



Borealis

January 2022 Calendar

Bibliomensans next meet in February 2022

Happy New Year !!
Executive Committee

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	Vacant		

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Newsletter Editor	Vacant		
Financial Overseer	Vacant		
Membership	Bernie Hanchett	231-946-5177	barneydulittle@hotmail.com
Program Chair	Vacant		
Scholarship Chair	Vacant		
Testing Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231--640-4569 (new#)	jsvoyageur@gmail.com

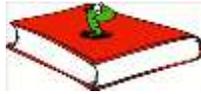
This is my final Borealis issue as Editor. Sherry was kind enough to send pictures of the newspaper article about the founding of Northern Michigan Mensa (see Pages 2,3,&4). A timely reminder seeing as how we are maybe at the point of disbanding and going under Western Michigan Mensa as no one has stepped up to take over this group. More importantly, the four vacancies for Appointed Positions need to be filled no matter what happens as a group.

FROM THE LOCSEC: Since I am new up here and live close to Traverse City I said I would help out with the organization until we could get new Executive Committee members two years ago. I did not know the history and all the people so if I miss anyone I apologize. I want to thank all those who worked so hard to promote Northern Michigan Mensa during the Virus. Also to KC Mowrey, Sherry McNamara, Jack Schultz, Kymberli Wregglesworth and Richard Thibeau who have volunteered these last few years to keep the organization going. For the last couple years we have been trying to get others involved, but no takers. So with no leaders members are asked what they want to do. The way I understand it:

1. We can have present members to fill the positions and keep the group together.
2. See if Western Michigan Mensa will let our members rejoin them.
3. See if Green Bay will retake the western UP members back.
4. See if Western Michigan Mensa would agree to allow a member from each of our large populated areas to coordinate activities.
5. If there are any other options we will learn them from Lora Mitchell.

We hope all members are having a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. Gene Fry

Volume 22, Issue 1



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. Bibliomensans' meetings are currently being held online via Zoom.

Sherry McNamara will coordinate payments and will be hosting Bibliomensans' Zoom meeting access.

YOU'VE BEEN RETRODIGITIZED!

Ed Becker, SEMM Archivist

By the time you read this, all available past issues of M-Pathy will have been uploaded to the server at the American Mensa National Office and will be available for browsing at your leisure. Just log in at us.mensa.org and chose "Local Group Newsletters" under the "Read" tab, select "Southeast Michigan Mensa" in the local group search box, and select the newsletter you would like to read as far back as the first issue in August, 1965.*

We used a professional digitizing service, and the files are searchable, so feel free to look for your name or any other reference term. In the course of organizing the files, I've had the opportunity to at least skim them all, and read quite a few of them in some depth, and would like to share a few items.

From the very first issue, dated April 1965:

"M-Pathy! Isn't it a great name? Credit for this flash of genius goes to our V.P. Roby Nelson." -- Edith LaCroix, M-Pathy Editor

And a great name it must be, as it has stood for 56 years (and counting)! The chapter's name was Michigan Mensa at the time, and encompassed the entire state and some of Southern Ontario. (At that time, there was one Mensa covering the United States and Canada.) There were approximately 250 members in the geographic area at the time, with the largest concentration (51 members) in Detroit, followed by Flint (32), Ann Arbor (20), Grand Rapids (9) and Windsor, Ontario (7). The first newsletter was four typewritten pages. For the next several years, the M-Pathy would continue to be typewritten with occasional hand-drawn graphics. The length would vary from 4 to 14 pages and would be mailed to members, first class, at a cost of 4¢ per copy. Member dues were \$5 per year then, but did not include a subscription to the local group newsletter. M-Pathy cost an additional \$2 per year at the time.

The masthead from that first issue was the hand-drawn outline of the state of Michigan, both peninsulas, but where is Ontario, and what about the object in the lower right part of the drawing? That represents the Little Yellow Map Pin (LYMP) that Mensa members received upon joining the society. The notion was that member could recognize one another by wearing this pin on their collar or lapel. *Members of Mensa Canada can request access by sending an email to Membership Services representative Crystle Gilliam (crystleg@americanmensa.org).



Mensa starts new chapter in northern Michigan

By **BILL ECHLIN**
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — They just want a place where they can feel normal, where they can fit in, where they can meet and talk with people like themselves.

People with an IQ of 140 or so, for instance.

They're Mensa. And now they've got a northern Michigan chapter of their own.

"It's people looking for others with similar abilities, bright people they don't have to talk down to," said John "Jack" Schultz of Lake Ann, a long-time Mensa member and retired forestry professor. "When we get together, usually there are about 20 conversations going on at the same time."

That was the case last week as



Record-Eagle/John L. Russell

Mensa members in Northern Michigan have organized an official chapter of the group. Above, notary Susan Nolf Grawn gives the new chapter Board of Directors their oath.

28 members met at the home of a Traverse City-area member for a special occasion — to see their group officially become Northern Michigan Mensa.

Until now, local Mensa members were part of a chapter based in Grand Rapids. The new chapter stretches from Mason County north to include all of northwest Lower Michigan, including Alpe-

na, Cheboygan, Otsego and Crawford counties in the Lower Peninsula and Mackinac and Chippewa counties in the Upper Peninsula.

Schultz is on a mission to identify others in northern Michigan with high IQs and recruit them into the unique international club.

