

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

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

ON THE COVER: Would you trust your organization to this person? Details inside. Photo by Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

December 2009 Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 5 December 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 December will be **Thin Ice: Unlocking the Secrets of Climate in the World's Highest Mountains** by Mark Bowen. The presenter will be Margaret Scott. Please plan to attend for another lively discussion! Note: See the book description on page 7.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 12 December 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. Everyone is also welcome to attend the ExComm meeting at 10 a.m.

TGIF - Friday, 18 December 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Note: New day to avoid Christmas

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

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Elections

The NomComm of NMM had received no other nominations for elected positions as of November 15, 2009. Therefore, the previously announced slate of candidates is elected by default. Again, they are:

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

Respectfully submitted
NomComm of NMM

Carol Crawford
Margaret Scott
Pete Turkus, Chairman

Member News

Happy December Birthday

8	Stanley D Cain	14	Norma Hastings Feeley
11	Robert Hawley	16	L Schrock-Taylor
	J A Thorne	28	D Anderson
13	Roland W Schalow Jr	31	Brian S Kelly

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

27 Years	Patricia Lynne Paternel	3 Years	V L Carpenter
21 Years	Peter J Turkus	1 Year	D Anderson
15 Years	Mark L Banker	1 Year	B G Halliday
8 Years	Wendy Jane Barker		

Welcome To Northern Michigan Mensa

Charlotte DeKoning

2009 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	53235	97
New and reinstating membership	417	2
Offers of membership	602	1
New members since April 2009	2474	6
Reinstating members since April 2009	2034	7

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/2009. 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".

Bylaws Now Available on Web Site

If you are interested in the governance of Northern Michigan Mensa, you can read our Bylaws by going to the NMM Web site: www.nmm.us.mensa.org and clicking on "Bylaws."



Halloween Party

Lots of food and fun at the end of October with (L to R) Stan Cain, Joanne and Jack Schultz, Judith Lindenau, and Sharon and Jim McDermott. Photos by Dorothy Cain.



Dead Things !

Author Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli spoke at our November brunch about her mystery novels - the titles of which all involve a reference to death.)

At right, she reads a passage from her latest book, *Dead Floating Lovers*.

Above, from left; Melissa Rennie, Ken Bryson, Jim McDermott, Bobbi Walker, Ruth Minshull, Ed Lefson, Tony Buzzelli, Elizabeth Buzzelli, Dorothy Cain, Bernard Hanchett, Margaret Scott, Charlotte DeKoning and Pete Turkus Photo by Stan Cain.



The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz, Local Secretary

Swan Song

I'm rarely accused of speaking in muted tones; in fact, sometimes I trumpet things, but I can't whistle. Therefore, I hope you'll bear with me as I try to recap what has and hasn't happened in the two years since the five of us who have served as your elected members on the Executive Committee took office.

In my view, one of the significant successes was the establishment of a Petoskey Area Subgroup of Northern Michigan Mensa. It tried to get going but eventually succumbed to a lack of interest. I hope an effort may be made to rejuvenate that group during the next year; however, as with all things Mensan, it can survive only if there's enough interest shown on the part of members in the area north and east of Elk Rapids...and if someone shows willingness to serve as coordinator. We never did get such a subgroup established in the Ludington-Manistee area, but...one can hope.

We continued offering programs and activities which have attracted the interest of members through the years, and we tried a few new things. Among these were presentations by four writers who shared knowledge of their craft with us and perhaps stimulated us to read more. Aaron Stander, one of our own, led off this series and that was followed by Jeff Vande Zande in November of 2008. During the summer of 2009, Traverse City writer Dee Blair joined us to talk about the column she writes regularly in the Traverse City Record-Eagle, and, most recently, author and columnist Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli spoke about writing and about her two published mystery novels. All four of these events generated enough interest that we had our best turnouts at them. On the other hand, our outdoor-oriented activities, while attracting a moderate amount of interest, didn't come close to what they had done in previous years.

Mensa tries to have a little something for everyone, and perhaps we've achieved that; however, we'd like to see more effort made to have a wider variety of programs and activities. To that end, we wish our successors well.

One very satisfying achievement was our establishment of a strong scholarship program, and having three young people from our territory win scholarships in the 2009 Mensa Foundation Scholarship Competition was a real plus. We've committed \$1,000 of our funds to two \$500 scholarships for the 2010 competition and will be guaranteed at least one

other scholarship of \$300 from the Mensa Foundation. The three fine young people who won scholarships appreciated being our guests at a lunch in August, and I'm sure the group will welcome the 2010 winners as well. I'll put in a plug right now for you to consider donating funds to the Mensa Foundation that can be applied to the Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship Fund for future years. Since this issue of Borealis represents the final time we can urge you to take advantage of the tax deductions which your scholarship contributions will earn for 2009, please give this some thought.

