JUNE 2012

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa **Number 461**



HEAD-LINE NO. 461 JUNE 2012
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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WENDY'S WORLD

Wendy Carnegie,

I'm apologizing again this month for messing up the May calendar. I"m sorry it happened again, especially right away. As I said last month, the Head-Line is available on the Mid-Michigan web site and American Mensa's web site.

Thanks to Karen Petersmarck for helping me get an email list of Mid-Michigan Mensa set up. I will be contacting members to see if they would like to receive the Head-Line via email. It will save us money on printing and postage.

As I write this column I am very frustrated with Mid-Michigan Mensa's members. We are at a point where the members need to step up and volunteer to help at some of our projects. We also need members to run for the Steering Committee. I joined Mensa the summer of 1990 and the same members that were serving on the Steering Committee then are still serving on a regular basis. We are getting tired of having to do everything. Our bank account is dwindling. We don't have enough money for our scholarship this year. Membership is falling We've managed to find a good project to get money for our scholarship, but can't get enough volunteers to fulfill our agreement. We need 10 volunteers to work concessions at the LugNuts games. We have a membership of about 125 and we can't get enough help. We will probably not be asked back next year. If you want a viable organization, step up to the plate.

I'll close on a better note. I know Memorial Day is past, but I found this quote that is so apt for this holiday.

" These endured all and gave all that justice among nations might prevail and that mankind might enjoy freedom and inherit peace."
Anonymous
Normandy Chapel inscription
Normandy American Center
Normandy, France and Memorial

Till next month...



Frankly Speaking

by Frank Dolinar, LocSec

This will be my last column as LocSec.

Serving in this position for the last two years has often been more difficult than I had expected. Occasionally, it has been easier. Regardless, it's been an education.

This was not my only turn as an officer of a volunteer organization or of a business. Every such situation is different, of course. Still, there is a lot of commonality in such work. I will admit, however, that working with Mensans is even more prone to providing the unexpected than the proverbial herding of cats.

Early on, someone said to me that my job was to tell the Steering Committee what to do. I didn't agree then nor do I agree now. At best, I could suggest topics, approaches, things to do, and offer my opinions. The position of LocSec is akin to a limited chairman of the board – as opposed to a monarch.

Mensans are an opinionated bunch. As individuals – in any other company – they are often used to being the smartest person in the room and therefore to getting their own way.

With so many smart people involved, it's tougher to be that smartest person. Related to that, and because we are a volunteer organization, it's often difficult to:

- get all the ducks in a row;
- agree on who, what, when, where, how, and how much;
- get people to show up for a planned get together, much less something ad hoc; or
- reach out to members who aren't active in the chapter's activities – and even when you do, there's no guarantee that those members will respond.

If we don't work together, the process of managing the chapter's operations doesn't work at all.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, you can please all of the people some of the time, or some of the people all of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time. Within a crowd of Mensans, the probabilities in any of these categories is often nanoscopic.

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Frankly Speaking--Continued

Thus, at the end of June, for reasons both personal and professional, I will end my term as LocSec. Next month there will be someone new in the position. We don't yet know who that will be. Perhaps you.

Regardless, now's the time to find a slate of candidates to compete for the elected positions on the Steering Committee and others to volunteer for the appointed positions. If you've had any interest in being on the steering committee, in any capacity, now's your chance to step forward.

It's your Mensa.
Be part of it.

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Fun With Words

from the Internet

I changed my IPod's name to Titanic. Now it's Syncing.

When chemists die, they barium.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst kind.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

reMARK, March 2012

Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

It's summer! So many Mensa events are scheduled. Picnics and summer outings! I do hope you are taking advantage of the efforts put into planning these events by your fellow Mensans.

I am writing this on the eve of SEMMantics. I have an early copy of the program and am looking forward to learning how to train the dog Mark and I will be getting and how to declutter and organize our home. When you see me, ask about my progress. Of course, I am still a first class procrastinator so who knows! J

On June 5, I will be having dinner with Western Pennsylvania Area Mensans at The Outback Steakhouse, 3000 Mosside Boulevard., Monroeville, PA 15146 at 6:30pm.

On June 6, I will be having dinner with Western New York Mensans at The Eagle House, 5578 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221 at 6pm.

On June 7, I will be joining Rochester Area Mensa at their First Thirstday event at The Cheesecake Factory, 3349 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY at 7pm.

Please join me (on your own $ - J).

June 15 is the last day to register at the now lowest rate of $105 for Mensa's Annual Gathering. Do register by then for a fabulous time in Reno, Nevada. The website for the AG is: http://www.ag2012.us.mensa.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home14
If our paths do not cross before, then I hope to see you there.

