

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:

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

ON THE COVER: Horse and rider clear the bar at the Horse Shows by the Bay Jumper Grand Prix in Acme. Photo by Stan Cain.

Northern Michigan Mensa

August 2009 Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 1 August 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The Bibliomensans book for August will be **Into the Desperate Country** by Michigan writer Jeff Vande Zande. The presenter will be Jack Schultz. Please plan to attend for another lively discussion! Note: See the book description on page 7.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 8 August 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the 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. Our three scholarship winners have indicated that they plan to be at the brunch for the presentation of their awards.

ANNUAL PICNIC - Sunday, 23 August 2009 1 to 5 p.m. Rain or Shine

This event will be held at the outdoor pavilion of the Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road in Traverse City south of Hartman Road. We will have a covered pavilion with picnic tables and rest room facilities and there are hiking trails nearby.

We plan to have a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dish to pass and whatever you want to drink. All members, family and guests are welcome so do plan to attend and renew acquaintance with the Ms you may not have seen all year!

Note: RSVP to Stan Cain at 231 938 1506 by three days before the event if you are planning to attend.

TGIF - Friday, 28 August 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Member News

Happy August Birthday

1	Mark L Banker	20	C L Dickson
13	Lynn A Durling	23	Suzanne L Cook
15	Delberta Ruth Windiate	26	Susan M Kraus

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

7 Years	J Porter	3 Years	Karen Kennedy
6 Years	Lynn A Durling	2 Years	J S Miner
	Margaret Ellen Gustafson		
	Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro		

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

R M Mullet Jeremy Chisholm

June 2009 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	49887	91
New and reinstating membership	680	3
Offers of membership	496	0
New members since April 2009	1193	3
Reinstating members since April 2009	1091	4

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 6/30/2009. 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".

The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz, Local Secretary

It's hard to realize that our summer is fast departing. Did you enjoy the cloudy and rainy weather? Oh, for the beauties of September and October's Indian Summer in northern Michigan. August is usually our hottest month, so perhaps we'll yet get to bask in the sun on a Lake Michigan beach or some lovely inland lake.

We'll have several events during August that should interest you. Our book club will be discussing author Jeff Vande Zande's *Into the Desperate Country*, which is described elsewhere in this issue. Even if you miss the session of Bibliomans on August 1, you would enjoy reading the book.

Scholarship Awards Brunch

A week later, on August 8, we'll be hosting three Mensa scholarship winners at our monthly brunch. Two of them won monetary awards through the Mensa Foundation and one is being funded by Northern Michigan Mensa. Actually, we're partially funding one of the other winners. All three will receive scholarships totaling \$500. We hope you'll all consider joining us to honor these three fine students.

Mitchell Stephenson, a 2009 graduate of Atlanta High School, is winner of a \$300 Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship from the Mensa Foundation and a \$200 Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship. He plans to attend Northern Michigan University in Marquette this fall to begin his progress toward training in physical therapy. Michael Cardwell, a 2009 graduate of East Jordan High School, won a \$500 Grosswirth-Salny Scholarship from the Mensa Foundation; and he plans to enroll at Michigan Technological University this fall to study mechanical engineering, with an ultimate goal of graduate training in aerospace or aeronautical engineering. Our final scholarship winner is Ashley Addis, a Benzie Central High School graduate this year. She is from Lake Ann, and her plan is to pursue a degree in dentistry. She will enroll at The University of Michigan this fall. Ashley won a \$500 Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship.

Our 7th Annual Picnic will be held on Sunday afternoon, August 23, at the Boardman River Nature Center on Cass Road just south of Traverse City. This is a potluck affair and it will begin at 1 p.m. and last as long as folks desire to stay around chatting it up or exploring the western side of the former lake backed up by the Sabin Dam. We have

reserved the pavilion at the Center until 5 p.m., so bring your best attitude, a good dish to pass, maybe some game materials, and be prepared to enjoy your fellow members.

Our month will wrap up with another TGIF at Horizon Books in downtown Traverse City on August 28. This has evolved to sort of a "male gathering" so it would be nice if some of our female contingent joined in now and then. Friday Night Live in Traverse City will undoubtedly be going on that evening, so boredom needn't be a reason to avoid downtown Traverse City.

My chronicling of August's events shouldn't be taken to mean I don't have anything worthwhile to write this month. These are meaningful events which I hope more of you will take part in. You only get out of Mensa what you are willing to put into it, and we do try to offer something for everyone. New things are coming up, so keep tuned.

New Scholarship Chair Named

Margaret Scott has been appointed our new Scholarship Chair and she will take office on September 1 when the next Mensa Foundation annual scholarship competition gets under way. The Foundation has more than \$60,000 to award to winners in this competition and Northern Michigan Mensa has become a fully participating local group. A special fund, called the Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship fund, has been established with the Mensa Foundation and we have deposited \$1,000 to start it up. That amount will be used to award two \$500 scholarships to winners from our territory in the 2009-2010 competition. Other winners from our area may well emerge in the contest as well, just as we saw this year.

Donations to Northern Michigan Mensa, per se, are not tax deductible by donors, but donations made to the Mensa Foundation (officially known as the Mensa Education and Research Foundation) are tax-deductible. If you or anyone else wishes to donate to this fund, all you need do is write a check to MENSEA FOUNDATION, making sure there is a notation to the effect that your donation is to go to the NORTHERN MICHIGAN MENSEA SCHOLARSHIP FUND. We have committed to making two \$500 scholarships available each year, so any funds, which come in as donations, will lessen the amount needed to be withdrawn from our treasury to come up with \$1,000 each year.

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the month ahead!

