

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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September 2011

 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

[www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://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.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nmmborealis@yahoo.com)

# Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

## VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Erik A. Snyder	989-370-0993	locsecnmm@gmail.com or easnyder@yahoo.com
Deputy Loc Sec	Vacant		
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		dwaynebean@gmail.com

## APPOINTED MEMBERS

Membership	Jim McDermott	231-943-7792	
Ombudsman	Peter J. Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
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Proctor			
Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
Program Chair	- Vacant		
Publicity Chair	- Vacant		
Web Contact	Priscilla Walmsley		pwalmsley@datypic.com
Scholarship Chair	- Vacant -		
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 -		

## 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](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

ON THE COVER: Summer Clouds over the Mensa picnic at the new Grelickville Harbor Park. Photo by Stan Cain.

# September Calendar

**BRUNCH - Saturday, 10 September 2011 at 11:00 a.m.**

The September Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den, which is on the right as you enter.

**T.G.I.F. and GAMES NIGHT! Friday, 23 September 2011 at 5:30 p.m.**

**NOTE: Same Night but Different Location!!!**

This is our usual monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. However, this month, bring your favorite games, a beverage and a snack to pass and let's get together and revive an old Mensa tradition, which has been neglected at NMM lately. We will meet at the home of Stan Cain, 3584 Village Circle, Traverse City. Call 231-938 1506 if you need directions.

**And, coming up in October...**

**BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 1 October 2011 at 11:00 a.m.**

The October book club selection will be *Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin and presented by Heather Gruenberg. You can read a description of the book on page 12. Time to start reading!

**CANOE AND KAYAK TRIP - Sunday, 2 October 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**

Join us on the **Crystal River** near Glen Arbor in Leelanau County for a couple of hours to enjoy fall colors and perhaps see some big salmon on their spawning run. We'll meet at the parking area where County Road 675 and Westman Road cross, east of Highway M-22 on the north side of Glen Arbor. You'll need to bring your own canoe or kayak unless you can find an outfitter that is still renting equipment. Call Jack Schultz at 231-275 6735 for more details or directions.

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# Member News

**Happy September Birthday**

- |    |                    |    |                                |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Susan Lynne Pitzer | 18 | Richard J Warden               |
| 2  | Jim McDermott      | 20 | Rufus S Teesdale               |
| 11 | J S Miner          | 22 | Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro |
| 12 | Stephen H Quick    | 22 | John D Schultz                 |
| 17 | J Porter           |    |                                |

**Mensa Membership Milestones**

(Years of continuous membership)

- |                 |                        |                |                    |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>26 Years</b> | Delberta Ruth Windiate | <b>2 Years</b> | Janet A Nerone     |
| <b>8 Years</b>  | D A Bean               | <b>1 Year</b>  | Michael B Cardwell |
|                 | Harold A Kranick       |                |                    |

**July 2011 Statistics**

	<b>AML</b>	<b>NMM</b>
Total membership	50564	86
New and reinstating membership	359	0
Offers of membership	218	0
New members since April 2011	854	2
Reinstating members since April 2011	1083	5

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 7/31/2011. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

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The Democrats and Republicans are equally corrupt – it's only in the amount where the Republicans excel. – Will Rogers

Republicans take care of the big money, for the big money takes care of them. – Will Rogers.

Why don't those lobbyists run for the Senate? Would you get out of the driver's seat and go down and pull with the other horses? – Will Rogers.

## Election Time

Now is the time to start our election process. We will be electing a new Executive Committee to serve for the next two years. The first step is for the Executive Committee to appoint a three-member Nominating Committee. Then, the following events occur.

### Election deadlines (from our bylaws):

<b>September 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Nominating Committee</b> appointed by ExComm.
<b>October 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Nominations for ExComm candidates finalized and turned over to newsletter editor.
<b>November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Newsletter with nominations published.
<b>November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Election Committee</b> appointed by ExComm.
<b>November 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Last day for election petitions.
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Ballots</b> (if necessary) distributed in newsletter.
<b>December 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Last day to receive ballots from voters.
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012</b>	Newly elected board assumes office.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATING AND ELECTION COMMITTEES

From our bylaws...

“No member of the Nominating Committee or Election Committee may be a voting member of the Executive Committee or a candidate in the upcoming election. The Nominating and Election Committees may comprise the same members.”

Duties: It is important to nominate individuals who are willing to serve on the Executive Committee and who will be able to attend a majority of meetings of the ExComm. The NomComm shall contact each nominee to make certain he/she understands what will be expected of each individual and to ascertain whether such nominees are willing to serve in whatever capacity the elected officers may elect them to. It is important to make sure that there are at least three individuals who are willing to be elected LocSec, Deputy LocSec, and Treasurer. Nominations must be presented to the Editor by October 15 so they can be published in the November issue of the newsletter. Additional nominations may be accepted, by petition of at least five members, up to November 15, to appear on the December ballot along with other nominations previously published in the November newsletter.