New Officers

As you'll read elsewhere in this issue of Borealis, the five individuals nominated in our elections process have been elected without need for a formal ballot. Our bylaws provide for this to happen when no more than five are nominated by a predetermined deadline. (In this case, that deadline was November 15.) I'm truly looking forward to a very interesting two years ahead with a completely new slate of elected officers. Their challenge will be to select from among themselves just who will serve as LocSec, Deputy LocSec, Treasurer, and two as Members-at-Large. They will do that between now and December 31 or else early in January. I know I speak for all of the current officers, both elected and appointed, in wishing Dwayne Bean, Bernard Hanchett, Richard Hopfner, Judith Lindenau, and Erik Snyder great success in meeting the challenges and opportunities which face them. They're all good people and they come into office with enthusiasm and a commitment to making Northern Michigan Mensa "the best that it can be."

Volunteers Needed

As with any all-volunteer organization, Northern Michigan Mensa relies on individuals stepping forward to serve in both elected and appointed officer positions. While some of our currently appointed officers have already expressed willingness to continue on in their same positions, others are needed. If you look at the Officers page in this issue of Borealis, you'll see all of our current positions listed. Several of them are vacant, for various reasons, but those are significant vacancies and our group will function more satisfactorily for all of us if volunteers let it be known that they're willing to take on the tasks associated with those offices.

Each appointed officer's term ends with December 31, so even those who are willing to continue on for another two-year term must be reappointed by the new Local Secretary (with the approval of the other elected members of the ExComm). That said, even though some current

officers may be willing to continue on, if you have an interest in ANY appointed position, please let the new ExComm know. I'm sure they will find a slot for you to fill.

Thanks to All

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as Local Secretary these past two years. My sincere thanks go to all of you for your good support. All I can hope for is that you will give the same level of support to your newly elected officers. Many things can be done to make your membership more enjoyable and worthwhile for you; just let your new officers know what you'd like to see the group do...and then help them make that happen.

Tax Deductions for 2009

Checks made out to Mensa Foundation, and specifically identified on the check as being for Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship Fund, can be mailed directly to:

Mensa Foundation, c/o Jill Beckham, American Mensa, Ltd. 1229 Corporate Drive W., Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

The Mensa Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity which qualifies as one to which donors may claim a tax deduction for the year in which a gift is made.

THIN ICE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF CLIMATE IN THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAINS

December Book Club Selection

By Mark Bowen, 320 pages

While mainstream science has focused on polar ice to find clues about climate change, Lonnie Thompson has been risking his career and life on the highest and most remote ice caps along the equator. In the process, he has changed the science of climatology.

Scientist and expert climber Mark Bowen joined Thompson's crew on several expeditions, including an eye-opening ascent in East Africa that revealed why the snows of Kilimanjaro will be gone in fifteen years. Bowen also includes an account of the dangerous Huascarán ascent

where Thompson's discovery of an unknown type of glacial ice revealed how pieces of the global climate puzzle fit together. Bowen also takes us deep inside retreating glaciers from China and the Tibetan Plateau across South America's Andes and to Africa.

Thin Ice explains what Thompson's hard-won data tell us about climate systems that have long perplexed the scientific community. Even more important, we learn what the equatorial ice reveals about global warming and the earth's probable future.

Aggrovin' in Motown

“Who's the Genius who Picked Detroit? American Mensa 2010 Annual Gathering!”

[Detroit CVB ad slogan]

Time is drawing near for the 2010 Annual Gathering to be held next year in Dearborn MI (suburb of Detroit) June 30 to July 5. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency hotel. The web site for registration and hotel reservations is www.ag2010.us.mensa.org

This is within easy driving distance for most of us and if you want to see what an AG is like, this would be the most convenient one for many years. The special AG room rate has been lowered to \$107 and there is no extra charge for up to four adults in the same room.

John Porter has suggested that some of those attending might like to share a room to lower the cost and has said he would be willing to coordinate this. You can contact him at jporter@speednetllc.com or by phone at 989-595-3631. Note that any arrangements made will be informal and not officially sanctioned by American Mensa.

Editor's Note:

Due to space limitations this month, please read Betsy's column, **reMark**, online at the Region 3 web site at <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org>.
