



Borealis

February 2021 Calendar

Bibliomensans next meet February 6

BRUNCH - CANCELLED until further notice

February 2 ... Groundhog Day
February 14 ... Valentine's Day

Executive Committee

We are looking for volunteers to fill our vacancies and have an assistant
for each position

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Gene Fry	231-668-1362	gfry.cherokee@gmail.com
Deputy Loc Sec	KC Mowrey	231-775-8785	kcmowrey@charter.net
Treasurer	Richard Thibeau	231-409-4209 (New #)	rthibeau@coslink.net

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Newsletter Editor	Richard Thibeau		
Financial Overseer	Vacant		
Membership	Bernie Hanchett	231-946-5177	barneydulittle@hotmail.com
Program Chair	Vacant		
Scholarship Chair	Kymberli Wregglesworth	(989) 733-4820	kwregglesworth@oacsd.com
Testing Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231--640-4569 (new#)	jsvoyageur@gmail.com

Sherry McNamara will be hosting Bibliomensans meetings via ZOOM instead of in person. Contact her to get the invitation to Zoom ... sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com

Bibliomensans

This is the schedule for the Bibliomensans' 2021 reading meetings. Anybody is welcome, whether or not they have read the book. If they are Mensans they are members of Bibliomensans. We meet at 11:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month at B. C. Pizza, at 3186 LaFranier Rd. in Traverse City. Zip code is 49686 (restaurant is at SE corner of Airport and LaFranier Rds.). Meetings are held in February, April, June, August, October, and December. In August we meet on the second Saturday of the month. The presenter introduces the book and then everybody goes around the table, voicing their opinion. After that the discussion is open. I am now the contact person, Heather J. Gruenberg-Seger, I can be reached at home: 231.932.9501. All other information on the book group link is still valid.

February: My Own Words, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg

April: The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich

June: Our House is On Fire, by Greta Thunberg

August: Isadore's Secret, by Mardi Link

October: Hellhound on His Trail, by Hampton Sides

December: The Disappearing Spoon, by Sam Kean

**Sherry McNamara will be hosting virtual ZOOM meetings instead of in person. Contact her to get the invitation to Zoom ...
sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com**

In December 2021, the Executive Committee elections will be held. Terms are for 2 years starting January 2022. Please consider stepping up to fill these spots (LocSec, Deputy LocSec, and Treasurer). *Everyone should take a turn to keep the group functioning.*

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ATTENTION!!! THERE STILL is need of judges for the 2021 local Scholarship competition. Each person would need to read some number of essays (the more judges, the fewer essays each person is responsible to read) and score them based on a rubric that would be provided. The reading and scoring is done completely online. Any interested people can contact me at the email address or phone number below.

Kymerli A. Wregglesworth kwregglesworth@oacsd.com (989) 733-4820

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News from the RVC3

John Voymas, Vice Chairperson, Region 3

JohnV.RVC3@gmail.com, 313.434.6750

By the time that you read this, the nomination phase of the American Mensa election season will have ended. I am not a candidate for Regional Vice President for Region 3. I strongly believe in term limits and set the example when I am an officer of an organization. When I ran two years ago, I knew that I would not be running for a third term this year. There are many qualified members of Mensa in our region. They can bring their own ideas to the AMC. Different ideas can help make American Mensa even better.

There has been discussion in different Mensa communities as to whether the nomination thresholds of 250 signatures for national office and 100 signatures for regional office are a barrier to self-nomination. As I write this on December 27, 2020, there are seven candidates for national office who have already exceeded that threshold. There are two regional candidates who have met their requirement with a few others closing in. The nomination period ends on January 31, 2021 and over half the time remains for asking for a nomination signature. The threshold is not an obstruction. However, it does require effort to reach out and ask for members to at least support your nomination (a member can sign all candidates' nominations and I encourage them to do so). That is not a commitment to vote for the candidate - simply a means to ensure that this is a competitive election and that members have a choice. Some might think that without physical in-person events to ask for signatures, that candidates are hampered. I disagree. Two years ago, the majority of my signatures were electronic (and I not particularly outgoing). Candidates who wish to run need to shake the electronic hands and ask for the signature.

Another discussion has been on whether it was a good idea to eliminate the nomination of candidates by a nominating committee. Some say that this at least ensures that someone will be proffered for each office without having to go through the labor of gathering petition signatures. I disagree. I have been in other organizations where there are official (also known as "preferred" candidates). It is extremely difficult for a self-nominated candidate to win a seat in these kinds of organizations. Many of those who vote simply accept that the organization's nominating committee knows best.

The voting phase begins on April 15 and ends on May 15. Please take the time to review candidate bios and election statements. Ask them questions in Facebook groups and in Mensa Connect communities. Then select the candidate who you believe is the best person to represent you for the next term on the AMC.

The next American Mensa AMC meeting is tentatively set for March 20. This may be virtual or we may be able to meet in person. That decision should be made by the time that you read this. Check the American Mensa website for updates.

Looking forward to seeing some of you in person this spring.

Cheers!

Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

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