



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 13 Number 7

May 2015

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
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Northern Michigan Mensa

Executive Committee



Northern Michigan Mensa

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

ON THE COVER: If you take our spring hike on May 17th, you might see a nice yellow lady slipper if you're lucky. Photo by Jack Schultz.

May Calendar

Brunch – Saturday, 9 May 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

It's time to celebrate Memorial Day (or Decoration Day as some of us used to call it way back when). OK, maybe we're a tad early. Just show up at the MI Grille (the old Bay Town Kitchen where we've always met). Same place, same address – 420 Munson in Traverse City. Names keep changing in town (???). Speakers once again will be us because we're so eloquent, witty and on top of things.

Wildflower Hike - Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Rain or Shine

For those who have never been to the Treat Farm in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, you will have a treat (no pun intended). Even those who have gone on this hike in previous years will enjoy the spectacular displays of spring wildflowers. There is probably no more magnificent showing of wildflowers in northern Michigan than in the northern hardwood forest leading to the old farmstead. Come join forester Jack Schultz as he talks about the beauties of this area. The approximately two-hour hike is easy and you will be treated to a huge display of the best that Nature has to offer.

The Treat Farm entrance gate is located near the west end of Stormer Road about a mile south of the Empire Village limits on M22. If coming south from Empire, turn right on Stormer and drive about a half mile to the point where there is a sharp curve to the left. You can park your vehicles anywhere along the side of the road, but be sure to display a National Park pass in your parked vehicle.

We do NOT plan to climb the dune at the end of the trail. You can call Jack Schultz with any questions at 231 640 4569.

Dining Out – Wednesday, 20 May 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Bubba's Restaurant and Bar, 428 E. Front St., TC. This may be our last time to eat downtown before the tourists take over. Bubba's has great burgers, burritos (the Thai one is highly recommended by two Mensans), gumbo, etc. You get the drift. So join us for some intelligent and amazing conversation. You'll be surprised at what you'll find inside our members' brains – such as well, you just have to be there.

New member? Never been to an event before? Don't know anybody? Not to fear. Just look for the table with the Mensa Owl on it and you will have found us.

And, Coming up in June...

(Please see Page 4)

Member News

Happy May Birthday

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 7 | Harold A Kranick | 18 | Kymerli A Wregglesworth |
| 7 | Kathleen Cerasoli | 19 | Robin A Stanley |
| 8 | Aaron Stander | 20 | Greg J Baker |
| 9 | Julie L Hill | 30 | Michael Hayden Lancashire |



Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 35 | Suzanne L Cook | 4 | Dennis J Olsen |
| 15 | Beau Begeman | 6 | Mitchell D Quaine |
| 12 | Cynthia L Dickson | 3 | Jon Paul Suchoski |

Members New/Reinstated to Our Group – Welcome!

Mark Alford Jr.

<u>March 2015 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	56831	86
New and reinstating membership	1641	1
Offers of membership	530	0
New members since April 2014	3536	0
Reinstating members since April 2014	4105	3

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 3/31/2014. 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"

News from the RVC3

**Please vote in this year's election.
Please be informed before voting.**

You will find campaign statements in the Bulletin. It may be well worth your while to also look at web links for each candidate if you are undecided.

The proposed bylaws will take some thought. Note that the Bylaws Committee consists of nine members, only five of which are voting members by their standing on the AMC (by NY State Law). The Statement of the Bylaws Committee, therefore, reflects the views of (minimally) three voting members of the nine. Mensans often differ in opinion as do committees; the point is that the proposals made it to ballot and you have to decide the outcome. Read the Statement in the Bulletin that reflects the voting majority of the Committee members and make the effort to read ALL submitted Pros and Cons; only some are selected for print in the Bulletin which was already expanded for that printing. You'll have to work for this...go to www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/proposed-bylaws-amendments. Select the proposals individually; I recommend scrolling to the bottom of each one and reading the Pros and Cons in reverse. It may add focus when you ultimately read the proposal last. If you're navigating by tabs instead of url, note that amc in the url is Board of Directors on the menu.

Regards,
Julia Ashley, RVC3
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614.448.6023

And here are some statistics for you to chew on from the National Office:

American Mensa membership is at 56,831 and growing.

American Mensa members continue to find value in Mensa, and that is reflected in the latest membership numbers. American Mensa begins the 2015-16 year with 56,831 members, the highest number since 2011.

Within the membership number, which is up 1.32% from the previous year, are several points:

- 88.6% of members maintained membership from 2014.

- Mensa has 3,536 new members, a decrease of 136 new members from last year.
- Supervised testing was close to last year, with 2,452 tests given (down 0.8%)
- Prior Evidence was up 9.75%, with 2,846 prior tests submitted for Mensa applications.
- 4,105 members — an increase of nearly 8% — rejoined Mensa after a lapse of more than a year.
- At this point, more than 7,459 members have committed to the organization with a life membership. Members on a life or multi-year plan now number more than 21,453

2015-16 is expected to be another year of growth as new members join our ranks and discover all that Mensa has to offer.

And, Coming up in June...

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 6 June 2015

The April Book Club selection will be *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* by Lois Leveen, and presented by Stan Cain

Based on the remarkable true story of a freed African American slave who returned to Virginia at the onset of the Civil War to spy on the Confederates, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* is a masterful debut by an exciting new novelist. Author Lois Leveen combines fascinating facts and ingenious speculation to craft a historical novel that will offer intimate looks at the twin nightmares of slavery and Civil War. A powerful and unforgettable story of a woman who risked her own freedom to bring freedom to millions of others, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* celebrates the courageous achievements of a little known but truly inspirational American heroine.

Editor's Note:

I want to thank Sue Styles for putting out the April Borealis while I was recovering from surgery.