— See **MENSA**, Page 3A ▶

From Left to Right: Gary McWhirter , Tom Kachadurian , Lotus Young , Sue Styles , Kelleen Bingham , John (Jack) Schultz , Pete Turkus , Sherry McNamara , Tom Barnhart , Stephen Siciliano , Unknown (can't see his face) but could be Josh Ockert , Sue Nolf

Mensa starts chapter in northern Michigan

◀ Continued from Page 1A

It's the second time around for Schultz, who helped form a group here in the late 1970s. After 19 years it faltered and then got going again three years ago.

Schultz and other members have so far recruited 73 people, 42 men and 30 women, all with intelligence scores in the top 2 percent of the population.

Members range in age from 15 to 82 and their occupations are widely varied. They include an artist and retired social worker, a paralegal, a couple of high school students, a teacher, a retired executive for a multi-national company, a book publisher and a photographer/astronomer as well as several people who have had multiple occupations and a couple of peo-

ple who are unemployed.

During the installation ceremonies there was a constant buzz of talk, members slipped to the kitchen or the deck to chat about a host of topics — current affairs, a great new book or the state of the economy.

"There are probably as many reasons for joining as members," said Rick Magnus, a Cincinnati attorney who is regional vice chairman of the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley area of American Mensa. He was in Traverse City for the formal establishment of the new chapter and the installation of its officers.

"A lot say we join to find a place where we can be normal," he said. "These tend to be very active and social people and you'll find many

are involved in many other things besides Mensa."

Lotus Young, a retired teacher who once taught in a prison, drives from Ludington at least once a month for meetings in Traverse City.

"I love it," she said. "People were so welcoming and warm to me, we've become real friends. Many of them I would never have come across any other way. Last week's meeting was the only formal one we've ever had. Usually we just socialize."

She talked about being at a table with a group of members in a restaurant, the most common place for meetings.

"There will be six conversations and I'm dying because I want to be part of all of them, they are #

interesting," she said.

"We have several students and that's been one of the best developments of the local Mensa club. Most of us as high schoolers were on the outside looking in. It's really important for young people to come to a place where they are accepted for exactly what they are: really bright and interesting people."

Stephen Siciliano, 15, who attends Traverse City Central High School, said he was recruited by his best friend, who told him "about the atmosphere, the chance to be with a lot of interesting people."

Mensa was founded in England in 1946 by Roland Berrill, a barrister, and Lance Ware, a scientist and lawyer.

Some facts about Mensa

- The sole qualification for membership is having a general IQ in the top 2 percentile of the population or to rank among the highest 2 percent of testers for any of about 200 tests accepted by Mensa.
- Annual dues are \$49. The cost for evaluation for a Mensa-supervised test is \$30 and \$25 for tests taken outside of Mensa.
- Members receive 10 issues a year of the national magazine Bulletin and usually a local chapter's newsletter as well.
- Nationally, Mensa has 139 local chapters with more than 49,000 members. Worldwide, there are 100,000 members in 100 countries.
- The word "Mensa" means "table" in Latin. The name stands for a round-table society, where race, color, creed, national origin, age, politics, educational or social background are irrelevant.
- For information about the Northern Michigan Mensa chapter contact John D. Schultz, who heads the chapter's membership committee. He also serves as proctor for testing prospective members. He can be reached at (231) 275-6735 or by e-mail at nwpc@traverse.com.
- The office of American Mensa, the national organization, can be reached at (817) 607-0060 or (800) 66-MENSA. The national Web site is at www.us.mensa.org.



News from the RVC3

Lora Mitchell , Vice Chairperson, Region 3

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Happy New Year!

Every January marks not just the beginning of the New Year, but also my birthday. As a result, I tend to be more reflective, and set goals for myself that are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time specific. I've never really thought about them as New Years Resolutions, but more about giving a sense of direction and achievement. It makes me a little pensive, but sets the tone for the year for me, so it's become a routine. What routines set things right for you, for the year?

The week of January 1 2022 marks the 91st week of the COVID Pandemic. Yes, really. Our world has been irrevocably changed, lives have been lost, the way we work has shifted, and none of us have been the same. And yet, it's not all bad. None of us have been glad it happened, but we've grown and learned. Science surrounds us. We appreciate what's important.

And in the Mensa world, we've grown.

As I am writing, Omicron has appeared and the infection rates are up, so most groups have begun transitioning back to virtual events. While it's not the same, making those online connections has allowed member to get to know each other across the miles, and the most successful chapters have developed a core of online activities. If you haven't joined one, I encourage you to do so—or even better, host one!!!

On the Mensa Calendar, January 15 marks the last day of Scholarship applications. It's \$1 Practice Test promotion month, and January 3rd is the cutoff for the early registration rate of the Annual Gathering, Sparks of Genius, in Nevada.

And so, we begin the next journey around the sun. I'm glad to be travelling it with you and hope to hear from you soon.

To NMM Members:

As you are aware, membership in your chapter has been declining a bit, and there have been challenges in keeping things moving forward from a governance standpoint. Several positions have sat vacant, and the current volunteers have been working hard to maintain your chapter.

In the coming weeks, we will be having further discussions about the future of Northern Michigan Mensa. Please be on the lookout for an invitation to an online townhall, as well as a survey from the National Office. In the meantime, if you have questions or would like to share thoughts with me, you can reach me at rvc3@us.mensa.org.

~Lora Mitchell

Communications Officer, American Mensa, Ltd

Social SIG chair, Testing Coordinator/Proctor, Columbus Area Mensa

Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

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