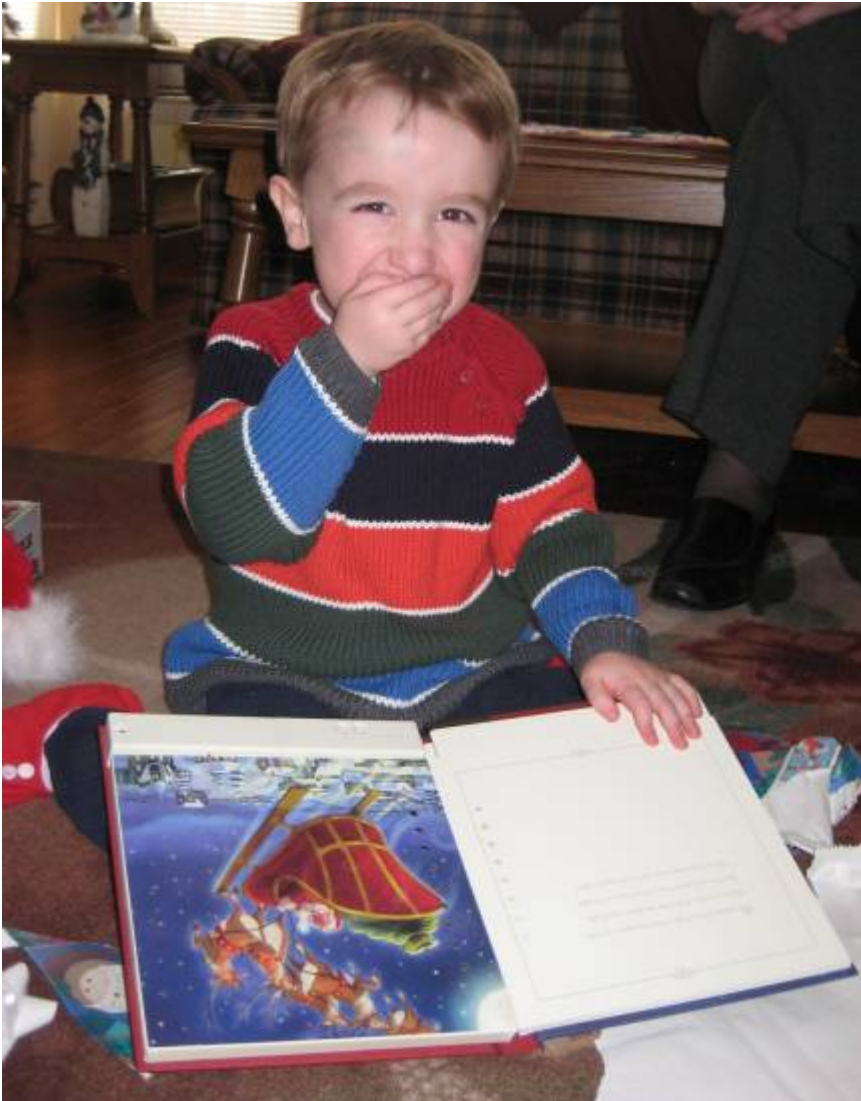


Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 9 Number 4

January 2011

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

Send address correction c/o
American Mensa LTD.
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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.

Advertising:

Borealis accepts only short, "classified"-type advertisements from individual members.

Notices should be of a non-commercial nature and include contact information.

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.

Email submissions to:

Stan Cain
nmmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

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

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

ON THE COVER: A young child giggles in delight, enjoying a new book. Photo by Sue Styles.

January Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 8 January 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

Cheri Turkus will be our guest speaker on gemstones and jewelry at our monthly get together. We will gather at The Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in Dick's Den, which is to your right as you enter.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 28 January 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. We will meet at 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. Join us!

Member News

Happy January Birthday

4	Louis O Isabell	21	Erik A Snyder
16	Nancy Dady	24	Sara L Quigley
17	Richard B Thibeau	30	Donald L Curtis

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

9 Years	Aaron Stander	5 Years	Susan Lynne Pitzer
8 Years	Melissa J Rennie	4 Years	J L Patton
	Margaret J Scott	3 Years	Brian S Kelly
7 Years	M T Daunter	1 Year	E Monahan

2010 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	53392	101
New and reinstating membership	666	0
Offers of membership	236	0
New members since April 2010	2157	5
Reinstating members since April 2010	2146	8

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 11/30/2010. 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".

LocSec's Login

Curiosity.

It has been written that it is hazardous to the wellbeing of cats.

Also felinocentrically, one of two unknown doors just may lead to a very lovely female or a very unfriendly tiger. Would you choose?

Pandora, who lived to wish otherwise, uncorked a disturbingly marked vase. One could suppose that she was eaten up to find out what exactly was inside.

