

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 8 Number 2

November 2009

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

Send address correction c/o
American Mensa LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Go high-tech! Get the Borealis
emailed to you. It's easy. Just email
nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com and
put "change delivery method" in the
subject line.
You'll get it faster, and in color!

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	pennyn1@charter.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			
Publicity	Bobbi Walker		bobbiraw@att.net
Web Contact	Priscilla Walmsley		pwalmsley@datypic.com
Scholarship Chair	Margaret Scott	231-879-3140	mjscott@triton.net
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Thomas Barnhart	231-946-3242	tmb@mac.com
Petoskey Area Subgroup Coordinator			

OTHER MEMBERS

Proctors	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	nwoodpc@chartermi.net
	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com

Regional			
Vice-Chairman	Betsy Y. Mark	734-434-5757	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: Early October view along M119 between Good Hart and Cross Village "Tunnel of Trees." Photo by Stan Cain.

Northern Michigan Mensa

November 2009 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 14 Nov 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 guest speaker this month will be Northern Michigan writer, Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli – author of *Dead Floating Lovers*. Be sure to join us for this special presentation.

TGIF - Friday, 20 Nov 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Note: New day to avoid Thanksgiving weekend.

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 November Birthday

1	Roberta A. Walker	15	Richard B. Hopfner
3	Jeremy Chisholm	16	Robert B. Pierson
13	Kimberly Lohr	26	Lavon Jonson
14	Stephanie Quist	28	Gary L. McWhirter

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

39 Years	Ruth Minshull	4 Years	Stephen H Quick
8 Years	P Walmsley	3 Years	Robin E Wottowa
7 Years	Donald L Curtis	2 Years	Stephanie Quist
	C K Hulse		Jerome D Smith
			Bobbi A Walker

Welcome To Northern Michigan Mensa

Janet A Nerone

2009 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	52655	95
New and reinstating membership	518	2
Offers of membership	222	4
New members since April 2009	2226	5
Reinstating members since April 2009	1865	6

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 9/30/2009. 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".

Elections

The Nominating Committee of Northern Michigan Mensa (NomComm of NMM) is pleased to present the following slate of five nominees for election to the Executive Committee (ExComm.):

Dwayne Bean, Bernard Hanchett, Richard Hopfner, Judith Lindenau and Erik Snyder.

Additional nominations can be made by the membership. To do so, a petition, signed by no fewer than five other members of Northern Michigan Mensa to nominate any other member of Northern Michigan Mensa, may be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Peter J. Turkus, no later than November 15, 2009.

Peter J. Turkus
8656 Cedarcrest Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684-9615
231-941-8321

E-mail submissions will also be accepted at this e-mail address:
petencheri@chartermi.net

Respectfully submitted
NomComm of NMM

Carol Crawford
Margaret Scott
Pete Turkus, Chairman

The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz, Local Secretary

Activity on All Fronts

October was a busy month, what with the book club on the 3rd, a good brunch on the 10th, Mensa Testing Day on the 17th, a canoe/kayak trip on the Crystal River on the 18th (complete with huge numbers of salmon running in the river), our regular TGIF on the 23rd, and a Games Night/Halloween Party on the 30th. The brunch was particularly interesting because three of the five nominees for election (Erik Snyder, Bernie Hanchett, and Judith Lindenau) were present. They asked questions about what the elected members of the ExComm do...and several of us who have served on the ExComm, in both elected and appointed positions, shared some thoughts and observations. Judith, whose livelihood now revolves around helping organizations function more effectively, offered some suggestions as to things we might do to improve our group. First off would be to define just what we are trying to do as a local group, not just how we relate to the national organization. As you'll see elsewhere in this issue of Borealis, the Nominating Committee has named the three members listed above as well as Dwayne Bean (from Charlevoix-East Jordan area) and Richard Hopfner (from the TC area). Erik lives in Gaylord and works in Grayling for MDOT, and Bernard and Judith both call the Traverse City area home.

Four people showed up in Traverse City to take the Mensa Admissions Tests on Mensa Testing Day. Three of them were high school students from Kingsley High School and Forest Area High School (Fife Lake area). The fourth person was a man from Traverse City who is a blacksmith by trade. Several others couldn't make it and separate testing will be scheduled for them.

On the Scholarship Scene

Margaret Scott is moving ahead with administering the Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program for our local group. Announcements of the 2010 contest went out to all the northern Michigan media outlets and to all high schools after Mensa Testing Day. The three scholarship winners whom we honored in August are now all enrolled at their respective colleges and enjoying life away from home. I've heard from all of them and they each seem to be challenged by heavy and demanding course loads. One, Michael Cardwell from East Jordan,

qualified for Mensa on the day we awarded him a scholarship and he plans to join after the first of January.

The Mensa Scholarship Program requires that essays be submitted by participants no later than January 15, 2010, so please encourage others to participate if you can. The essays can be no longer than 550 words in length and they must clearly state the career goals of the entrant along with supporting information. Anyone interested in this program can obtain more information by going to our NMM Web site and clicking on the Scholarship link.

