinstating membership       | 453        | 1          |
| Offers of membership                 | 344        | 0          |
| New members since April 2015         | 2276       | 2          |
| Reinstating members since April 2015 | 1650       | 3          |

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 11/30/2015. 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"

# Election Process Finale

The newly Elected ExComm members and their positions as of January 1, 2016 are:

**Roberta A. Walker (Bobbi)**  
**K C Mowrey**  
**Susan Styles**  
**Carole Eberly**  
**Brett A. Pharo**

**Local Secretary**  
**Deputy Local Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**At Large**  
**At Large**

## Appointed positions

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Newsletter Editor   | Stan Cain             |
| Financial Overseer  | Richard Thibeau       |
| Membership          | Vacant                |
| Ombudsman           | Pete Turkus           |
| Program Chair       | Vacant                |
| Publicity Chair     | Vacant                |
| Scholarship Chair   | Kymerli Wregglesworth |
| SIGHT Coordinator   | Melissa J. Rennie     |
| Testing Coordinator | John D. Schultz       |
| Web Contact         | Vacant                |

## OTHER MEMBERS

|          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| Proctors | Susan A. Styles   |
|          | Melissa J. Rennie |

As you can see, there are a number of vacancies remaining to be filled. This is a good opportunity for you (and especially for you newer members) to get to know your organization and fellow members more intimately. Contact any of the board members and let them know you are interested.

## BIBLIOMENSANS CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS

By Sherry McNamara

Our Mensan book group, Bibliomensans, is entering its thirteenth year. It is quite a milestone and I am proud that it is still going strong after all these years. We started as a large group filling a table so long it was difficult to hear what a speaker was saying at the other end of it. Years have passed, people have passed, children were born, parents became busy, our lives grew and altered in these years. However, we continue to have a small and dedicated group of readers who continually meet every other month to discuss good books.

The book group would like to extend an invitation to any Mensan as we enter our new year to join us. There is no prerequisite to join other than to be a Mensan. We meet every other month for lunch and our discussion, so there is plenty of time to finish a book. You can attend to discuss only the books you find fascinating or come to every meeting. If you started the book and didn't finish it, no problem. If you didn't read the book, but just want to hear the discussion, that's fine as well. Nonetheless, I think once you attend a meeting, you will feel compelled to read the next book and become an active participant!

In December, our group determined the selections for the 2016 reading year, it is posted on our webpage. One member is assigned to begin the book discussion with some background on either the book subject, the author, or whatever the presenter deems interesting. I would like to encourage new members, so if you would like to be part of this group, it is a good time to join. If you would like to be one of the presenters this year, we can get you assigned to one of our great selections. Please let me know your interest by emailing me at kikiwon@hotmail.com.

## Orphan Train

Bibliomensans' Book for February  
By Christina Baker Kline- 278 pages

Christina Baker Kline's Orphan Train is an unforgettable story of friendship and second chances that highlights a little-known but historically significant movement in America's past.

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to "aging out" out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...

As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.

Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life—answers that will ultimately free them both. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

### The latest Financial Report submitted by treasurer, Sue Styles

#### Financial Statements Northern Michigan Mensa For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

| Fund                  | 1/1/2015           | 12/31/2015         | Change             |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Friend Fund           | \$ 80.00           | \$ 10.00           | \$ (70.00)         |
| General Operations    | \$ 3,802.32        | \$ 3,729.86        | \$ (72.46)         |
| <b>Total Checking</b> | <b>\$ 3,882.32</b> | <b>\$ 3,739.86</b> | <b>\$ (142.46)</b> |
| Savings               | \$ 103.67          | \$ 103.67          | \$ -               |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$ 3,985.99</b> | <b>\$ 3,843.53</b> | <b>\$ (142.46)</b> |

  

| Income                     | Budget             | Year To Date     | Remaining        |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| National Office Allocation | \$ 1,000.00        | \$ 789.29        | \$ 210.71        |
| Testing Fees               | \$ 150.00          | \$ 30.00         | \$ 120.00        |
| Interest Income            | \$ 5.00            | \$ 1.80          | \$ 3.20          |
| Fund Raising               | \$ 245.00          | \$ -             | \$ 245.00        |
| <b>Total Income</b>        | <b>\$ 1,400.00</b> | <b>\$ 821.09</b> | <b>\$ 578.91</b> |

  

| Expenses                          | Budget             | Year To Date      | Remaining        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Newsletter                        | \$ 450.00          | \$ 330.10         | \$ 119.90        |
| Office / Incidentals              | \$ 25.00           | \$ -              | \$ 25.00         |
| Activities / Programs             | \$ 200.00          | \$ 49.01          | \$ 150.99        |
| Publicity                         | \$ 25.00           | \$ -              | \$ 25.00         |
| Scholarships                      | \$ 500.00          | \$ 509.44         | \$ (9.44)        |
| Proctor / Testing                 | \$ 50.00           | \$ 5.00           | \$ 45.00         |
| Stipend for Reg/Ntl Events        | \$ 50.00           | \$ -              | \$ 50.00         |
| Membership                        | \$ 100.00          | \$ -              | \$ 100.00        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>             | <b>\$ 1,400.00</b> | <b>\$ 893.55</b>  | <b>\$ 506.45</b> |
| <b>Total Income Less Expenses</b> | <b>\$ -</b>        | <b>\$ (72.46)</b> |                  |