It is my very mixed pleasure to announce to all the members of our local group that the national office has reversed a long standing policy in Mensa. After the new year members will be able to find out the specifics on their performance in the Mensa tests, which until this were only known to Mensans as pass or fail.

You can read more details, including how to find out, later in this issue.

I admit I'm curious about what my personal scoring was. I also think that the old system also had appeal for me in not knowing.

Decisions, decisions. "Hi Pandora, I'm Richard. What's that you said about it being harder to put the cork back in than to pull out?"

However, this is now in your hands to pass on or to satisfy as you see fit to do. Choices are great, and now we have another one available.

On another note, you will get this edition of Borealis at the end of 2010, in the middle of the holiday season. I offer you this wish for any holiday you may celebrate, and for the year about to be. Health to you and those close to you. Much satisfaction in the areas of your life important to you. And lastly, Peace. Inside your world and self, and outside, from close by, to the ends of the world. People can work miracles if we choose to do it. My wish this year is that many choose to do it.

Best Regards.

Richard Hopfner,
LocSec NMM

New Features for 2011

by Bobbi Walker, Program Coordinator

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Members looking for someone to visit places of interest with them or to share a trip, etc. can place a notice in the *Borealis* by emailing the editor at nmmborealis@yahoo.com or by contacting me at bobbiraw@att.net to get an email notice. Don't forget to include the means of contacting you for a reply.

FREE CLASSIFIED

Have something to sell or trade? Let our fellow members know by putting it in the *Borealis* (nmmborealis@yahoo.com). Try to keep it short, say five or six lines, and don't forget to give a contact number or address. Private notices only, we cannot accept commercial ads of any kind. Read the *Borealis* policy statement in the front of each month's issue to conform your notice to acceptable policy.

CLASSIFIEDS

[ed.-] Since I have the opportunity... I have not yet posted this anywhere else. I will wait until the end of Jan. before posting elsewhere.



Kimball upright piano FREE - you haul from our home in Elk Rapids. Bought used 5 years ago, never tuned. Giving up b/c my childhood piano is waiting to take its place. We may be able to help load. Contact Sue Styles - text 231-357-5233 days, call 231-264-6193 eve., or email suestyles@chartermi.net.

Change in Policy on Test Scores

Prior to March 31, 2001, American Mensa provided IQ, percentile and converted scores to all candidates who took either the Mensa Admission Test or the culture fair batteries. In 2001, then-Supervisory Psychologist Dr. Abbie Salny reported on recent changes in state laws regarding psychologists and psychological testing. At Dr. Salny's direction and with counsel input, American Mensa stopped providing scores with supervised test results. From April 1, 2001 to present, American Mensa has provided to test-takers only the category "qualifying" or "non-qualifying".

At the November 2010 AMC meeting, American Mensa's Supervisory Psychologist Dr. Frank Lawlis presented his review of the current climate of psychological testing with regard to our testing program and the issues involving HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - the government act that addresses the security and privacy of health data). He advised American Mensa that we should begin providing raw scores to individuals who take our test batteries.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2011, American Mensa will release raw scores to candidates who test with American Mensa. We will not provide an IQ or further interpretation or evaluation of the raw score. Instead, the "qualify" and "non-qualify" letters will direct our test-takers online, where they can interpret their raw scores to the equivalent IQ ranges.

Current members who tested between April 1, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2010, the time period during which no scores were provided, can request their scores now at no charge. Lapsed members and other test-takers will pay a \$15 fee for their score report. Scores can be requested by contacting membership@americanmensa.org or by calling 888/294-8035 ext. 199 for a mailing address. Staff cannot provide scores over the phone; a written request containing at least your name, email address, and signature is required. Scores can then be provided via email or fax [or presumably by traditional mail].

Test scores must NOT be converted or evaluated by national office staff members or local group volunteers, as it could cross over into the area of a psychological evaluation. If proctors or group officers are contacted by a member or candidate who needs help interpreting their score, please direct them to <http://www.us.mensa.org/testevaluation> after Jan. 1,

2011. A downloadable version of the self-interpretation brochure will be available [to members] at <http://www.us.mensa.org/materialsrequest>.

Members or candidates with questions may also contact the National Office at admissions@americanmensa.org or 888/294-8035 ext. 199.

-Excerpted from information provided by Mary Burkhead Spencer, MA, LPC-I, Admissions Manager, American Mensa

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Cincinnati's Regional Gathering was wonderful! I had a great time with great friends. If you weren't there, you missed a super weekend. Region 3 has two more RGs coming up very soon. Dayton Area Mensa is hosting 24 Karats! April 1-3, 2011. Information about this great RG can be found at http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org/index_files/RG.htm. It's only \$60 postmarked by February 28. Southeast Michigan Mensa is hosting SEMMantics XXXII, The SEMMinal Event of 2011, April 29-May 1. Information about this great RG can be found at <http://localsemm.com/semantics/>. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend 24 Karats because I have a family commitment that weekend, but I will be at SEMMantics and am willing to take your money for it - post-marked by January 31 -- it's only \$65 (special discounts available at RGs)!

