

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 8 Number 4

January 2010

 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	Richard R. Hopfner	231-946-7204	locsecnmm@gmail.com
Deputy Loc Sec	Erik A. Snyder	989-370-0993	easynyder@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bernard Hanchett	231-946-5177	barneydulittle@hotmail.com
At Large	Judith W. Lindenau	231-947-2050	judith@judithlindenau.com
At Large	Dwayne A. Bean		doofus@dbiwebsites.com

APPOINTED MEMBERS

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

Note: According to our bylaws, all appointed terms end with the term of the ExComm that appointed them. Therefore, the listing above is subject to change. Please speak up if you are interested in a position or willing to help in any capacity!

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	RV3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: View of the Straits of Mackinac from the top of the Mackinaw City water tower (approximately 110 ft.). Photo by Mark Styles.

January 2010 Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 9 Jan 2010 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.

TGIF - Friday, 22 Jan 2010 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 January Birthday

4	Louis O. Isabell	21	Erik A. Snyder
16	Nancy Dady	30	Donald L. Curtis
17	Richard B. Thibeau		

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

8 Years	Aaron Stander	4 Years	John J. Roney
7 Years	Margaret J. Scott		Susan Lynne Pitzer
	Melissa J. Rennie	3 Years	James F. Kane
6 Years	M. Teri Daunter	2 Years	Brian S. Kelley

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa - Richard B. Thibeau

Welcome Back to Northern Michigan Mensa - M. L. Lancashire

2009 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	54111	99
New and reinstating membership	776	2
Offers of membership	354	0
New members since April 2009	3023	7
Reinstating members since April 2009	2261	8

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 11/30/2009. 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

At the December 12, 2009 Executive Committee meeting, the newly-elected voting members of the 2010-2011 ExComm chose the specific positions they would fill. The results were:

Richard Hopfner	Local Secretary
Erik Snyder	Deputy Local Secretary
Bernard Hanchett	Treasurer
Judith Lindenau	Member-at-Large
Dwayne Bean	Member-at-Large

We wish them well and hope that you will let them know what you want to happen in the local group. Since the board members are spread out a bit more than in years past (Erik lives near Gaylord and Dwayne near Charlevoix), you may soon have the chance to tell them in person at a brunch near you! Watch the website or newsletter for more details.

Volunteers for appointed positions on the ExComm are always welcome. According to our bylaws, the new ExComm makes new appointments to all positions. Volunteering does not mean a firm commitment to attend every function! You just need an interest in the group, and a little time.



Clockwise from upper left: Erik Snyder, Dwayne Bean, Bernard Hanchett, Richard Hopfner, Judith Lindenau. Photo by Jack Schultz.

The LocSec's Login

by Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

Balance.

A word to me that evokes many things:

Stability against external forces.

The middle path; neither one extreme nor its opposite.

A point of stasis and harmony. Equilibrium.

How does this apply at the moment?

I present myself to you as your newly elected LocSec.

On one side I want to shake your hand, share a smile, tell you how awestruck I am to be part of this group of people with its rich history and high ideals, and allow myself to be overwhelmed by how exciting new beginnings are.

On the other side of this?

The recognition that wherever we find ourselves, however high we may be today, those who came before built the foundation where we stand, and quite possibly felt the same thrill in their turn.

To those that gave their effort before us, I tip my hat and say, "thank you."

We would not be here without your work.

My balancing thought for today that I wanted to share with you here, is that we can have both optimism and enthusiasm for the future, while we remember and honor the effort of those that we follow.

My name is Richard Hopfner, and I am your new LocSec.

I am pleased to meet you and proud to be a member of our community. I look forward to the time and associations that I will have with you here, and I wish you a good day.

Book Club - Bibliomansans

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Any member of Northern Michigan Mensa is automatically a member of Bibliomansans. The only other requirement is: if you want to attend a meeting, please read the book and be prepared to participate in an open discussion about its contents.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. the first Saturday in February, April, June, August, October, and December in 2010. Each meeting is started with the presenter giving background or other pertinent information about the book, the author, and/or the subject matter. The discussion continues in round robin style until each member has had an opportunity to speak uninterrupted; it then opens for free flowing discussion by all members. We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City.

READING LIST

FEBRUARY 2010 - The Alchemist, by Paul Coelho, presented by Nancy Dady

APRIL 2010 - Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of U.S. Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan, by Doug Stanton, presented by Bernie Hanchett

JUNE 2010 - The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas, by Jerry Dennis, presented by Sherry McNamara

AUGUST 2010 - City of Thieves, by David Benioff, presented by Richard Hopfner

OCTOBER 2010 - Deer Season, by Aaron Stander, presented by Pete Turkus

DECEMBER 2010 - Run for Your Life, by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge, presented by Jim McDermott

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Happy New Year! May yours be healthy, prosperous and peaceful. May all your dreams see fulfillment.

Déjà vu! I am traveling! If you want my itinerary, contact me and I'll share it with you. I am available by cell phone and e-mail while away from home. I will be attending the Kentuckiana (Louisville, Ky.) dinner and speaker Monthly Gathering meeting on January 16 at the India Palace Restaurant, 9424 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, at 6:30pm; and having dinner with Bluegrass Mensans at the Golden Corral Steaks Buffet & Bakery, 185 East New Circle Road, Lexington, at 5:00pm on January 17. If you are in either of those areas at the time of the meeting/gathering, please join us.

