

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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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 submissions to:

nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com

US mail:

Borealis
Stan Cain
3584 Village Circle Dr.
Traverse City MI 49686

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
Deputy Loc Sec	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	sdcmn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
At Large	Jim McDermott	231-943-7792	
At Large	Penny Novarro	231-264 -8807	pennyupnorth@earthlink.net

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Membership			
Ombudsman	Peter J. Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Editor	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com
Proctor			
Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
Program	Susan Kraus	231-510-5672	smag66@yahoo.com
Publicity	Susan Kraus	231-510-5672	smag66@yahoo.com
Web Contact	Priscilla Walmsley		pwalmsley@datypic.com
Scholarship Chair	Patty Paternel	231-392-6403	ppaternel@chartermi.net
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Thomas Barnhart	231-946-3242	tmb@mac.com
Petosky Area Subgroup			
Coordinator	Jennifer LaPoint	231-275-6735	water375372000@yahoo.com

OTHER MEMBERS

Proctors	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
Regional			
Vice-Chairman	Dave Swanka	716-833-5549	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: The spillway at Millpond Park in Mayfield.
Photo by Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

September 2008 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 13 September 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City in the Papa's Den.

Guest speaker: Dr. Aaron Stander, a member of Northern Michigan Mensa, from Interlochen.

Topic: On Becoming a Successful Author...or...How to Find the Right Publisher. Aaron has published two mystery novels that are set in northwestern Michigan and has completed a third. He will talk with us about the creative writing process as well as the trials and tribulations of getting published. Don't miss this interesting and informative event!! Aaron retired to Interlochen after a career of teaching English and creative writing at Oakland Community College where he served as Chairman of the English Department. He has done some teaching at the Interlochen Arts Academy since he retired, but he much prefers to kayak with his wife, Mary Kay, and to write books.

TGIF - Friday, 26 September 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, end-of-the-week get together to unwind and chat. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available.

Next Month

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 4 October 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City in the Papa's Den. The Bibliomensans book for October will be *The Nine*, by Jeffery Toobin, to be presented by Sherry McNamara.

Member News

Happy September Birthday

1	Susan Lynne Pitzer	18	Richard J Warden
2	Jim McDermott	20	Rufus S Teesdale
11	J S Miner	22	Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro
12	Stephen H Quick	22	John D Schultz
17	J Porter		

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

28 Years	Andrew Walter Horujko	5 Years	Dwayne A Bean
23 Years	Delberta Ruth Windiate		Harold A Kranick

2008 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	50099	96
New and reinstating membership	491	5
Offers of membership	254	0
New members since April 2007	1171	2
Reinstating members since April 2007	1309	6

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 7/31/2008. 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".

Member Interests

Mensan Ken Bryson writes to let us know about his interests in the restoration of autos, bicycles and firearms. In addition, Ken's interests include real estate and real estate law. He would like to hear from others who have similar interests. You can reach him at P.O. Box 337, Kalkaska, MI 49646

Mensa Summer Fun



The June Camping Weekend featuring (L to R): Susan Kraus, Sue and Keegan Styles, Jack Schultz and Stan Cain. Photo by Dorothy Cain.



The annual picnic at the home of Jack and Joanne Schultz:

Dwayne, Sandy, Peter and Carla Bean and Jim McDermott line up for chow.



(L to R) Pete Turkus, Lavon Jonson, Joanne Schultz, Margaret Scott and Tom Barnhart dig in.

Petoskey Area Subgroup Holds Second Meeting

On the evening of Thursday, August 21, a group of 10 attended the second meeting of the Petoskey group of Mensans, again meeting in the Petoskey Public Library.

Jennifer LaPoint, group coordinator, convened the meeting soon after 6 p.m. and everyone introduced him/herself. Other members in attendance were Dr. Teri Daunter, a local Petoskey psychologist; John Swartout, a boat pilot on the Great Lakes, who came from Boyne Falls; Kymberli Wregglesworth, a high school teacher from Onaway Public Schools; Breanna Blasius, a senior at Harbor Springs High School; Ken Bryson, a realtor and investor from Kalkaska. Jack Schultz (Local Secretary) and Stan Cain (Deputy Local Secretary and Editor of Borealis) came from the Traverse City area; and special guest Rick Magnus, our former Regional Vice Chairman and member of the American Mensa Committee, came from Cincinnati, OH via Oden, Michigan where he was vacationing. In addition, the group was pleased to welcome Matt Zoerner, another senior at Harbor Springs High School. Matt possibly qualifies for Mensa and he was interested in learning more about the group.

Considerable discussion was held about what this subgroup would like to do in the way of events. Special consideration was given to looking into various projects that might show that Mensans can contribute to society in meaningful ways, either individually or as a group. As is usual, discussions took several unexpected turns and generated some heat as well as light. The group will continue to meet...and hopes to attract more members as time goes on. Please watch Borealis (and your email) for notices of future activities.



Clockwise from left; Stan Cain, Matt Zoerner, Breanna Blasius, Rick Magnus, Jennifer LaPoint, Jack Schultz John Swartout and Kimberli Wrigglesworth. Photo by Teri Daunter.

The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz
NMM LocSec

SUMMERTIME...and the living is easy. Or something like that. It seems that most members of NMM are consumed with enjoying life here in the slow lane. At least it's hard to get many of them to attend our functions. Maybe I'm still living in the past...a time when we regularly had 15 to 25 members show up at events. That was during the period when we were first a new local group and in the couple of years leading up to that six years ago.

