



Borealis

April 2021 Calendar

Bibliomensans next meet April 3

April 2 ... Good Friday

April 4 ... Easter

Executive Committee

We need 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	Kymerli 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

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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.* Also, a new Editor for the Borealis will be needed at the same time.

News from the RVC3

John Voymas, Vice Chairperson, Region 3

JohnV.RVC3@gmail.com, 313.434.6750

Did March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? Will April showers bring May flowers? I sure hope so. I could use some spring. This has been one of the coldest winters in many years. Growing up in the Northeast (Waltham, Massachusetts), I do remember the really cold and snowy winters as a child. We always had winter break the last week of February - a full week off of school. I think that they did that because that's when we would get the blizzards and heavy snowfall every year. Kind of like pre-planning snow days by simply declaring a week-long vacation in advance. The downside was that my birthday always fell during that week, so I never did get to have a classroom birthday party.

As a young adult, I attended colleges in Utica, NY and Rochester, NY. Utica is in what is referred to as "the Snowbelt". The winters there were long and harsh. And with narrow streets, the piles of snow between the street and the sidewalk were like six-foot berms. One winter, our last snowfall was on Mother's Day. A winter could have about two hundred inches of snowfall - kind of like Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Buffalo is also famous for lots of snow. Fortunately, Rochester was slightly better compared to Utica to the east and Buffalo to the west.

The extreme cold temperatures in Texas recently are a periodic occurrence - just not at this level. This time much of the state had rolling blackouts and natural gas and water that could not reach people's homes. Natural gas has a small amount of moisture in it. Normally, that is not a problem, but with the really cold temps, the natural gas could not travel and hundreds of power generating stations and water facilities that depended on natural gas for their fuel could not function. I lived in Austin, Texas from August, 1982 to August, 1985. The winter of 1983 - 1984 saw some single-digit temps in December and three (small) snowfalls in January. Since many of the water pipes were in the ceiling, it was necessary to drip the faucets - unfortunately, in the complex that I lived in, many students who resided there had gone home for the holidays and many came home to find some serious water damage. The driving in January would not have been too difficult for those of us who had lived in the North, but with local folks having little to no experience, my six mile drive home from work took three hours.

Since the voting period runs from April 15 to May 15, you will have a few more weeks to "meet the candidates" and to learn what they plan to contribute to American Mensa should they be the chosen one. You will find them on various Facebook groups as well as in the Mensa Connect Communities. Some will be coming to Regional Gatherings (RGs) in various parts of the country. I will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" Zoom meeting on Saturday, April 10 at 1:00 PM. The information will be in American Mensa Events Calendar <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>. It will also be posted in the Region 3 Mensa Connect Community and the Region 3 Facebook page

Dayton Area Mensa just had their RG on March 26 - 28. This was a virtual event on Zoom. Western Pennsylvania Mensa is looking forward to once again hosting an RG during Labor Day weekend. Columbus will be having an RG in October. Hopefully, we can meet face-to-face at these two events. Details on these should be available on the national calendar of events

I plan on seeing some of you in real life over the next few months. I will have been fully vaccinated by the time you read this. Stay safe and prepare for a future of sunshine and gatherings!

Candidate submissions for the up coming MENSA National elections:

My name is Timmy - if you've been to a recent AG you may have attended one of my talks on Quantum Physics, Perceptual Reality, or even On-line Dating. But today I present myself as a candidate for Chairman of American Mensa.

Statistically speaking, it's highly unlikely that you, the reader, will actually vote in this year's election. That statement isn't intended as a snub, it is a simple fact we rarely get more than 10% of our members voting in any election. I would love to change that. I would be overjoyed if this year we had 11% of our members vote.

So I beg – implore – challenge – urge – falisbate you to vote in the American Mensa elections starting April 15th. I know what you're going to say, "Timmy – falisbate isn't a real word." But it does kinda sound like a real word, and it grabbed your attention.

But seriously – this election is very important. For far too long we have elected the same people to, the same positions, and they produce the same mediocre results. Membership is dropping, we have serious financial problems, our on-line communities are deeply divided. American Mensa is at a crossroads where every vote counts. Please vote in the upcoming election.

I have posted my thoughts in a series of documents at timmyking.com or facebook.com/Timmy-King-for-Mensa-Chair-4117258344401. I sincerely hope you read all of my position papers so you can see how much needs improving. Please, please vote. We need to hear your voice.