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Congratulations to the Region 3 nominees for the 2009 Publications Recognition Program. I am pleased to report that the nominations are as follows for Web Sites -- OVERALL ENTERTAINMENT, Cleveland Area Mensa, www.cleveland.us.mensa.org, Roberta Rooney, Webmaster; MEMBER RECRUITMENT, East Central Ohio Mensa, www.ecom.us.mensa.org, Richard DeMattia, Webmaster; "MEMBERS ONLY" SECTION, Western New York Mensa, www.wny.us.mensa.org, Jaclyn McKewan, Webmaster; and for Newsletters -- OVERALL ENTERTAINMENT, MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, Pat Reising, Editor; CALENDAR (?!), M-Pathy, Southeast Michigan Mensa, Daniel Biedzen, Calendar Editor and MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, Pat Reising, Calendar Editor; OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER (MEDIUM GROUP), MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, Pat Reising, Editor; CONTRIBUTION NOMINEES, POETRY, "Astride the Gale" by Dean Unick, Southeast Michigan Mensa, M-Pathy, November 2008; NON-FICTION (MENSA-RELATED), "From the Branch Office" by Chuck Peacock, Southeast Michigan Mensa, M-Pathy, April 2008. I hope to report next month that all have become double winners by being chosen the best of the best. I am cheering for a tie between Daniel Biedzen (my local calendar editor) and Pat Reising, Dayton's calendar editor.

On my way home from Michigan's west coast, I was able to have dinner in Grand Rapids with Ms from Western Michigan Mensa who did not make it to Battle Creek. My dinner in Traverse City with Northern Michigan Mensa Ms was great, too - fresh perch! I am looking forward to dinners in Buffalo and Rochester on my way from our AG to Ottawa for the Canadian AG. I enjoy visiting new restaurants and meeting Ms who are new to me and visiting with Ms I already know.

I'm confident that the AG was fabulous, but I'll catch you up on that and the Columbus RG - Mind, Body and Soul, being held July 31 thru August 1, in my September column. I'll be attending the Fall AMC meeting at the end of October in Arlington. Gosh, I really do dislike the month delay! In the meantime, I have way too much to read to prepare for my first AMC duties on your behalf. I sure wish all the stuff I have to read were available on tape or disc so that I could listen while traveling. Reading and driving don't mix well for me.

So, let's have an LDW somewhere in Region 3. I'm up for suggestions (how to get new and/or younger members active? If you have them active, how'd you do it?) and a chair. We haven't had an LDW in ages, so now's a great time. We should be doing these once a year - at least that's what one of the Handbooks says. The fiscal year's up at the end of March, so we have to plan last month.

Because we have new members joining us all the time, and because I want communication between all of us, I will end my columns with the reminder to visit the Region 3 website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>, our Facebook group -- Region 3 - American Mensa - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>, and our Yahoo group - AMR3-Region 3 American Mensa - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>. At these 3 sites, you will find updates on what's happening in this great region and reMARK.

If you need to reach me, I can be e-mailed at BetsyYMark@aol.com or rvc3@us.mensa.org; be sure to use Region 3 in the subject line of your e-mail. My address is 3674 Oak Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, my home phone number is 734-434-5757 and my cell phone number is 313-530-2055. If you get my voice mail, be sure to let me know when it is best for me to return your call.

And, before my salutation, I want to explain the "LLAP and Peace" part of it. I am not a fan of Star Trek. However, the sentiment conveyed by Live Long And Prosper (LLAP) and peace is what I wish for everyone reading my column.

LLAP and Peace,
Betsy

Answers to last month's Long Arm of the Law puzzle.

1. The Torah: **Law** of Moses
2. Famous English actress: Gertrude **Lawrence**
3. Front yard: **Lawn**
4. Raw cabbage salad: **Coleslaw**
5. Movie starring Peter O'Toole: **Lawrence** of Arabia
6. Republic in S. E. Africa: **Malawi**
7. Newton's Discovery: **Law** of Gravitation
8. Actor and brother-in-law of JFK: Peter **Lawford**
9. Defect or fault: **Flaw**
10. Survival of the fittest: **Law** of the Jungle

Into the Desperate Country **August Book Club Selection** **By Michigan writer Jeff Vande Zande** **(Description from book cover by Jim Hayden)**

Three years after losing his wife and daughter to a tragic car accident, Stan Carter abandons his life and retreats to his cabin in northern Michigan. But no sooner than he discovers life again, the real world intrudes on his seclusion, forcing him to return to human society. Thus Stan's odyssey begins. Part cosmic vision quest, part farcical return to high school social dating, Stan's story will touch anyone who's shaken his head in disgust or dismay at the modern world.

In this increasingly maddening, busy world we are often confronted with the dilemma of ethically and emotionally working through the problems we encounter. Using Henry David Thoreau's ideas as a compass, Jeff Vande Zande has created a parable for adults to help show the way with his novel, *Into the Desperate Country*. This book is often thought provoking and funny as the author weaves a modern tale of self discovery and redemption. Few writers of fiction are able to meld Thoreauvian ideas into their writing. Vande Zande "gets it," and gets it right.



July Brunch

Shown at the July brunch are (clockwise from left); Dwayne Bean, Jon Cain, Stan Cain, Gary McWhirter, Melissa Rennie, Ken Bryson, Pete Turkus, Lavon Jonson, Bernard Hanchett and Jim McDermott.

NMM Friend Fund.

Perhaps not everyone is aware of the NMM Friend Fund. This fund is composed of money donated by our members and is kept separate from the NMM operating monies. The purpose of this fund is to provide money for a renewing member, or new prospective member, who is unable to afford his/her membership dues. We probably have all been in a situation where money was tight, so if you are having problems but still want to retain your Mensa membership, please let us know. All transactions will be handled confidentially by contacting any member of the voting ExComm. And, for those who are able, please consider donating to this fund by contacting our treasurer, Sue Styles.