We had a guest with us at our August brunch. Sandra Boger, a member of Columbus Area Mensa, was visiting family in our area and she chose to join us. Sandra is currently Proctor Coordinator as well as a member of their ExComm, and she's served as Local Secretary for Dayton Area Mensa as well. It was good to have her offer some perspective on how local groups wax and wane. I wouldn't say we're waning, but we definitely could use an infusion of interest by more than just "the old stand-bys."

I'm sure that Stan will have some photos to share in this issue which show some of those who attended our sixth annual picnic to celebrate the establishment of Northern Michigan Mensa. The day could not have been nicer, weather wise, and the 16 of us who got together at Joanne's and my home enjoyed good conversation and a pleasant variety of foodstuffs. A couple of our newer members joined us. Lavon Jonson, a teacher from Bear Lake, came to her first Mensa meeting; and Erik Snyder came from Gaylord with his lady friend, Madonna (Moe) Charboneau. It was nice to have "fresh blood" with us. Of course, Erik and Moe had made the trip over here in May for the spring wildflower hike at the Empire Bluff Trail but it was very nice that they were here to meet more members.

DON'T MISS THIS!!!

As I mentioned in the August issue, we're having a special presentation this month by one of our members. Aaron Stander is an accomplished writer and he will tell us of the trials and tribulations encountered by the creative writer, whether it's in crafting a meaningful poem, a short story, a novel, or a screenplay. Aaron has previously written two mystery novels set in northwestern Lower Michigan and he has completed a third, but that one hasn't yet found a publisher. Aaron will share with us some of the little details an author must confront when trying to get something into print. (Some of those

details aren't so little either!) Don't miss this special event at our brunch on Saturday, September 8.

LOOKING AHEAD....

October will find us once again chasing salmon, this time on the Crystal River in Leelanau County, near the village of Glen Arbor. The date will be Sunday, October 5, so mark your calendars. We did this a couple of years ago when the salmon were running and the trees were in full color. It was great fun to have those big fish banging into our canoes and kayaks.

IN LIVING COLOR

By Margaret J. Scott

Most people are aware of certain television programs, such as CSI and Crossing Jordan where criminal cases are investigated and sophisticated forensic evidence is obtained in just the short time period of one hour. I have watched some of these shows and they are intriguing and very educational, and I enjoy them. They have things you would never think of. These shows and the evidence depicted have created challenges for attorneys when they try cases.

In the past prosecutors instructed juries not to compare a real courtroom trial to a Perry Mason television show. They warned them that real life is not like TV, and that during a trial no one will jump up in the back of the room and yell, "I did it!"

Several years ago during jury deliberations in a murder case in Virginia, a juror had a question for the court. "How do we know that someone didn't fire a shot in China, and the bullet went into orbit and landed here killing this man?" Although the prosecutor was not surprised that the jury might have questions and had anticipated how he might answer them, the theory of a "Chinese bullet" was certainly not one he expected.

Now modern TV shows depicting forensic evidence may have created their own Chinese bullet. While jurors know that CSI-type TV shows are fiction, they may expect cases to be solved by technology which may not exist. Now juries in many cases expect to hear about DNA, hair or fiber evidence, as well as blood, footprint or microscopic tests which might prove guilt. They have forgotten that most cases come down to one person's word against another's. Usually cases are solved and most criminals convicted based upon people who saw or heard the criminal and can identify them, and the criminal's own admission of guilt. The new juries' presumptions now require the state to teach the jurors that in many instances there are no fingerprints to examine and that

they may have tried to find DNA but must explain why there was none found. Or they may have to explain that the police looked for certain kinds of evidence but did not find it and present witnesses to explain why this is so.

Also jurors must learn that trials can be very tedious and boring while listening to statements about the chain of custody of evidence. The hour-long TV shows just don't present the mundane and boring material and you wouldn't watch the show if it did.

Also, to be practical, you must realize many court houses are more than 100 years old, and their physical layout may not be conducive at all for presentation of various kinds of multimedia. One local courtroom doesn't really have a place for evidence to be displayed where all parties can see it simultaneously. Also, economic realities restrict certain kinds of evidence from being readily presented. Some state crime labs do not have the funding to test every kind of evidence the attorney may like to have presented. Often decisions must be made by the prosecution as exactly what to focus on and what will best present the case with only limited resources available. Jurors are not aware of those financial limitations when they wonder where the DNA tests are and the fantastic machines that light up when there is a "match" in DNA. To satisfy these questions, the prosecutor must educate the jury regarding those facts as well as presenting the facts that go directly to guilt.

People need to know that common sense is extremely important in determining real life matters and that forensic evidence, when viewed with common sense, can greatly improve the chances to obtain justice for people who have been victimized.

Puzzle Page

Edited by Stan Cain

Answers to last month's Cryptogram puzzles:

NO ELECTIVE CANDIDATE IS EVER AS BAD, OR AS GOOD,
AS WE EXPECT HIM TO BE.
WILL ROGERS

ONE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE IN ONE'S LIFE THE REALLY
IMPORTANT MOMENTS - NOT TILL IT'S TOO LATE.
AGATHA CHRISTIE

And a few puns...

It is said that the ability to make and understand PUNS is the highest level of language development. Here are some of the top 10 winners in the International Pun Contest.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The Stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says, 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.

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