Author Series Continues

With a presentation scheduled by Kalkaska County mystery writer Elizabeth Buzzelli for our November brunch, this will bring to four the number of Michigan authors we will have heard from over the past two years. It led off in the summer of 2008 off with local member Aaron Stander talking with us about writing mystery novels and about his experience in finding a publisher. A few months later, Jeff Vande Zande, a college professor at Delta College, gave us some information about the mechanics of writing. Then, this past summer, local newspaper columnist and gardening expert Dee Blair shared her observations about what turns a writer on as well as information about her experiences in creating Sunnybank Garden on Sixth Street in Traverse City.

Election Ahead and Planning for the Future

As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, Pete Turkus, as chairman of the Nominating Committee, has explained the procedure for making additional nominations. If no nominating petitions are received by him BY NOVEMBER 15, the five individuals already nominated by the committee will be elected without the need for a formal election. Whether or not additional people are nominated, the newly elected members will meet with the outgoing ExComm later in December so that "the torch can be passed" and the collective experience of those currently serving as elected and appointed officers can be shared with the new officers.

The five newly elected individuals will then vote among themselves to determine who will serve as Local Secretary, Deputy Local Secretary, Treasurer, and two Members-at-Large. The Local Secretary, with concurrence of the other elected officers, will then make appointments of members to the various non-voting offices on the expanded Executive Committee. These positions include Editor, Proctor Coordinator, Ombudsman, Financial Overseer, Web Contact Person, SIGHT Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, Scholarship Chairperson, Membership Officer, and any additional positions deemed necessary for

the function of our local group. This also will include subgroup coordinators if we are to have any subgroups such as in the Petoskey area or Ludington-Manistee areas. Listing these positions is done here so that any of you reading these words may let it be known if you have an interest in serving in any of these capacities. If so, please let me know and I'll pass the information on to the newly elected officers.

As of the end of September, we had 95 members in Northern Michigan Mensa. That is a tad less than we had at the same time last year. More are in the pipeline and I suspect we'll end the membership year (March 31, 2010) equal to or ahead of this year's total.



October Canoe Trip

Nine members and friends took advantage of a brisk October day to canoe/kayak the Crystal River. Shown are (left to right): Keenan Ruppen, Pat Ruppen, Bernard Hanchett, Tom Slater, Brendan Ruppen, Mary Kay Stander, Aaron Stander, and Eric Snell. Canoe/kayak trip photos by Jack Schultz.



Aaron Stander leads the pack



Lots of fun at the October Brunch!

Seated from left to right are: Pete Turkus, Eric Snyder, Judith Lindenau, Stan Cain, Bernard Hanchett and Bobbi Walker. Photo by Jack Schultz.

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Many thanks to Kristin Culkowski Naiko, editor of Rochester Area Mensa's newsletter, The Constellation, for suggesting the new, improved and far superior ending to reMARK, as seen below. Approbations to Kristin!

Visiting and dining continue. In September, I had dinner with Rochester Area Mensans at a Mexican restaurant in Canandaigua, NY, where a Mariachi band serenaded us during dinner which was followed by a great walk along the lakeshore and way cool views of the moon and Jupiter through a telescope; with Maumee Valley Mensans at a Chinese restaurant in Toledo, OH; at an Italian restaurant in Brooklyn, OH, with Cleveland Area Mensans at their speaker meeting (great speaker); and with Southeast Michigan Mensans at a Korean restaurant in Ann Arbor, MI. I know it wasn't planned that the cuisine would be different in each venue, but I sure appreciate the varied menus. Lucky me! At all dinners, I enjoyed the company of very special people. Please, take advantage of your own local events. Conversation and programming are the best with Mensa friends. I encourage you to check out events of those local groups near your own, too. I feel so fortunate to be able to go to events throughout the region. I enjoy meeting members and I even enjoy answering questions, as your RVC, about Mensa! I am warmly welcomed and I know that if you attend events with another group, you will be warmly welcomed.

I'm now reading the agenda for and preparing for the October AMC meeting and thinking about packing for my trip to Arlington, TX. I really like driving since I can take "everything" and not worry about weight and ounce limits; gotta worry about that stuff because I am flying.

I wish all Region 3 members and their families and friends a very happy Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday and this year I will be in Albuquerque, NM, with dear friends.

LLAP and Peace,
Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

rvc3@us.mensa.org
3674 Oak Drive - Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-434-5757 (Home) or 313-530-2055 (Mobile)
Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>
Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>
Facebook group -
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

SOME WISE SAYINGS

"There is usually only a limited amount of damage that can be done by dull or stupid people. For creating a truly monumental disaster, you need people with high IQs." - Thomas Sowell, column of 1 October 2009, writing about current and past political strategies.

"Everyone may begin a war at his pleasure but cannot so finish it. A prince, therefore, before engaging in any enterprise, should well measure his strength and govern himself accordingly." - Niccolo Machiavelli

"I fear Washington and centralized government more than I do Moscow." - Barry M. Goldwater.

"It is not every bad man that will be good, but there will be no good man who was not bad." - St. Augustine.

"History is simply a piece of paper covered with print; the main thing is still to make history, not to write it." Otto von Bismarck.
