

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

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**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 matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

**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.

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

ON THE COVER: Northern Michigan escaped most the ice storm which hit the southern part of the state in January. Photo taken in Ann Arbor by Jon Wooley.

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## February 2007 Calendar

### **BIBLIOMENSANS - Saturday, 3 February 2007 at 12:30 p.m.**

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway. Carol Crawford will do our opening presentation. This group is open to all members; attendance can be each meeting, or only for those meetings that present books in which you have an interest.

### **BRUNCH - Saturday, 10 February 2007 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet at Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den - on the right as you enter the front door.

### **WINTER HIKE - Saturday, 10 February 2007 at 12:30 p.m.**

(with/without snowshoes) led by Jack Schultz. Plan to meet at the Cottage Café at 12:30 p.m. immediately following the brunch. We will follow a portion of the North Country Trail that is upstream from Brown Bridge Pond...or, depending on the consensus of those who go, we could hike along Keystone Pond in the Grand Traverse Nature Preserve just south of Traverse City. We can follow each other in tandem or car pool from the restaurant to the starting point of the hike. Bring snowshoes if you have them. If not, you'll want to follow in the footsteps of whoever breaks trail.

### **TGIF - Friday, 23 February 2007 at 5:30 p.m.**

We will meet at Another Cuppa Joe, 1200 West 11th Street in old Building 50, Traverse City. We will meet in the cafe area. They have many beverages, sandwiches, soups, pastries and cookies available. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME AND PLACE.**

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## Member News

### Happy February Birthdays

- 14 Peter J. Turkus
- 19 L. W. Young
- 22 Michael W. Brinkman  
Erica Powers
- 26 Carol J. Crawford

### Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous membership)

- 27 Years P. F. Curtiss
- 12 Years John Douglass Whyte
- 6 Years J. E. Dasef
- 4 Years Louis O. Isabell
- 2 Years James H. McDermott
- 1 Year Jennifer L. Cassidy  
Gary S. Cools  
Judith L. Cools  
D. L. Waldron

### Welcome back to Northern Michigan Mensa

Mark Alford Jr.

### December 2006 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	51621	93
New and reinstating membership	561	3
Offers of membership	327	0
New members since April 2006	3833	7
Reinstating members since April 2006	2374	13

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 12/31/2006. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

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# Regional Vice Chair

## RVC3 Thoughts

Hello all!

Here is a little legislative news from the AMC meeting of January 13th at Birmingham (I drove, after all). Let me say that of this writing, the official minutes have not been approved and so this is an unofficial synopsis. I was awake for the whole meeting, so I'll try to be as accurate as my memory allows.

First the good news:

1. The Gen X SIG presented and won the bid for the 2010 Annual Gathering to be held at Dearborn (Detroit), Michigan. This will be held with support from Mensa Canada and the local group, SEMM. Gen X SIG was ably represented by Maria Sawczuk, who will be the AG Chairperson. Maria's enthusiasm, honesty, and straightforwardness definitely swayed the decision in their favor. Portland, Oregon, the other bidder, also gave an excellent presentation, but I think the idea of having a SIG host an AG was insurmountable. Hopefully, Portland will bid again, soon, and win.

With Pittsburgh hosting the 2009 AG, having back-to-back AGs in one Region is unusual and presents an excellent opportunity for our members of Region 3 to attend an AG without having to travel too far.

2. With a sizable majority vote, we increased local group funding from 72 cents to 82 cents per member per month. This will be effective with the new fiscal year. Hopefully this increase can be implemented by reducing current spending and not by raising dues. I'm sure this topic will be the hot item for the Finance Committee's meeting in February.

3. Tony Jackowski was elected to the vacant RVC7 position.

The neutral news:

1. The nomination for national elections process was amended somewhat; some safeguards to ensure the accuracy and honesty of candidates' statements were included. Unless you're running for office, not much impact.

2. A motion to have the Mensa Education and Research Foundation assume operational and fiscal control of Colloquium was tabled to the next meeting. Jean Becker countered and I seconded a motion to have the AML assume full control. We felt that we represent the membership better than MERF could and could ensure local participation in the event. We'll see how this plays out at the next meeting.

3. A motion to present each group with a local charter was tabled until the next meeting. I personally feel that the relationship between local groups and national is abundantly stated in the by-laws, actions still in effect (ASIE), and the minimum standard by-laws for local groups. I really think that this is just another exercise in bureaucracy and will have no positive effect and if executed poorly would create ill will between the local groups and national.