I am flexible! Knee is really good (thanks for your good wishes and support) and my travel schedule has had to be readjusted. I will be going to Florida in mid-February and so I will join Kentuckiana Mensa at their regularly scheduled dinner/speaker meeting on Saturday, February 19 - although this is tentative and subject to change. (I hope to have the final information in February's reMARK.) On Sunday, February 20, I will be in Lexington, Kentucky, and will have dinner at the Golden Corral, 185 E. New Circle Road, at 5pm. I hope Bluegrass Mensans will join me there as they did last year. Mensa gatherings are good!

The next American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting is scheduled for March 26 in Atlanta. If you are traveling in that area, please join us. I will be driving there on my way home from Florida. If you have items you

wish to see on the agenda, let me know as soon as possible - the deadline for the agenda is February 18 -- and I will try my best.

Speaking of AMC meetings, I have been asked to better report on meetings and to let you know how I voted on the motions presented. Check the National website for the lengthy agenda and minutes. The fall AMC meeting was held November 12-13 in Fort Worth, Texas. We began both Friday and Saturday at 8:45am; Friday we took a couple of hours off for dinner, but my last meeting - of RVCs - ended at 10pm; Saturday we finished at 5pm. The agenda was almost 50 pages and I can't wait to see how long the minutes are! Here goes my short version of what was moved and how I voted.

- *--Motion to increase dues effective January 1, 2011, from \$59 to \$63 passed. I voted no. Also voting no were Guy Conti, Roger Durham and Marc Lederman.
- *--Motion to update Budgetary and Purchasing Policy passed unanimously.
- *--Motion to remove the requirement of prior service on the AMC for all candidates for Chairman, whether nominated by the Nominating Committee or by petition failed. I voted for. Also voting for were John Recht, Guy Conti and Marc Lederman.
- *--Motion to replace national hearings committee with regional hearings committee failed. I voted no.
- *--Motion to appoint auditors passed unanimously.
- *--Motion to borrow up to \$300,000 from the principal of the Life Dues Fund investment account to fund current operations through December 31, 2010. The principal, including interest at an annualized rate of 2.5%, must be repaid to the Life Dues Fund investment account by March 31, 2011 passed unanimously.
- *--A motion concerning ride, room and other event-associated sharing passed unanimously. Basically, it means that Mensans can be guided to venues where they can make their own arrangements, but that assignments should not be made by organizers of events.
- *--Motion to list Regional Gatherings in the Bulletin for at least six months passed. I voted yes.
- *--Motion that AMC expresses its desire to hold physical meetings 4 times a year passed. I voted yes.
- *-- "Motion to revise the MSBs (to allow for electronic distribution of ballots and tidy up a few other minor things to make it all smooth with recent changes in the AML bylaws [such as the new ombudsman mandates]). One sticking point is that it also mandates that LGs must call

an ombudsman an ombudsman, not a mediator or arbitrator." (wording taken from Robin Crawford's blog) passed. I voted yes.

*--Motion that the AMC would review and retain final approval for those selected to represent AML in the Leadership Exchange Program failed. I voted yes. Also voting yes was Art Mattson. Abstaining were Jean Becker and Debra Reiger.

*--Motion to adopt updated Model By-Laws passed unanimously.

*--Motion to publish mini-minutes of AMC meetings in the Bulletin failed. This motion was requested by a Region 3 member and I moved. I voted for. Also voting for were Debra Reiger, Guy Conti, Marc Lederman, Jean Becker and Bob Bevard. Abstaining were Dan Burg and Robin Crawford.

*--Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

*--Motion to endorse Willem Bowens for MIL Chair passed. I voted yes.

*--There will be an AMC conference call in January, date not yet determined, to decide Leadership candidates, MIL nominations, and changes to the budget if necessary.

*--Robin Crawford presented the findings of the Governance Task Force.

*--Robin Crawford narrated a Name and Logo Committee Presentation.

Exhausted, yes!

Thanks for letting me represent Region 3.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

rvc3@us.mensa.org

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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>

Puzzle Page

CRYPTOGRAM

Submitted by Ruth Minshull

The cryptogram consists of a simple substitution code. Each letter has been replaced by another. No letter represents itself, and substitutions remain consistent throughout the puzzle. For example:

ORAB AB ZK WLZSXHW GU Z YGIW.
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CODE.

EDXIXOXU Q WQI'V BUAXIJV ZXLAI

NM HMWGYAWXIN DAW QZMCN YMMRAIL

TMCIL, DX WQT ZX VCUX NDQN NDXT

NDAIR DX AV LUMEAIL MYJ. -

EQVDAILNMI AUOAIL

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. - Mark Twain.
