

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 6 Number 4

January 2008

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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American Mensa LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

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Mensa:

Mensa's constitution lists three purposes: to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Mensa accepts individuals who score at or above the 98th percentile on certain standardized IQ tests, such as the Stanford-Binet.

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 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.

Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before the month of publication. Submissions received after that time may be considered if time and space permit.

Advertising:

At this time Borealis does not accept advertising from either members or non-members.

Email:

nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com

US mail:

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Northern Michigan Mensa

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nmm.us.mensa.org

ON THE COVER: An icy boat hoist on East Grand Traverse Bay. Photo by Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

January 2008 Calendar

MOVIE CLUB - Saturday, 5 January 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at LaSenorita located at 2455 N. US 31 S (near Sam's Club) for the discussion portion of our meeting. The movie title will be announced on 28 December via email and will also be posted on the webpage. If you don't have access to either of these, please call Sherry for the movie information at 231.933.9272. The movie will be shown at Horizon Cinemas, 3587 Market Place Circle, Traverse City or possibly the new State Theater downtown.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 12 January, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City in the Papa's Den which is on the right as you enter the front door.

WINTER HIKE - Sunday, 20 January, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Meet at the Lone Pine Trailhead of the Grand Traverse Nature Education Preserve on Keystone Road (south of where Cass Road joins Keystone Road). Bring snowshoes if you have them; otherwise come with good hiking boots. We'll look at the area where the Boardman River now flows through what was once Keystone Pond.

TGIF - Friday, 25 January, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, end of the week get together to unwind and chat. We will meet at Borders Books, 2612 Crossings Circle (Wal-Mart Plaza next to Toys R Us), Traverse City. We will meet in the cafe area. There are many beverages, pastries and cookies available.

Member News

Happy January Birthdays

04	Louis O Isabell	21	W K Crowley
18	Jill E Daniels	30	Robert R Nelson Donald L Curtis

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

10 Years	Robert Michael Matson	4 Years	M T Daunter
7 Years	Jill E Daniels	2 Years	Susan Lynne Pitzer
6 Years	Aaron Stander		John J Roney
5 Years	Melissa J Rennie		D L Waldron
	Margaret J Scott	1 Year	J L Patton

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Stephanie Quist Jerome D. Smith Roberta 'Bobbi' A Walker

November 2007 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	52357	94
New and reinstating membership	880	3
Offers of membership	374	1
New members since April 2007	3228	7
Reinstating members since April 2007	2064	8

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 11/30/07. 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".

Election Results

Well, the election is over and the results are in. The five Elected ExComm members have met and have selected their positions as follows:

Local Secretary:	Jack Schultz
Deputy Local Secretary:	Stan Cain
Treasurer:	Sue Styles
Member at large:	Jim McDermott
Member at large:	Penny Novarro

In addition, we are seeking additional members for all of the non-voting (appointed) positions. If you would like to become more involved in Mensa and serve in one of these positions, please contact Jack Schultz at 231 275 6735 or nwoodpc@chartermi.net by January 15th. (Note, the previous appointed members are still listed in the ExComm directory in this issue.)

Also, a big thank you to the Members who have served on the ExComm for the past two years. They have contributed to the continuing success of NMM.

Regional Vice Chair

RVC 3 Thoughts, Winter '07 - '08

By Dave Swanka

Hello all! Another year draws rapidly to a close and a new one is dawning. Please accept my sincerest wishes to all of you for a rewarding and fulfilling New Year. With a little luck and a lot of personal effort, we should all be able to achieve just that.

Your AMC had a productive meeting the first weekend in December. While no single topic was of extraordinary importance, cumulatively a lot of ground was covered. The mini minutes of the meeting are posted on the national web site and the following comments are my take on the issues and topics presented. As usual, opinions and reasons for positions were all over the map. With a twenty-one member board, that should be expected.

Item 7, Change to Bylaws, designating the head of a local group as chief executive instead of the current local secretary, was postponed. This was to be a house keeping item but a lot of spirited discussion arose concerning the need for this and the burden and cost of changing all the references of local secretary. Goes to show that any item can be contentious.

Items 8 & 9 were sent back to committee. Changing the way RVC vacancies are filled is necessary because the current method is not in compliance with New York State corporate law (Mensa is incorporated in New York). Having a special election among regional loc secs is less costly than a special election involving the regional membership, but this might not hold up if challenged in court (who would do such a thing?). The AMC wants to get this one right, because it is the type of procedure that one wants to remain stable. However, if the relatively new Planning Committee is energetic enough to tackle restructuring the AMC, the RVCs might not be in the mix; only nationally elected officers. More on this thought later.

Item 11, Nominating process changes was voted down and item 12 withdrawn accordingly. Some on the AMC favor strictly controlling who gets to run for national office and how. Some of us favor opening up the field as widely as possible. I'd much rather see four or five candidates for each office (or even more) than the current one or two. It's healthier for the organization. Keeping the nominating procedure user friendly will help accommodate this.

Item 14, Alcohol Consumption Policy was a real sleeper and drew the most discussion and debate. Does Mensa strictly speaking need such a policy? Of course not. Is it a prudent idea to have some kind of formal stand on the issue recorded? You bet. After many tortuous hours in the hot, unyielding Florida sun, with food and fresh water running low and the surf beginning to kick up in advance of an imminent hurricane - oh, just kidding. I'll get a work of fiction written based on an AMC meeting, yet. Seriously, this topic took the most time to resolve. It is a fine example of trying to balance the freedoms and rights of members with the need to limit the liability of the organization as a whole. Ultimately, paragraphs 1 & 4 were adopted, the others discarded. This will arise again, to be sure, but at least a lot of thought has been given to it.

Finally, a vision statement and short and long term goals were approved. Not very exciting, but under the short term goals there is a sleeper. The goal of assessing the structure of the AMC could lead to positive changes. In my humble opinion, having a board of twenty-one members accomplishes nothing that a smaller board of perhaps fifteen, thirteen, or even eleven could. In fact, it is a hindrance since most topics don't warrant the input of twenty-one persons. It's not as if twenty-one original, unique ideas are created. There's two or three and the members of the AMC take sides with one of them. It is costly to transport the current board to their meetings and provide meals and lodging. In this age of e-mail and computers, fewer can often do more. What are your thoughts on this?

Please share your thoughts or concerns on any topic with me. Also, candidates for national office will be announcing in just five or six months. Start giving this topic some serious thought. Are you totally satisfied with the administration of Mensa? If so, there will be candidates admirably suited to maintaining the status quo. Would you like change, a breath of fresh air perhaps? Then look for and support those candidates of change. Only your vote will make a difference.

Don't keep it a Secret!

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