



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 11 Number 3

December 2012

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

nmborealis@yahoo.com

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

ON THE COVER: Boat launch - and now unneeded warning sign - at Brown Bridge Pond after the October dam break. Photo by Stan Cain.



Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

Send address correction c/o
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"change delivery method" in the
subject line.
You'll get it faster, and in color!

December Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 1 December 2012, at 11:00 a.m.

The December book club selection will be: *Echoes of Distant Thunder* by Frank Slaughter and presented by Pete Turkus. (See the review on page 5.) Our meeting will be held at Xylo Bistro Cafe, 221 Garland Street, Traverse City. Easy entrance by parking in back of the building

In addition, we will also be discussing the film *Pina* which was presented as part of the Bay Film Series at the Bay Theater in Sutton's Bay on November 11, 12 & 13. Plan to attend to discuss either or both of these works.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 8 December 2012, at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet again in the back room at the Flap Jack Restaurant, 3980 N US 31 S, Traverse City (also known as the Flap Jack Shack). Bob Jackson, a retired automotive engineer, will speak on his unlikely path to career success without a college degree.

Note: there will a quarterly meeting of the **Executive committee** just before the Brunch at 10:45 a.m.. All members are welcome to attend.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 28 December 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

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 December Birthday

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 8 Stan Cain | 12 Duane Anderson |
| 11 Robert Hawley | 28 Patrick Sullivan |
| John A. Thorne | |

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 24 Peter J. Turkus | 4 Duane Anderson |
| 12 Eric Sanko | 4 Bartholomew G. Halliday |
| 6 Vicki L. Carpenter | |

October 2012 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	52,346	81
New and reinstating membership	585	1
Offers of membership	285	0
New members since April 2012	1,315	11
Reinstating members since April 2012	1,256	17

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/2012. 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".

From the LocSec

By Richard Thibeau

The ExComm will be having a quarterly meeting at the Flap Jack Shack just before the Brunch on December 8, at 10:45 am. Anyone having any suggestions or ideas for the good of the group, please email one of the officers to let us know. All members feel free to attend and then enjoy the brunch.

Enjoy the holiday season and be safe.



Brown Bridge Pond above the Dam five days after the breach.

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Your American Mensa Committee (board of directors) (AMC) met in a teleconference on Tuesday, October 30. A motion was passed raising the regular dues starting January 1, 2013, to \$70. I voted no on this motion. Mensa membership is invaluable to me. Regardless of yearly dues, I would find a way to be a member. At \$70 per year, that is only \$1.35 a week, less than a cup of coffee almost anywhere. I do hope that the increase will not affect your membership. I am happy to discuss this with you – just email or, if you call, please wait until after noon. A second motion was passed; the official title for coordinators for youth activities in local groups was changed from Gifted Children Coordinator to Gifted Youth Coordinator. I voted yes on this motion.

The National NomComm has completed its work and now is the time for those who wish to run for Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or Region 3 Vice Chair to do so by following American Mensa's petition process which is as follows:

"In accordance with Art. VI, Sec. (4) of the Bylaws of American Mensa, Ltd., nominations for candidacy for office in American Mensa may be made by petition. Each petition must contain the signatures of 50 members of American Mensa in good standing as of December 1, 2012. Petitions must be submitted on [official petition forms](#). Each petition candidate must also submit a completed [Acceptance of Nomination form](#) and a completed [Candidate Information Form](#).

Petition forms, Candidate Information Forms and Acceptance of Nomination forms are available below and may also be obtained by contacting the National Office at Operations@americanmensa.org. You also can start an [online, members-only petition](#) via the Web site. All petition candidates should review the [2013 Code of Election Procedures](#) before beginning the petition process. Members wishing to sign available online petitions may do so via the same link.

Candidate petition forms must be received by 11:59 p.m. central time on February 1, 2013. Send completed forms and petitions to Operations@americanmensa.org, fax to 817/649-5232, or mail to Elections, American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, Texas 76006-6103."

I hope you are reading this while attending Cincinnati's Regional Gathering (I am attending the AMC Meeting in New Orleans and am really sorry I am not there!). Cincinnati Area Mensa is in an excited state (any of the energy levels

of a physical system – like an RG committee) as you are invited to the HyperchaRGed gathering. (Hypercharge: the quantum number equal to B [baryons] + S [strangeness] + C [charmed].) Gravitational attraction and radiant energy brings you to the Doubletree in Sharonville starting Nov. 30, and inertia takes you to a half-life of the event on Dec. 2. The natural frequency of this event is 30! Yes, the 30th Regional Gathering! Positronically assured of a periodic table of entrees, Quark's bar, luminosity in the programs and momentum in the tournament track. Quanta rate at the door for the weekend is \$75. Children under 5 are free. Ages 6-10 are \$15. Ages 11-20 are half the full rate. Partial rates are available at the door. Friday only = \$30; Saturday only = \$65. Saturday dinner and dance (after 5 p.m.) = \$40. No roll-overs. Refunds must have been requested by Nov. 29, 2012. Checks payable to Cincinnati Area Mensa RG. Hotel: Doubletree, 6300 E. Kemper Rd., Sharonville, OH 45241; 513/489-3636; www.doubletree.com/hotels/CVGKRDT. Room rates (\$99) guaranteed until Nov. 15 (if rooms are still available you just might get this rate). S CD 10 and under, H RP 11/29/12 cutoff DT. Contact Cassie Ryle, 7270 West Chester Rd., West Chester, OH 45069; 513/755-6322; cassier@fuse.net.