The Hyatt Regency Dearborn, is sold out of rooms with double beds for the nights of June 30 through July 4 for the 2010 AG, AGroovin' in Motown; only rooms with king beds are now available at the Hyatt on those nights. However, you may reserve a room with double beds at the overflow hotel, the Ritz-Carlton Dearborn. For the most "up-to-the-minute" information about the AG and info on how to make your reservations, please check out the AG website: <http://tinyurl.com/nrvy2d>. This AG is in our region and is drivable for everyone - I'm driving to all 16 local groups - so I know! This will be the closest RG for a few years as the next three AGs are in Portland, Ore., Reno, Nev., and Forth Worth, Texas. Don't miss a great time with great Mensans. (More déjà vu!) If everyone in Region 3 registers now, I won't have to repeat myself.

I highly recommend the Mensa for Kids Web site, www.mensaforkids.org. Check it out for your kids or your friends' kids. You'll find lots of information about and for gifted kids. The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is sponsoring lesson plans for grades Kindergarten through 12. I've sent the URL to parents of kids I know. And while you're at it, support students, teachers and researchers by donating to the Mensa Foundation at www.mensafoundation.org by clicking on "Make a Donation."

-- reMark, cont. --

The AMC met via conference call on December 1. The following motions were passed.

1a. Moved RUDOLPH, seconded RECHT: The Supervised Testing Support Committee is established as an ad hoc advisory committee.

1b. Moved RUDOLPH, seconded RECHT: Marc LEDERMAN is appointed chair of the Supervised Testing Support Committee.

2. Moved Leadership Development Committee: Beth Anne Demeter, Gregory Kontz, and Lori Norris are appointed as the first International Leadership Development Ambassadors to attend the European Mensa Annual Gathering 2010 in Prague, Czech Republic, from Wednesday, the 28th of July to Sunday, the 1st of August, 2010.

3. Moved RUDOLPH, seconded BURG: The minutes from the October 23-24, 2009, AMC meeting are approved.

4. Moved RUDOLPH, seconded BURG: Lessa Scherrer is appointed chair of the Gifted Youth Committee.

I voted aye for all motions except number 2. Although I support the motion and am absolutely confident of the abilities of the 3 individuals nominated as ambassadors, I feel that Jean Becker should have been one of the 3 or a 4th. I, therefore, voted nay.

Hugs, LLAP and Peace,
Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark
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Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>
Facebook group -
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

Financial Report 2009

**Northern Michigan Mensa
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2009 through December 29, 2009**

	Budgeted	YTD	Remaining
Income			
National Office Allocation	\$1,050.00	\$1,005.01	\$44.99
Testing Fees	\$200.00	\$165.00	\$35.00
Interest	\$50.00	\$31.58	\$18.42
Total	\$1,300.00	\$1,201.59	\$98.41
Expenses			
Newsletter	\$500.00	\$297.21	\$202.79
Office/Incidentals	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Activities/Programs	\$500.00	\$68.68	\$431.32
Publicity	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Scholarship	\$800.00	\$1,764.66	-\$964.66
Proctor/Testing	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Stipend for Regional/National Events	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Membership	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Friend Fund	\$88.00	\$0.00	\$88.00
Total	\$2,438.00	\$2,130.55	\$307.45
Total Income Less Expenses	-\$1,138.00	-\$928.96	-\$209.04
Friend Fund			
Balance	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Donations			
		\$116.88	
Net Expenditures			
		\$812.08	

**Northern Michigan Mensa
Bank Balance Reconciliation
January 1, 2009 through December 29, 2009**

	1/1/09	Net Change	12/29/09
Checking	\$5,216.38		\$4,242.48 (11/30/09)
Minus outstanding checks	\$147.82		-\$12.62
Balance per books	\$5,068.56	-\$813.46	\$4,255.10
Savings	\$102.29	\$1.38	\$103.67
Total	\$5,170.85	-\$812.08	\$4,358.77

Submitted by Sue Styles, Treasurer 2006-2009

Bits -n- Pieces

By Sue Styles, Guest Editor

Website redesign – it seems to be all the rage lately. We are finally on the verge of a long-awaited launch at my workplace, and maybe that is why I have been noticing other redesigns. If you haven't checked out the American Mensa website lately (www.us.mensa.org), you might want to give it a try. They have been making gradual changes to their site for a while, and on my last visit I was pleasantly surprised with the results. They seem to have some new content, snazzier writing, and more color than before. Some other things I noticed:

Did you know you can subscribe to the CultureQuest-ion of the Day? You don't even have to be a member to subscribe, but for anyone who has tried CultureQuest or is interested in trivia, it looks like a great way to warm up for the annual brain strain. Set aside Sunday afternoon, April 11, for this event – registration will be coming up soon.

You can actually post a résumé and look for jobs on the AML website, too! Imagine, employers specifically looking for someone who might be smarter than they are. Many of us have experienced the negative side of this equation. But here is hope that an employer is looking for someone as unique as you, even though jobs are scarce right now.

Mensa Foundation – Did you know there are scholarships specifically for Mensans and their “IRS-recognized dependents”? I didn't. Also, if you were interested in donating money toward our local scholarships, this is the place where you can do it and get a tax deduction. Any donations received by the Foundation for Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship will reduce the amount we need to pay to fund future scholarships.

Speaking of the economy and scholarships, if you want a different way to give back you might consider our Friend Fund. The Friend Fund was started in 2004 with a member donation of \$20 to help pay dues for a member who might someday find themselves in need of assistance. Other members have chipped in since then, and all you need to do if you are in a period of hardship is ask a current ExComm member. Requests are kept confidential, and you won't be the first one to ask.

Finally, did you know... YOU can be here next month if you send me something to print! I'll get it at nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com.