

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

ON THE COVER: Last snow of the season? Early April photo by Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

May 2007 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, May 5, 2007 - 11:00 am

Followed by the Spring Wildflower Walk with Jack Schultz

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den which is on the right as you enter the front door. The location of the hike will be determined closer to the time of the walk.

TGIF - Friday, May 25, 2007 at 5:30pm.

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

BIBLIOMENSANS - Saturday, June 2, 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 *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. Sherry McNamara will do our 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.

Member News

Happy May Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 7 | Harold A Kranick | 18 | Kymberli A Wregglesworth |
| 8 | Aaron Stander | 19 | Robin E Wottowa |
| 9 | Julie L Hill | 20 | Laura A Weiss |
| 13 | Trevor L Dunson | 22 | Judith W Lindenau |
| | Ryan B Nelson | | |
| 14 | Floyd Erin John Fitzsimmons | 28 | Marc Batway |

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 27 Years | Suzanne L Cook | 4 Years | C L Dickson
Laura A Weiss |
| 7 Years | B Begeman | 3 Years | Dorothy Vogel |
| 6 Years | E Monahan | 1 Year | Eric Laitala |

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Thomas Rasmussen

March 2007 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	54503	97
New and reinstating membership	1147	1
Offers of membership	506	2
New members since April 2006	4930	10
Reinstating members since April 2006	4217	14

American Mensa, Ltd., ended the fiscal year on March 31 with 54,503 members – the most active members the organization has had since the fiscal year ending in 1993!

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 3/31/2007. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

Regional Vice Chair

RVC3 Thoughts

Hello members of Region 3! This article has a bit of a mixed bag of messages, some are legislative news and some are general house keeping. I'd like to begin by announcing the winners of my drawing for extra funding to hold a local New Member's event. Ten groups requested to be entered; I had enough funding for three and received an extra \$300.00 at the AMC meeting. The winners are: Western Pennsylvania, Cleveland, Columbus, Mid Michigan, Western New York, and **Northern Michigan**. The amount of \$100.73 each will be transferred by National into these groups' accounts, for use to help fund a New Member's

event sometime in 2007. Kentuckiana, Cincinnati, Blue Grass, and Western Michigan were not drawn but will receive priority for funding for a 2008 event when I hold a drawing next year. The six groups who didn't enter, please do so next year; this is a good opportunity to welcome new members into a group.

In last month's column, I pitched the importance of voting in the upcoming election. What I forgot to mention was the Mensa International elections. These too are very important, since Mensa is a world wide organization now. We have American Mensa members running in these who are very deserving of your support and vote. As always, though, vote who you think is best, but please vote. While it is not appropriate to use this column to endorse individual candidates, I will say that your choice matters in shaping the future of both the national and international organizations. If you are satisfied the way things are, vote so. If you would like at least a hope of change, vote that way. Just follow the simple voting procedure and let your opinion be counted.

On the legislative front, I will quickly highlight the motions passed or rejected which I think influence us the most. Many are purely administrative and have little or no consequence, so I'll skip those altogether. My ratings are based on my personal belief of the impact of the motion on the general membership; there are numerous ways of looking at these, but I'm giving you my slant on things.

The good news:

A motion was passed which requires local consent to host an Annual Gathering in its territory. In these days of SIGs and consortiums, having someone decide to hold an AG in your area can be like Dorothy's house falling on you - most unwelcome. Those groups who want an AG, fine; this protects those who don't from an unsolicited bid.

Groups who bid for an AG with a personal presentation to the AMC and don't win it will be reimbursed up to \$400.00 The only way to have a prayer in winning an AG bid is to present one in person, and this can be costly to a local group. This encourages groups to bid on AGs.

A motion was defeated which would have set the responsibility of the hosting group for a financial loss of an AG to 100 times Mensa regular dues. When a group makes an honest effort to host an AG, they shouldn't be on the hook for losses which could devastate them for years to come.

The proposed changes to Minimum Standard Bylaws and Model Bylaws for local groups were approved. These changes in some instances clarify and streamline what is expected of local groups.

The Local Group Charter Review Committee was dismissed. This is a victory for us who wish to see local groups left alone and protected from unnecessary paperwork and procedures.

The neutral news:

Guidelines were established for the Research Review Committee. Doesn't affect the average member much, but for anyone involved in it, should serve to better set the goals of that committee and how they achieve them.

The bad news:

Colloquia will now be sponsored by the Mensa Foundation. I objected to the loss of member recourse. The local group now has to coordinate with the Foundation, which is analogous to a public authority; it has no responsibility to Mensa members. At least with AML involvement, members could bring complaints and concerns to elected officials. Be it as it may, colloquia will continue to be held, which benefits the membership.

Testing fees and prior evidence review fees are being raised. While local groups will see their reimbursement for tests administered raised from \$12.50 to \$15.00, this is proportionately a decrease. Also, I couldn't personally support a fee increase for a program which is imperative to Mensa attracting new members and which I don't believe is being administered as efficiently as possible.

The FY 2007 - 2008 budget was passed. It was a business- as- usual budget which will make it increasingly difficult for future AMCs to contain the administrative and operational cost of Mensa.

As I preface with, this is my slant on the more important subjects. I'd be more than happy to discuss any or all areas in more detail with anyone who cares to.

Lastly, don't forget Southeast Michigan Mensa's upcoming RG, Western Pennsylvania's around Labor Day, Cleveland's at the end of September, and watch for news from Columbus, which ran into difficulty with its proposed hotel and now is scrambling to hold the RG at a new site; it may or may not be held this year. If I forgot any one, just let me know. I welcome your comments, concerns, critiques, and will even accept "atta boys" if offered. Hope to hear from you soon and please vote!

Dave Swanka