The bad news:

We upheld the decision of the National Hearings Committee and expelled a member. This was not done lightly. The shame of the matter is that the individual was energetic and very active in his local group. Unfortunately he channeled his energies and actions not for the common good, but to the detriment of his local group and AML. No amount of persuasion would bring him around. Unfortunate, but necessary.

Well, that about sums up the meeting. Like I stated earlier, this is not the official version. Your opinions and input on any of these topics, or any other you wish to share, are always welcomed by me. My simple philosophy is to discourage the growth of our bureaucracy, streamline and make more efficient our administration of the AML, provide the best value possible to you, the members, and preserve the local groups' autonomy. If this works for you, please let me know.

Thanks for your attention and support, hope to hear from you.  
Dave Swanka

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### January Brunch at Cuppa Joe

Pictured from left to right around the table: John Swartout, Joan Dasef, Sherry McNamara, John Roney, Jim McDermott, Stan Cain, Tom Barnhart and Mark Alford. Photo by Jack Schultz.

1. What is known as the “Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports?”
2. What TV series features the line, “Warning, aliens approaching?”
3. What company owns the world’s second largest truck fleet?
4. What sport did John Wayne play at the University of Southern California?
5. What actor is Mary Martin’s son?
6. What killed Chuckles the Clown?
7. What veteran of TV commercials died at the tender age of 17?
8. How many time zones are there in Canada?
9. What is the most traveled sports team?
10. What type of horse racing sports the Little Brown Jug Race?
11. What is the occupation of Oscar Madison in Neil Simon’s *The Odd Couple*?
12. Who taught Eliza Doolittle to be a lady?
13. What was the name of the Volkswagen in Disney’s *The Love Bug*?
14. Who played the blacksmith on *Gunsmoke* from 1962-1966?
15. Who played the original Charlie’s Angels?

(Trivia Answers will appear in next month’s issue)

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## Miscellaneous Mensa

Some of the following items have been accumulating in your editor’s files for a few years but have never yet made it into print for one reason or another.

However, I want to thank all of you who have sent in material for *Borealis*. I try to acknowledge each of your submissions, but I apologize if I have missed anyone. Keep sending!

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### JUST SOME TRIVIA

By Margaret J. Scott

For those persons interested in *CultureQuest(r)*, maybe this trivia would be good to have in the back of your mind.



Crystal River – October 2006 Canoe Trip



**Annual Picnic - August 2006 -**

Sherry McNamara and Stan Cain have a discussion while Wendy Barker shows us the correct technique.



**Halloween Party - 2005**  
A ghostly Joan Dasef along with Jack Schultz and Dorothy Vogel.

**Treasurer's Report**

Note: The following figures include \$62.50 in testing income incorrectly transferred twice by the National Office; this amount was reversed in January 2007. Also, newsletter expenses for October-December have not yet been submitted but are expected to be within budget.

**Northern Michigan Mensa  
Statement of Income and Expenses  
January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006**

	Budgeted	YTD	Remaining
<b>Income</b>			
National Office Allocation	\$850.00	\$874.72	-\$24.72
Testing Fees	\$300.00	\$190.00	\$110.00
Interest	\$25.00	\$27.83	-\$2.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,175.00</b>	<b>\$1,092.55</b>	<b>\$82.45</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Newsletter	\$800.00	\$455.47	\$344.53
Office/Incidentals	\$25.00	\$15.15	\$9.85
Activities/Programs	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Publicity	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Scholarship	\$600.00	\$533.80	\$66.20
Proctor/Testing	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Stipend for Regional/Nat. Events	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,975.00</b>	<b>\$1,004.42</b>	<b>\$970.58</b>
<b>Total Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>-\$800.00</b>	<b>\$88.13</b>	<b>-\$888.13</b>

<b>Friend Fund</b>			
Balance	\$160.00	\$104.00	\$56.00
<b>Net Expenditures</b>		\$15.87	

**Northern Michigan Mensa  
Bank Balance Reconciliation  
January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006**

	1/1/06	Net Change	12/31/06
<b>Checking</b>	\$2,648.89	-\$16.23	\$2,632.66
<b>Savings</b>	\$101.21	\$0.36	\$101.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,750.10</b>	<b>-\$15.87</b>	<b>\$2,734.23</b>