

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 10 Number 3

December 2011

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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American Mensa LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

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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: North Bay Sculpture. Created and photographed by John Porter. Final Adobe Photoshop "canvas" feature added by Stan Cain.

November Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 3 December 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. The December book club selection is *Dreamers of the Day: A Novel* by Maria Doria Russell, presented by Jim McDermott. All are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book.

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

The December Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City. This month, our speaker will be **Aaron Stander** – Mensan and local author of five books. His topic? "An Unexpected Career, What I've Learned Along the Way".

T.G.I.F! Friday, 30 December 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting will be at the home of Pete Turkus, 8656 Cedarcrest Drive, Traverse City. Telephone 231 941-8321. This is located in Long Lake Township. (See article and directions on Page 2).

Member News

Happy December Birthday

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|------------------|
| 7 | Dennis J Olsen | 11 | Robert Hawley |
| 8 | Stan Cain | 16 | L Schrock-Taylor |
| 11 | J A Thorne | 28 | Patrick Sullivan |

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 23 Years | Peter J Turkus | 5 Years | V L Carpenter |
| 17 Years | Mark L Banker | 3 Years | D Anderson |
| 11 Years | Eric Sanko | | B G Halliday III |

Welcome back to Northern Michigan Mensa

B Blasius

October 2011 Statistics

	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	52415	90
New and reinstating membership	447	5
Offers of membership	467	0
New members since April 2011	1607	4
Reinstating members since April 2011	1649	8
Members leaving		1

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/2011. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

T.G.I.F!

Hello there, Pete Turkus here. I am currently your Ombudsman and was formerly a Local Coordinator (LoCo) before our group became Northern Michigan Mensa and separated from Western Michigan Mensa.

The December T.G.I.F. will be held December 30, 2011 at our home located at 8656 Cedarcrest Drive in Long Lake Township of Grand Traverse County. This will be the first T.G.I.F! in quite some time. The punctuation is mine. In years past, the event was more of a party and often at our home. For December, I'd like to have something less than a party yet less than a business meeting. How about a brainstorming session plus food and drink? I have taken pages from the Western Michigan Mensa Nova from the "turn of the century" which relate to our emancipation. This was a long thought and well reasoned decision and is well worth remembering. But, are we doing as well as we had thought we would be? How could we have done better and how could we improve in the near future? Since we are about to elect a new Executive Committee (ExComm), this is a good time to raise these questions. Please B.Y.O.B. and a snack to share. Some food provided.

Directions to 8656 Cedarcrest Drive:

A. North Long Lake Road west to Bridlewood / Lake of the Pines subdivision (right turn) proceed north to Cedarcrest drive (bear left at fork) & left on Cedarcrest Drive and continue to LIGHTED SIGN.

B. Cedar Run Road from Front Street west to left turn on Cedarcrest Drive and follow to LIGHTED SIGN.

C. M-72 to Tilton Road. South 1 mile to Cedar Run Road. Left on Cedar Run Road and a quick right at Cedarcrest (first streetlight). Proceed to LIGHTED SIGN.

NMM Election Results for the 2011 Election

It's now official. We have a newly elected slate of officers for Northern Michigan Mensa and they will serve for the two-year period of 2012 and 2013. The nominating committee nominated five people who were willing to serve, and no additional nominations came in by the November 15 deadline. Therefore, according to our bylaws, the five will become the elected members of our new ExComm. They are **Tom Barnhart, Nancy Dady, Brenda Irish Heintzelman, Richard Thibeau, and Pete Turkus.**

Although the term of office of current officers (including those appointed by our previous LocSec, with concurrence of the other elected members for 2010 and 2011) runs through December 31, 2011, in effect, the five newly elected members can function prior to January 1, 2012. Pete Turkus (one of the five) is hosting a New Year's Eve gathering at his home and he hopes that this will be a springboard for the elected five to choose who among them will serve as the new LocSec, the Deputy LocSec, the Treasurer, and the two At-Large members. They will also likely discuss who might be appointed to the various other non-voting officer positions on the ExComm. Then, on or right after January 1, the new LocSec will make such appointments. If you're interested in being considered for an appointed position, look at the list near the front of this issue of Borealis to see what officer positions we have, and then let it be known of your interest.

Our best wishes to the new voting members as they seek to provide new vitality to our organization. All of us need to support them in this task,

and that can best be done by making suggestions about what you'd like to see our local group accomplish in the next two years.

Stan Cain, Jack Schultz, and Erik Snyder
NMM Election Committee

LocSec's Login

By Erik Snyder, Local Secretary

Another holiday season is upon us, which means that the New Year is just around the corner. Many view a new year as a new start; out with the old and in with the new. So it is with Northern Michigan Mensa this year.

As you may have seen in the last Borealis, a new ExComm (Executive Committee) will be taking the helm, so to speak, as of January 1st. This new ExComm will be considering different aspects of our group and seeking to improve upon old ways, while retaining the programs, events, and gatherings which so many of us enjoy.

