



# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa

## September Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 14 September, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

The 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.

We may have a surprise speaker!

HIKE - Sunday, 22 September 2019 at 2:00 p.m. - Rain or Shine

**Come with us on one of our favorite hikes! We'll check out the trails in the hilly part of the Grand Traverse Commons near Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. Bernie Hanchett will lead the way. Enjoy the hardwood forests, the views from on high, and some exercise and fresh air. The starting point will be the parking area on Red Drive, just south of the Greenspire School and across from the TBA Conference Center. We'll start promptly at 2 p.m. and go until we're tired. Questions? Call Bernie at 231-357 3146.**

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Elections will be in December for the upcoming term (starts in January) of two years. Positions to be elected are the Local Secretary (LocSec), Deputy LocSec, and Treasurer. Anyone interested in running for one of these, please contact Stan Cain, Nominating Committee, 231-938-1506, [sdcmens@yahoo.com](mailto:sdcmens@yahoo.com), before November 1.

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# Northern Michigan Mensa

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

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

Email submissions to: Richard Thibeau [rthibeau@coslink.net](mailto:rthibeau@coslink.net)

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## Executive Committee

### VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Gene Fry	231-668-1362	gfry.cherokee@gmail.com
Deputy Loc Sec	KC Mowrey	231-775-8785	kcmowrey@charter.net
Treasurer	Richard Thibeau	231-590-2052	rthibeau@coslink.net

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

Newsletter Editor	Richard Thibeau		
Financial Overseer	Vacant		
Membership	Bernie Hanchett	231-946-5177	barneydulittle@hotmail.com
Program Chair	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	sdcmn@yahoo.com
Scholarship Chair	Kymberli Wregglesworth	989) 733-4820	kwregglesworth@oacsd.com
Testing Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com

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## **Northern Michigan Mensa ExComm Meeting August 23,2019**

Present Gene Fry, Richard Thibeau, Stan Cain, KC Mowrey

Meeting called to order at 1:15pm

### New Business

1. How to proceed : 3 executive committee members or continue with 5;  
it was unanimously decided to continue with 3 and also reduce the number of appointees
  - Loc Sec (Gene Fry)
  - Deputy Loc Sec (KC Mowrey)
  - Loc Treasurer (Richard Thibeau)(Also Borealis Editor)  
Stan Cain will continue as Program Chairman
3. This same 3 officers have agreed to serve as the slate for the coming term.
4. Meetings will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. The Cottage Inn, 472 Munson Avenue at 8th Street, Traverse City. We will meet in the separate room in back.
5. We are looking at possible speakers for these meetings as well
6. Our next meeting will be Sept 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at the Cottage Café in Traverse City

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm

## News from the RVC3

See John's article on the next page

John Voymas, Vice Chairperson, Region 3  
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The NMM Book Club meets at BC Pizza, 3186 LaFranier Road, in Traverse City at 11:00 a.m. on the designated date.

Interested in joining our Mensa book club? Come to the meeting for a lively discussion, even if you have not read the books.

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### **2019 BIBLIOMENSANS SCHEDULE**

#### **OCTOBER 5**

Book: Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time

Author: Dava Sobel

Presenter: Stan Cain

Location: BC Pizza, 3186 La Franier, TC

#### **DECEMBER 1**

Book: Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II

Author: Liza Mundy

Presenter: Heather Gruenberg-Seger

Location: BC Pizza, 3186 La Franier, TC

#### **CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Any member of Northern Michigan Mensa is automatically a member of Bibliomensans.

#### **MEETINGS**

Meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. the first Saturday in February, April, June, October, and December: the August meeting is the second Saturday. Each meeting is started with the presenter giving background or other pertinent information about the book, the author, and/or the subject matter. The discussion continues in round robin style until each member has had an opportunity to speak uninterrupted; it then opens for free flowing discussion by all members.

## News from the RVC3

American Mensa supports 126 Local Groups. Some of these groups have very full calendars of events and activities. Other groups haven't tried anything new in some time. The question that is often asked is "How do we attract new members"? That's a great question! The ages of our members range from pre-school to around 100 years of age. One size certainly does not fit all. Should a Local Group expect that certain events will attract members of all ages? Maybe. Do events have to be expensive? Not necessarily.

Let's start with a few basics ... it's okay for some activities to primarily appeal to a subset of members. For example, escape rooms are popular with the under-forty crowd. I've never done one. Might be fun. It's also okay for there to be family events that appeal to people of a wide range of ages. These do not have to be exclusive to young "members". The odds are that if Mom or Dad is a member, then their children might be smart even if they are not card-carrying members. Have a family-friendly event once a month, if possible. Invite families – not just youth members.

Do monthly meetings with (or without guest speakers) have to be scheduled for a Saturday evening? Since Saturdays are party/social times for the younger members, then you'll likely look around the room and see the average age approaching time to register for Medicare. Try another evening or another day. Try a variety of presenters. Science, history, and cultural speakers seem to attract a wider range of members. Board games seem to appeal to people of all ages. It can be held in someone's home, at a library or bookstore, or a local craft brewery. It turns out that craft beer and board games go together and many local breweries have several games available for play. Make it a monthly event. Promote it at the location in advance. Trivia events are also common at breweries and other meeting places. Besides Buzztime, there is Sporcle, and other live trivia options.

Do events have to be run by members? There is no requirement to do so, not even for Gifted Youth activities (although the Gifted Youth Coordinator does need to be recommended by the Loc Sec and be background-checked by the National Office). Sometimes a spouse of a member has an exciting idea, so let them run with it. Events do not need to be large or difficult to coordinate. If a member wants to go to the zoo or to a public event at a park, make it an official event. Worst case, only that member is there – better yet, some other members decide to join you. Even Gifted Youth activities can tie in to an event that some other organization is hosting.

Some inexpensive events could be miniature golf, an ice cream outing, a local movie or live theater event, a walk in the park, a museum visit. Okay, your turn to add some more to the free or almost-free list. A bit more expensive would be live concerts or special community events. Some local groups subsidize to lower the cost or even make it free.

Have recognition events for new members and to thank volunteers. Provide the food, snacks, and beverages. Invite lapsed members to attend.

Finally, don't forget to post events in your calendar. Create a Facebook Event and invite everyone. Also, Mensa Connect can provide on-the-spot announcements to all members of your Local Group, and the "Email Your Members" feature can inform everyone with an email address.

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