## August Mensa Picnic

It was a brisk and cool day for a picnic, but, no rain, so we shouldn't complain.

Enough poetry! Pete's grill provided some welcome warmth and, of course, the main course. Stan Cain watches while Pete cooks.



Loc Sec Richard Hopfner shows some photos of Oregon to Jack Schultz, Bernie Hanchett (hidden), Jalene Moore and Jim McDermott.





Ready for dinner - seated (L to R) are Joanne Schultz, Cheryl Turkus, Jalene Moore, Bernie Hanchett and picnic organizer, Bobbie Walker. Photos by Stan Cain and Jack Schultz.

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## Scholarship Awards Brunch



## By Bobbi Walker, Program and Publicity Co-coordinator

On Saturday, August 13th, Northern Michigan Mensa held its annual Scholarship Brunch. Three scholarships were awarded altogether.

The Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship, for a non-traditional student, went to Jeanne Reicheldfer of Grayling, who is pursuing a degree in Nursing.

Two \$500 Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarships were awarded to high school seniors who submitted a qualifying essay. One was given to Mark Stephenson of Clonlara School and the other to Katherine Koziara of Petoskey High School. Mark is from Atlanta, MI and Clonlara School is a home schooling program. He plans to attend Lake Superior University, majoring in English.

Katherine is a graduate of Petoskey High School and will be enrolled at The University of Michigan, pursuing a double major in Political Science and Sociology.

In the photo above (clockwise from top right) are: Jim McDermott, Mike Stephenson (Mark's father), Melissa Rennie, Pete Turkus, Tom Slater, Bernie Hanchett, Brenda Irish Heintzelman, Bobbi Walker, Mark Stephenson (award winner--\$500 NMM Scholarship), Sheila Stephenson (Mark's mother) and Joan Dasef.

Editor's Note: Other winners Katherine Koziara and Jeanne Reicheldfer were unable to attend the brunch. Photo by Jack Schultz.

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## Vacancies!

Due to other commitments, Bobbi Walker has resigned from the positions of Program and Publicity chairs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bobbi for all her hard work behind the scenes setting up some very good programs. I especially thought the recent brunch speakers have been outstanding. In addition, her timely announcements have kept us all up to date with what's happening in NMM. Thanks, Bobbi!

So, this leaves us with several vacancies to be filled within our appointed positions. In addition to **Program** and **Publicity**, there is also the **Scholarship** Chair. Due to health concerns, our previous chair, Margaret Scott, will be unable to continue. Margaret has served in this position for the past two years. Again, our thanks to Margaret for handling this important job so well. Three young students will be able to rest just a little easier having the scholarship money to help them with their studies. Thanks, Margaret!

Last, but also important, is the **Petoskey Area Subgroup Coordinator**. There are a lot of NMM members living within an hour's drive (or much less) of the Petoskey area. For many, Traverse City is just too far to go for a one or two hour meeting. We need someone from that area who would like to see more of his or her fellow members to step up and organize a subgroup in that area. The location could be another area if the group decides that that would work better.

So, are there any of you NMM members out there who would like to get a little more involved in running this organization? If so, please let me (Stan Cain, Editor) or anyone on the ExComm know.

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## LocSec's (last) Login

By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

[Editor's Note: Richard has recently accepted a new job in Portland, OR and will be leaving us soon. We wish Richard and his Mensa mascot well in his new adventures.]



Throughout my entire life, I remember people going away. It is many things to be left behind, some sad, some hopeful, and some little part of me sometimes wished that I was going too. The call of new places

to see, new people to meet, new experiences to have pulls strongly against the need for stability and predictability.

Change has offered to come into my life, ready for it or not, and I've returned the salute. I'm humbled and bemused by the events of the last month, and now it is me being in the place of the one who goes. It's both scary and exciting to think of what will be now, and how in four short weeks my life will be entirely different.

To all the members of the Northern Michigan Mensa, both ones I've had the pleasure in meeting, and those that I can't say that about, I thank you for the ideas and experiences I've had in the time I was here. It's always been interesting, and I'll remember and think about this for a long time. You, collectively, are the most interesting and unusual group of people that I've ever met, and have truly formed my view of how I think of Mensa.

A final thought. Take care of each other here. The world we imagine is the world we live in, and our little group in this big world has a greater potential than the numbers of people that belong to it. Encourage that potential.

With fond memories, hope for the future, and appreciation for the present, I am signing off and wishing you all the best of luck wherever your paths lead you.

Truly, fare you all well.