While the ExComm will try to provide an interesting environment for the group, you, the members, have something to contribute too. You need to make your wishes for the group known. If you have something to contribute and want to share that with the rest of us, please contact one of the ExComm members to let them know. If there is a certain program or even a type of program in which you'd be interested, tell an ExComm'er.

Also, there will be a number of openings for appointed positions within the organization. Check out the Borealis page that lists these positions (some currently vacant) and see if there is one which you could enjoy.

We, as members of Mensa, have the power to shape the direction of our group, thus bringing in the new to the established system. I hope that everyone who reads this will take an active part in some aspect of Mensa in the future. After all, it is your group too.

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.

M BSDRASUR GD EMKKSHRPP! HG UMH MBSXR FGQBI

WRMT SA: SA OGQBI WR ERBB GH RMTAE. --VRGTVR

WRTHMTI PEMO

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

In the absence of clearly-defined goals, we become strangely loyal to performing daily trivia until ultimately we become enslaved by it. -- Robert Heinlein

Year End Photo Roundup

Here are a few shots that didn't make it into Borealis in the past year.



Richard and Brenda at the September picnic



Also at the picnic, Dot and Jim hiding behind their shades



September Games Night with (C.W. from left) Bobbi, Sherri, Bernie, Jack, Pete and Stan at the Trivia table.
(Photos by Stan Cain and Sue Styles)

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

I feel like Santa or Aladdin or a fairy godmother. I have been able to grant wishes of Region 3 members. What a feeling!

First is to publish the following announcement of Southeast Michigan Mensa's Name the RG competition.

NAME THAT RG COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Back by popular demand: name our RG and win a free registration to the upcoming wonderful _____(your idea here)_____ RG! You will win a free registration for the 2012 SEMMantics Regional Gathering if you suggest the best name and theme for SEMMANTICS XXXIII, to be held the weekend of May 4-6, 2012.

We are announcing a competition, with all current members of Mensa eligible, to name a theme for our RG, the biggest event of the year. Ideas, double entendres, puns, feghoots and other clever word plays are especially welcome, of course. Submit your suggestions by December 20th to Jean Becker. She will remove the name of the submitter and the RG committee will choose the most original, representative, and creative entry to name the RG and provide the theme for its activities.

All suggestions must be addressed via e-mail to Jean at JeanKBecker@gmail.com no later than the above-mentioned deadline, December 20, 2011. You can just submit the name, or you may explain the reason you think the name and theme are the best, up to a maximum of 250 words. Please place the words "SEMMantics name competition" in the subject line. Winners will be announced at the Winter Bash and in M-Pathy. Here's your chance to have it your way!
Jean Becker

Second is to add the following games to the overflowing three Region 3 tubs now stored by Beth Weiss and Stan Ward for use at events within the Region. I am not a game player, save for Freecell, but the one that I do love is Apples to Apples and I have ordered a crate! In addition, there will be multiple copies of Qwirkle, Qwirkle Cubes and Wizard for tournaments and Big Boggle, Blokus, Ticket to Ride and Five Crowns to bring pleasure to our gamers. Enjoy! Enjoy!

I hope you are attending the Cincinnati Regional Gathering; Just for Your CAMusement! in Cincinnati, Ohio, this first weekend in December. It's promised that there will be no clowns. Registration is \$70.00; Ages 5 and under are free; Ages 6 to 12 are \$10; Ages 13 to 20 are half-price; Friday only \$25; Saturday only \$60; Dinner & Dance on Saturday (after 5pm) \$35. For More Information Contact: Marty Meighen 9113 Tag Drive Cincinnati, OH 45231 or just show up! I wish I could be there, but I am attending the AMC meeting.

Register now for the yet to be themed SEMMantics XXXIII RG, May 4 - 6, 2012, to be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, Call (248) 477-7800 for hotel reservations. Registration: \$65 - through 1/31/2012, \$75 - through 4/15/2012, \$45 - Friday Only, \$50 - Saturday Only, \$85 - Weekend at the Door, Children 5 - under 18 - 1/2 price, Children under 5 - free. Includes all meals, Chocolate Orgy, "The Evolution of Charlie Darwin", constructing crosswords by James Tuttle & Peter Collins, and MensaSelect game winner Uncle Chestnut's Table Gype inventor Paul Nowak. Of course you expect me to tell you to send your registration fees to me. Sit down! I have finally passed the torch and a very difficult decision it was. I have relinquished my "I'll take your money" moniker. I am pleased to ask that you send your registration checks (made out to SEMMantics) to Larry Arbanas, 24565 Glen Orchard Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1725. Yes, if you see me I'll take your money for Larry.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a safe beginning of winter. And, let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year. May it be healthy, prosperous and wonderful in every way for each and every one of you and your loved ones.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

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