



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 14 Number 3

December 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

nmmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	nmmborealis@yahoo.com
Deputy Loc Sec	KC Mowrey	231-775-8785	kcmowrey@charter.net
Treasurer	Susan A. Styles	231-357-5233	seas@umich.edu
At Large	Erik A. Snyder	989-370-0993	easnyder@yahoo.com
At Large	Carole Eberly	989-772-4067	cmeberly@yahoo.com

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Newsletter Editor	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	nmmborealis@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Richard Thibeau	231-590-2052	rthibeau@coslink.net
Membership	Richard Thibeau	231-590-2052	rthibeau@coslink.net
Ombudsman	Pete Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Program Chair	Vacant		
Publicity Chair	Vacant		

Scholarship Chair	Kymberli Wregglesworth		kymberliapril@src-milp.com
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Testing Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
Web Contact	Vacant		

OTHER MEMBERS

Proctors	Susan A. Styles	231-357-5233	seas@umich.edu
	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Regional			
Vice-Chairman	Julia Ashley	614.448.6023	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: Fog at Grand Lake. Photo by John Porter.



Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

Send address correction c/o
American Mensa LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

December Calendar

Book Club - Saturday, 5 December 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

The December Book Club selection will be **Poland** by James Michener, and presented by Jim McDermott. We will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 LaFranier, in Traverse City. Attendees, don't forget to be prepared with your selection of six of the titles from the list of submitted suggestions.

Brunch - Saturday, 12 December 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

The December brunch will be held at the MI Grille, located at 420 Munson in TC. We will meet in the back dining room.

Member News

Happy December Birthday

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 8 Stan Cain | 16 Linda Schrock-Taylor |
| 11 John A Thorne | 28 Patrick Sullivan |
| 15 Carole Eberly | |

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 27 Peter J Turkus | 7 Bartholomew George Halliday III |
| 9 Vicki L Carpenter | |

<u>August 2015 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	52339	90
New and reinstating membership	486	1
Offers of membership	519	0
New members since April 2015	1958	2
Reinstating members since April 2015	1515	3

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/2015. 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"

Election Process Update

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 2016 and 2017. 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 on January 1, 2016. They are:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| Carole Eberly | Traverse City |
| Corinne Kass-Hillard Mowrey (KC for short) | Cadillac |
| Brett A. Pharo | Rapid City |
| Susan Styles | Elk Rapids |
| Roberta A. Walker (Bobbi) | Traverse City |

The next step is for the five newly elected members to meet and decide among themselves the office that each member will hold. They will also 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 your interest be known.

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
LocSec NMM

INTELLIGENCE

© by Ruth Minshull

Webster provides at least a dozen definitions of the word intelligence. The first two are: the faculty of understanding and the capacity to know or apprehend. Curiously, the definitions all suggest a completely passive quality. They are not about doing. One religion, in fact, uses the word to describe sort of a disembodied universal spirit.

Intelligence by definition has nothing to do with living. It just hangs out. A high IQ. means that a person remembers data, is fairly well acquainted with the language and can figure out a few test problems.

Among Mensa members (who have demonstrated that they are good at doing IQ tests) I've seen a complete cross-section of people. There are the very rich, the penniless, and everything in between, the well-known (Isaac Azimov, for instance) and the unknown, the achievers and the laggards, the talkative and seriously introverted, the God-fearing, the agnostics, the atheists, democrats, republicans, libertarians, the grouches and the people-pleasers, the gays, the straights, the liberals and the conservatives, the interesting and the crashing bores, the nice folks and that other kind. They can all read and learn and remember data. Some have practical intelligence and some would have to organize a committee to change a light bulb.

To me, the strangest aspect of intelligence as defined is that it has nothing whatever to do with living life. So what good is it?

We can sit back and feel superior to people with less intelligence. We can carp and criticize and strut and preen. But so what?

I have known people who would not burn up the pages on IQ tests, but they know how to live a good life.

To me that is a better test than anything else: how well do we live our life? Do we spend more time smiling or scowling? Are we able to put our anger, our grudges, our disappointments behind us? Are we able to keep learning and changing? Are we doing the work we enjoy? (If not, perhaps we should change jobs—or learn to enjoy the work we do.) Is our overall attitude about life one of disappointment or one of fulfillment? To me, whether or not we score well is not nearly as important as whether we live well. Our intelligence is merely another tool.

We are sculptors waving our chisels in the air—useless tools, unless we use them to carve out a satisfying life.

Editor's note:
Long time member Ruth Minshull wrote this article before her death in June 2013.



November Hike

Fellow Mensans - it seems we've come to a new low point in our hiking experience when the only members who show up for a cold hike in November are Bernie and Stan, a couple of octogenarians!

While it's true that the snowflakes were large and dangerous, we were able to build a tepee to wait out the worst of the storm.

Stan Cain

Photo by Jalene Moore