Dayton Area Mensa will be hosting DAMNations 26: Triskadeka Times Two (or times three because it's 2013!) Talks and presentations; games and tournaments; five meals by the famous Dayton Hospitality team; music and dancing; late-night conversations and general silliness! Registration is \$55 by Dec. 1; \$60 by March 1, 2013; \$70 at the door. Ages 5-18 half price, under 5 free. MP (5): included. Checks payable to Dayton Area Mensa RG. Hotel: Wyndham Garden Dayton South, 31 Prestige Plaza Dr., Miamisburg, OH 45342; call hotel 937/434-8030. Room rates (\$83) guaranteed until March 15, 2013. CD 18 and under, H DT CP. Visit www.dayton.us.mensa.org or contact Karren Lehman, 7039 Monte Carlo Dr., Englewood, OH 45322; RG.Registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org.

Southeast Michigan Mensa will be hosting SEMMantics XXXIV, May 3-5. More information soon!

I wish you a safe beginning of winter and the best during this coming holiday season. Let me be the first to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As my e-mail salutation says, "A dream is a promise your mind makes to your heart and a challenge your heart makes to your mind." May all your dreams see fulfillment.

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

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

Echoes of Distant Thunder

Bibliomensans' Book for December

By Frank P. Slaughter - 279 pages

Echoes of Distant Thunder is a breathtaking saga that begins with the crushing Union defeat on the final day of the Battle of Chickamauga and ends with a life or death confrontation between two sworn enemies in the virgin pine forests of Northern Michigan. This is not the kind of Civil War novel we have come to expect. This book shows us the war in stunning detail through the eyes of a twenty year old artillery soldier. On the bloody fields of Chickamauga Will Castor's artillery battery is over-run by the enemy in fierce hand-to-hand combat, every member of his gun crew, including his best friend are killed and his final violent act of compassion will haunt him for the rest of his life. Caught behind enemy lines with a broken leg and unable to walk, he makes a pact with a war weary Confederate deserter and ends up falling in love with his former enemy's beautiful sister. Will Castor comes home from the Civil War a broken man. This is the story of his journey as he struggles to regain his footing in a world he no longer understands. Along the way he will work in a lumber camp and experience the rough and tumble, and often violent world of the lumberjack. Guilt and alcohol slowly consume him. Guilt from being the only survivor of his gun crew and guilt from killing a Georgia farmer and his son during the hopeless confusion of a fifty thousand man Union army in headlong retreat. When he can go no further, alone in the vast wilderness of North America, five years after the last shot of the Civil War was fired, the war for Will Castor is finally over. Echoes of Distant Thunder will make you laugh and cry. Richly detailed and elegantly written, the characters of Frank Slaughter's novel will draw you in!

PARAPROSDOKIANS:

Submitted by Pete Turkus

"A figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation."

"Where there's a will, I want to be in it," is a type of Paraproisdokian.

1. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left..
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.
11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
12. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
13. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
14. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
15. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
16. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
17. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
18. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
19. There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
20. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
21. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
22. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
23. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
24. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
25. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Northern Michigan Mensa
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

Income	Budget	Year To Date	Remaining
National Office Allocation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 758.86	\$ 241.14
Testing Fees	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Interest Income	\$ 5.00	\$ 1.66	\$ 3.34
Fund Raising	\$ 245.00	\$ -	\$ 245.00
Total Income	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 760.52	\$ 639.48
Expenses			
Newsletter	\$ 450.00	\$ 185.37	\$ 264.63
Office / Incidentals	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Activities / Programs	\$ 200.00	\$ 108.60	\$ 91.40
Publicity	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Scholarships	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Proctor / Testing	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Stipend for Reg/Ntl Events	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Membership	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 293.97	\$ 1,106.03
Total Income Less Expenses	\$ -	\$ 466.55	\$ 466.55

Bank Balances:

Fund	1/1/2012	11/25/2012	Change
Friend Fund	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -
Scholarships	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
General Opns	\$ 3,206.95	\$ 3,673.50	\$ 466.55
Total Checking	\$ 3,856.95	\$ 4,323.50	\$ 466.55
Savings	\$ 103.67	\$ 103.67	\$ -
Total	\$ 3,960.62	\$ 4,427.17	\$ 466.55

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.

X JTL GPXKMPQ X CTE NRJPSRGE ,

WPBQPZPBXFKP , XFJ GT GDBF XBTFDJ GMBPP

GRIPQ CPNTBP SERFL JTOF .

~BTC PBG C PFKMSPE

(The answer will appear in next month's issue)

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. ~P. J. O'Rourke