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## Puzzle Page

From *The Moscow Puzzles* by Boris A. Kordemsky

What arithmetic symbol can we place between 2 and 3 to make a number greater than 2 but less than 3?

A number with two identical digits is multiplied by 99. What is the four-digit product if the third digit is 5?

# 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.

O VWOUP OX FRP ZQWXOXJ FQWX GPFHPPX FRP

NPUOWP FQ OZTWQCP FRP HQWSN VXN V NPUOWP FQ

PXLQM FRP HQWSN. FROU ZVAPU OF RVWN FQ TSVX

FRP NVM. --P. G. HROFP

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### Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

Two Americans have won the Nobel Prize in economics. They're the first to figure out all of the little charges on their phone bill. --Jay Leno

Answers to this month's puzzles will be in next month's issue.

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By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Mark said it's not official till it's in the paper. This is the paper (real or electronic). It's official.

If, like me, you were not able to attend Columbus Area Mensa's Regional gathering at the end of July, we missed a fabulous weekend. Hopefully, we'll all be there next year.

I hope you are reading this at Western Pennsylvania Mensa's RG over Labor Day weekend. I know it's truly a wonderful weekend.

And, don't forget to register for the - Cincinnati Regional Gathering; Just for Your CAMusement! in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 2, 2011 - December 4, 2011

The following was written by Mel Dahl, RVC10. I asked and received permission to use it in this column. My only edit of his writing is the addition in brackets {}.

Mensa has just completed the most extensive survey it has ever taken of its members to determine member satisfaction and ask people what they want out of Mensa. In February 2010, surveys were mailed to 10,000 members (or about 17% of our 58,000 members). 1,379 people (14% of those surveyed, 2.3% of our total membership) responded. Since the responses were self-selected by those who chose to return the survey it is not truly a random sample. Nevertheless, it is the largest survey taken of our membership to date. The results were published in the June 2011 Report of the Local Group Services & Funding Task Force, chaired by Robin Crawford. This document is available on-line at Mensa's Web site, <http://www.us.mensa.org>

The survey contained predictable questions: Why did you join Mensa, and what were you hoping to get out of it, and did you get out of it what you were hoping to get out of it. The answers were mostly what one would intuitively have expected even without taking a survey. Previous surveys had given us the wholly unsurprising information that the more actively one participates in Mensa activities, the more likely one is to be happy with one's Mensa membership, and also that the biggest worry for

local group leaders is the lack of volunteers. And if that's all the information that this latest survey had given us I'd probably file it away instead of devoting a column to it.

The thing that makes this survey particularly valuable, in my opinion, is the fact that every one of the 1,379 people who responded was given an open-ended question: What service(s) do you want from your local group that is not listed on this survey? And the recurring answer, over and over again, was: I live too far away from any activities; I wish I could get to local activities but they are an hour, two hours, three hours away from me.

In other words, we have a significant chunk of members who would like to attend local group events (and we know from earlier surveys that participation in local group events leads to increased satisfaction with Mensa membership) but live far enough away from the centers of their local groups to make it feasible for them to do so. The key to their satisfaction with Mensa membership is to make it easier for them to attend local group events.

In Florida {I ask you to substitute Region 3}, we have several local groups that are fairly tightly compacted and finding an event nearby should not be a problem. We also have other groups that are more spread out and, in looking at the calendars for those groups, I can see that someone living at one end of the local group area very well might not be able to conveniently attend anything offered by local groups.

So, I am asking two things. First, if you are a LocSec/member of a local ExComm, please look at your calendar to see if all areas of your local group have events and, if not, please try to find someone willing to organize one.

Second, if you are a member who would like to attend local events but there is nothing near where you live, please consider organizing something yourself. I'm sure your local newsletter will be happy to give you space, and you can get email addresses for members in your area by going to the membership directory on our national Web site. If you need logistical assistance, talk to your LocSec or talk to me. Let's see if we can broaden the areas that have local events.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.  
LLAP and Peace,  
Betsy

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Facebook gp. - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

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***Tales of the City***  
**Bibliomensans' Book for October**  
**By Armistead Maupin - 400 pages**

**Note:** This is the first of several volumes with similar titles so make sure you review the correct book.

Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* has blazed a singular trail through popular culture from a groundbreaking newspaper serial to a classic novel to a television event that entranced millions around the world. The first of six novels about the denizens of the mythic apartment house at 28 Barbary Lane, *Tales* is both a wry comedy of manners and a deeply involving portrait of a vanished era.

Seeking a change in her life, Mary Ann Singleton moves to [San Francisco](#) in 1976, soon finding herself living at 28 Barbary Lane. Her life becomes intertwined with those of her varied neighbors and myriad colorful characters.

The novel is a look at San Francisco in the 1970s, exploring "alternative lifestyles" and "underground" culture.

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