



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 14 Number 5

February 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 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

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 |
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| At Large | Brett Pharo | 231- 322-2017 | brettpharo@gmail.com |
| At Large | Carole Eberly | 989-421-5086 | cmeberly@yahoo.com |

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| 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 |
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| 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-Chair | Julia Ashley | 614.448.6023 | RVC3@us.mensa.org |

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

ON THE COVER: (and below) A fox dines on a rabbit in my back yard.
Photo by Stan Cain



Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

Send address correction c/o
American Mensa LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

February Calendar

Book Club - Saturday, 6 February 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

The February Book Club selection will be **Orphan Train** by Christina Baker Kline, presented by Sherry McNamara. The group meets at BC Pizza, 3186 LaFranier Road, in Traverse City.

Brunch - Saturday, 13 February 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Member News

Happy February Birthday

14 Peter J Turkus

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 31 Robert Alan Atallo | 8 Heather Gruenberg-Seger |
| 15 Joan Elizabeth Dasef | 8 Chase Philport |
| 11 James H McDermott | 8 Erik A Snyder |
| 10 Julie L Hill | 7 Brett A Pharo |
| 9 John G Swartout | 6 Matthew D Stevenson |
| 8 Sherry L Saites | 3 Timothy Brotherton |

| <u>November 2015 Statistics</u> | <u>AML</u> | <u>NMM</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Total membership | 52938 | 77 |
| 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 and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update"

From the Loc-Sec

As your new loc-sec, I hope you will try and come to at least one event, so that I can meet as many of you as possible. I would like to hear from you on just what type of events you might want to come to. I hope in the future we can start a more participatory NMM. We are a small group and some members are pretty well scattered across the northern half of Michigan. Which brings me to the subject of why Traverse City is the center of events. Basically, about 50% of our members either live in TC or are less than an hour's drive from it. We would like to see even our farthest members try to come to at least one or two functions.

If you've never participated in a NMM event before, Culture Quest is a good place to start. It's a "trivia test on steroids" which is held at 4:00 pm on the last Sunday in April [May 1 this year]. We are always in desperate need of someone from the Physical and/or Biological Sciences. SO please join us. There will be more information in the March Borealis.

- Bobbi Walker

Editor's note: In the spirit of Bobbi's message, CultureQuest is an event that can be held anywhere 4-5 members want to gather. You can find other members near you if you log on to us.mensa.org with your member ID and password. Point to Connect on the menu across the top, then choose Member directory. We only have 77 members, so it is easiest to just specify a Local Group as your search criteria (our local group is 03/496). In the list that appears, look for a location near you and click on the person's name to get any contact information they have agreed to share with other members. For example, there are three of you in Gaylord, one in Grayling, and two in Kalkaska!

For more information, go to <http://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>. If you're curious about the questions, you can even subscribe to a question of the day.

-Sue Styles, guest editor

BIBLIOMENSANS READING LIST 2016

Following are the books that will be discussed at Bibliomensans book club meetings on the following dates:

- FEBRUARY 6 Book: Orphan Train
Author: Christina Baker Kline
Presenter: Sherry McNamara
- APRIL 2 Book: All the Light We Cannot See
Author: Anthony Doerr
Presenter: Heather Gruenberg-Seger
- JUNE 4 Book: Being Mortal: Medicine and
What Matters in the End
Author: Atul Gawande
Presenter: Jim McDermott
- AUGUST 6 Book: The Black Count: Glory, Revolution,
Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo
Author: Tom Reiss
Presenter: Greg Baker
- OCTOBER 1 Book: The Sixth Extinction
Author: Elizabeth Kolbert
** Presenter: TBD **
- DECEMBER 3 Book: Under the Wide and Starry Sky
Author: Nancy Horan
Presenter: Stan Cain

Meetings are held at BC Pizza, 3186 LaFranier Road, in Traverse City. See the January issue of *Borealis* for a description of how the book club works. There is still an opening for a presenter in October!

You will receive a 10% discount at Horizon Books for the purchase of one of these titles. If you also have an Horizon membership discount, then you will receive both discounts.

Mensa Opportunities!

Read Scholarship Essays

Jump on this one quickly if you are interested! Kymberli Wregglesworth, our Scholarship Chair, had over 100 essays submitted for the NMM scholarship offered in cooperation with the Mensa Foundation. She has judges, but needs help ASAP in narrowing down the choices before the judges score the essays.

She would like three people to quickly skim / read the essays to make sure they meet length and general quality / grammar requirements before the formal scoring round. This is a simple yes or no vote and can be done electronically. All scoring has to be in to National by February 15, so contact Kymberli soon at kymberliapril@src-milp.com or 989-370-4023.

Don't assume she already has enough help! This would also be a good way to see if you are interested in judging next year.

Judge Smart Kids in Odyssey of the Mind

Jean Becker, Michigan resident and former chair of American Mensa, has been in touch with Peg Edverson at Michigan Odyssey of the Mind (OM). Jean wrote to us, "Mensans had judged in the past and it was a real win-win. Odyssey of the Mind is happy to get judges who are not related to any of their participants. Mensans found the experience fun and the training and time commitment is limited."

OM wanted to know by January 31 if anyone was interested, but you could see if they still need help this year or get on their list to help next year. No OM experience is needed. The commitment is a 3-4 hour training period and 8am – 5pm the day of the tournament. In the NMM area the opportunity is in Traverse City with training on February 13 and tournament on February 27. Contact Peg at region4miom@gmail.com.

Wisconsin RG Near Milwaukee

April 22-24 is the date of the Mensa of Wisconsin annual Regional Gathering, held this year at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Features include two tracks of quality speakers all day Saturday; field trips; more presentations Sunday morning; all meals, snacks, and drinks; a 4-star resort; game room; fireplace; and cheese tasting. Cost is \$82 plus \$99 per night. Visit <http://www.mensaofwisconsin.org/current-events/2016-rg/> for registration and event news. Address questions to Gene Mezger at 414-828-4444, or email RG@wi.us.mensa.org or registrar@wi.us.mensa.org.