I am LaRae Bakerink. Thank you for the honor of currently serving as your Chair. It is my goal to help place the focus of Mensa on the member experience. Every member can and should be an Ambassador for Mensa, and they will if they are having a good time. We should promote pride, not arrogance, in our membership. Leadership Development is an important member benefit that can and should be provided to members so they can grow and flourish, in and out of Mensa. This adds to the value that will attract and keep new and younger members. If re-elected, I plan to focus on increasing support for Local Groups and volunteers; increase Leadership Development classes, online and in-person; and maintain and grow membership by enhancing the member experience. While we may not agree on everything, we can disagree agreeably and still move forward to improve our Mensa. As always, I am listening. www.LaRaeforChair.com

My name is David McCallister and I'm seeking elected office as Second Vice Chair of American Mensa. I'm a life member and native Texan with a passion for serving my community. As a volunteer and officer in my local chapter, I strive to provide a universally rich experience to our members and encourage those same members to contribute their unique gifts to enrich and elevate this organization that has given me so much.

I'll work to improve member engagement and provide tangible value by understanding the barriers for our members and work to remove them. I'll help foster an environment of trust and mutual respect by listening, learning, and responding to feedback quickly with practical solutions. I'll work to support local groups and urge you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns that you'd like me to address as a future member of the Board.

Our organization needs dedicated and proven leaders to create the future success of our organization: leaders who care deeply and who are dedicated to leaving the organization better than they found it. With over 20 years of experience driving nonprofit boards, I am that leader, and I commit to work with you and for you if elected. I ask for your vote as Second Vice Chair. For more information, please visit David2VC.wordpress.com

Your Vote Matters

by Rob Salkin, Candidate for American Mensa's Second Vice Chair

Oh, boring! It's another Mensa election article. Yeah, I get it. If you're reading this newsletter, and you're participating online, and you're excited when The Bulletin arrives, and - during the before times - you went to lots of local events, and you got excited to sign up for regional and national events, you're probably already informed and you're going to get the most out of your membership no matter who is elected. Then, cheers to you for maxing out on Mensa involvement! However, if you're not yet a Mensa Power User, please bear with me and I'll do my best to explain what's going on.

Mensa loves its initialisms! The American Mensa Committee (AMC) is the board of directors of American Mensa, Ltd. (AML). AML is one of many Mensa International Limited (MIL) national groups. MIL is governed by the International Board of Directors (IBD). During the voting period between April 15th and May 15th, you have the opportunity to select some members of the AML's AMC (as well as one member of MIL's IBD). As a bonus, you also get to vote on an amendment to the American Mensa Bylaws! Right, it's not super exciting, but...it's a thing nonetheless.

So, why should you care? For the next two years (or maybe three years, depending on the Bylaws amendment vote), the AMC members you elect will govern the national organization. Local groups operate within that national framework. Not only does the AMC set policy and make budgetary decisions, it can also form committees to look into issues...or not. That is, the board can be nearly entirely hands-off, or it can try to fix what's broken. Years ago, a lack of proactive, hands-on leadership led to some of the technological and process problems we have today. The last few boards have worked to modernize and enhance operations, but there's plenty more work to be done.

An area in need of attention is leadership development, including better support for local group volunteers by setting them up for success with best practices that thriving groups have found to work well. Some local groups are struggling while others are doing great. It isn't new that some groups have lots going on and they see a good percentage of their membership get involved each year. Other groups may struggle to engage more than a few members over a number of years. There's incredible variety and uniqueness within each region and local group. There's no urge to do anything but celebrate that. Yet, AML can do much better in supporting its local groups and local group leaders so that they can make the local experience more appealing without burning themselves out. I intend to help make that happen. The Second Vice Chair is largely a choose-your-own-adventure position. There are not many specific responsibilities like there are for most other AMC positions. I've been in Mensa leadership at the local, regional, national, and international levels. So, I'm fully qualified to be the backup to the backup for the Chair. However, I intend to do more than just sit on the sidelines. I will address the reasons our lapsed members told us they didn't renew, lower volunteer burnout by providing better support and strategies, and grow the organization through member satisfaction which will lead to lower lapse rates.

Why does your vote in particular matter? Out of the tens of thousands of members, only a few thousand have voted in recent past elections. Your vote is likely to be an order of magnitude more powerful than you might have expected. A vote for me is a vote for more fun and better supported volunteers. I hope you'll check your email and/or postal mail for your ballot and submit it promptly.

Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

1896 Carlisle Rd

Traverse City, MI 49696

