

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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May 2018

Calendar

MAY

Brunch - Saturday, 12 May, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

The May brunch will be held at The Cottage Inn, 472 Munson Avenue at 8th Street, in Traverse City. We will meet in the separate room in back.

Pete Turkus will be a speaker at the May NMM Brunch and will endeavor to persuade some other past leaders of our group to join him. Pete has recently accepted the job of "Program Chair" and also "Publicity Chair."

Hi, folks!

After resigning as Ombudsman, I thought I was done serving NMM. Our Fearless Leader (Loc Sec Roberta Walker) was not convinced. I have accepted the Program Chair for the present period and will also provide some publicity support. I have some ideas regarding activities and membership promotion that I will present at our May Brunch. I sincerely hope that I will be joined by some past Local Secretaries who have more experience than I have had.

For those of you that joined NMM after its inception, including those members who were previously members of Western Michigan Mensa and South Eastern Michigan Mensa, I was previously the "Local Coordinator" for Northern Michigan (an appointed position of Western Michigan Mensa.)

After that period, the members of this area decided to become a separate Northern Michigan Mensa. We have been successful, more so than other "start up" groups. However, after twelve years, we are having some of the issues that have caused other local groups to fail. We really need to address these and solve the problems they create.

At our May Brunch, I will present some ideas for future presentations that are more thought provoking than previously imagined.

And coming up in June...

Due to the cancellation of the book club meeting in April because of vacations, we will carry over discussion of the two books by Jack Kerouac: *On The Road* and *The Dharma Bums*. We will also discuss the scheduled June book *Between the World and me* by Ta-Nehisi Coats. This is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2018.

Northern Michigan Mensa

Borealis is published by Northern Michigan Mensa (3/496) once each month under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

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

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Cover: A Pink Lady Slipper at the Treat Farm on last year's Spring Wildf lower Walk. Photo by Stan Cain.

And if you haven't had enough politics...

If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven.

~ Will Rogers ~

I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them.

~ Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952 ~

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.

~ Aesop ~

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.

~ Clarence Darrow ~

MINUTES OF THE April 22, 2018 MEETING of the NMM EX-COMM Submitted by Bobbi Walker

Meeting called to order at 2:20pm

Present: Roberta Walker, Greg Baker, Richard Thibeau, Bernie Hanchett, Pete Turkus, Jack Schultz, Heather Gruenberg-Seger

ITEM 1: Update and outreach

Need for a group plan for events that include today's interests.

Expanding notice of events and membership interest.

Decision: Put notice of Branches, Events, etc. in "Northern Express" and on "Up North Live" website.

ITEM 2: Participation in existing events

Possibility of contributing donations and/or volunteering, especially in the area of promoting education.

Possibility of forming a Trivia Team for Kilkenney's Pub Monday night competition.

Decision: Scholarship Essay (\$600) placed on hold for now.

ITEM 3: New Members and Testing

All events are open to the public. Expanded media notice of testing. Lack of attendance at scheduled testing a problem.

Decision: Membership and Proctor to work together in improving interest and attendance.

Decision: Membership, Program/Publicity and Proctor to give monthly reports on activity to Loc-Sec by the 24th of each month.

ITEM 4: Budget

Decision: All expenses for the rest of this year will come from the General Fund until the new methods and structures are assessed.

ITEM 5: Downsizing

Consider reducing to three officers: Loc-Sec, Deputy Loc-Sec and Treasurer. Appointed offices to be more flexible and fluid.

Considering individual planned events or joining up to attend outside events. (sort of a mini-SIG)

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm

News from the RVC3

I am writing this having just returned from the VML Gathering in Cincinnati, Eight weeks earlier, when Dayton Area Mensa had to cancel their Regional Gathering a void was left. In addition to no Dayton gathering, Central Indiana Mensa (yes, I know that they are in Region 4, but they are our neighbors) had previously decided not to have their January RG nor the OMG (Outdoor Mensa Gathering) due to being the host local group for the Annual Gathering (AG) in Indianapolis in July.

What?! Three missing opportunities to gather for a weekend with friends and share some food and interesting programs! Mary Lee Kemper and Virginia Plottel to the rescue. In the blink of an eye (well, about eight weeks of Earth time), Virginia and Mary Lee secured a hotel, put together not only a weekend of speakers and activities but two LDWs (Leadership Development Workshops). Food. Friends. Fun.

Over one hundred attendees filled the Doubletree in Blue Ash (a suburb of Cincinnati). The two LDW were on "Hotel Negotiations" and "Hospitality" - two vital aspects of a successful gathering. Excellent information provided by two experienced veterans. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make this a super weekend.

By the time you read this, I will have also been at the Southeast Michigan Mensa (SEMM) Regional Gathering at the Marriott Hotel near Detroit Metro Airport. Next issue I will report out on those adventures.

I am very happy to report that we have two other RGs in the planning stages in Region 3. Columbus will be hosting the "We're Not Dead Yet" RG. This is tentatively planned for September 28 to 30.

East Central Ohio Mensa (ECOM) is also looking into hosting an RG, possibly in early August depending on hotel and volunteer availability. More details to follow.

Labor Day weekend I hope to see many of you at the Western Pennsylvania Mensa (WPAM) RG in the Pittsburgh area. This RG takes advantage of the long Labor Day weekend and runs from Friday through Monday.

To round out the year, Cincinnati Area Mensa hosts their annual RG November 30 through December 2. With the Annual Gathering (AG) being in Indianapolis this year, I hope to see many of you there. Lots of tours are being offered. Details are on the ag.us.mensa.org website.

Last but not least, a big thank you to all the local group newsletter editors, without whom you would not hear about the myriad of choices to hang with your fellow Mensans. As someone once said "We must, indeed, all *hang together* or, most assuredly, we shall all *hang separately*." According to 'The Librarians', it was Abiah, Ben Franklin's mother.

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