Please register for the 2012 Columbus Area Mensa RG, The London (Ohio) Games to be held July 27-29 at the Ramada East Airport Hotel in Columbus, OH. Registration is $65 until 6/3, $70 until 7/9 and $75 at the door. Friday only is $30, Saturday only is $50 and kids 11-18 are half price. Kids 10 and under are free. Contact Julia Ashley, Registrar, at psibernaut@yahoo.com, 614.448.6023 if you have questions and check out the RG's website: http://columbus.us.mensa.org/2012-rg.pdf

Western Pennsylvania Mensa takes you around the world in 80 hours this Labor Day weekend. See the world without pesky airport lines! Registration for adults and kids ages 4-9 is $90 and $45 until July 8 (the

Continued on Page 5

reMark--Continued

AG), $95 and $48 until Aug. 1 (Columbus RG), $99 and $50 postmarked by Aug. 26, and $115 and $58 at the door. Single-day registration rates for adults and kids ages 4-9 are $30 and $15 for Friday, $50 and $25 for Saturday, $50 and $25 for Sunday, $25 and $13 for Saturday or Sunday evening only, $25 and $13 for Monday. MP: all included. Checks payable to WPAM RG. Hotel: Doubletree (formerly Radisson), 101 DoubleTree Dr., (aka 101 Radisson Dr.), Pittsburgh, PA 15205; 800/445-8667; www.doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/PITGTDT-DoubleTree-by-Hilton-Hotel-Pittsburgh-Green-Tree-Pennsylvania/index.do. Room rates ($89) guaranteed until Aug. 11. CD 9 and under, H RP Aug. 20 cutoff DT SA CP H/AS. Contact Jamie Fritz, 345 Thompson Run Rd., Penn Hills, PA 15235; 412/612-0634; jlongstreth@comcast.net.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

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Math Puzzle

Bob Henderson

You flip a fair coin twice. What is the probability that the second flip comes out the same as the first?

You flip the same coin again twice. At least one of the flips comes up heads. What is the probability that the other flip also comes up heads?

You and a friend flip fair coins to see who pays for lunch. You flip 2 coins and win only if you get more heads than he does. He flips 1 coin and wins if he gets as many or more heads than you get. What is the probability that you pay for lunch?

Answer on Page 12

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2012
Wendy Carnegie Scribe

PRESENT: Elizabeth Evangelista, Eileen Hatt, Wendy Carnegie, and Frank Dolinar.

The meeting was called to order by Frank Dolinar at 7:05 p.m.

There are no minutes for April as the meeting was cancelled.

OLD BUSINESS

Wendy stated that she still needs to finish updating the bylaws. She also reported on the car wash. It was decided not to do the car wash as we don't know if we can sell tickets at $11 each. Wendy also reported that we have worked the concession stand for our first two LugNut games. We had **five** Mid-Michigan Mensa volunteers for each game. Actually, only four--John Garrison was able to recruit a fellow Mason to help. We have to pay the Mason $70 for his help. The second game had a record attendance--more than 6,000! We were very busy meeting the customer requests and received a congratulatory thank you after the game was over. John was reminded that our contract states we need 10 volunteers for each game, not five. Not having 10, leaves the concession stand short of help.

Deborah Frank reported to Frank that she has some dates available to work Texas Hold'em at Trippers. It was questioned if we had all the paperwork we needed to work there. Since John wasn't at the meeting, it was decided to find out if everything is ready before we commit to working Texas Hold'em.

Frank reported that Joanne Sullivan has resigned as Chair of the Gifted Children and Scholarship committees. The scholarship negative balance was brought up. Frank will check with the treasurer, Roy Saper, about adding the negative scholarship balance to the general fund. The Steering Committee was under the impression that this was supposed to be done a while age.

Elizabeth presented her resignation as a member of the Steering Committee due to time constraints.

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Steering Committee Minutes--Continued

NEW BUSINESS

Since enough members volunteered to be on the Steering Committee, we don't have to hold an election. The new Steering Committee members are: Frank Dolinar, Deborah Frank, John Garrison doing the last year of their term; Eileen Hatt and Wendy Carnegie have agreed to continue on the Steering Committee for this term; and Bob Henderson has agreed to replace Elizabeth and finish her term of office (one year). The new Steering Committee will meet in June and elect the Loc Sec, Vice Loc Sec, and Scribe. Committee Chairs will be appointed at the same meeting.

Eileen said her neighborhood held a garage/yard sale every summer and offered the use of her garage to allow Mid-Michigan Mensa to hold their own sale. The event is well organized and publicized. Members would bring items they would like to sell and any profit will will be added to the treasury. Volunteers will be needed to clear out Eileen's garage and run the sale.

Frank offered to call Deborah and see if the facepage is being kept up to date.

After a short discussion, it was decided that Wendy would send copies of the newsletter to Mid-Michigan Mensa prospects

The Annual Party was discussed. It will be in August, as usual, and the date will be decided later. As Gail and Al Wolfe have graciously offered to host the party in the past few years, it was agreed to ask them if they would do so again. Sites to have the party if the Wolfes were unable to host the party were discussed. These include Patriarch Park, Potter Park and Zoo, and Hawk Island Park. Frank will contact Gail about this.

To make the community more aware of Mid-Michigan Mensa, Frank offered to contact the State Journal, the State News, and the Town Courier for public service announcements.

A motion was made by Elizabeth and seconded by Eileen to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Hells Angels

My wife and I had stopped at a McDonalds for a short rest and a cup of coffee. We had been riding our Harley in the Sunshine state while realizing and appreciating just how lucky we were to be out of the sleet and snow of Michigan.

We were dismounting when suddenly a sizable gang of motorcycle riders entered the parking lot. Many were riding trikes and their faded colors (club vests) looked like---

Holy oldies Bat-lady, is that the Hells Angels? Maybe we should get out of Dodge as fast as possible before they start slinging lead? Hells Angels are some very bad dudes.I shivered a bit remembering the first time, way back when, I had encountered Angels in San Francisco while waiting to board a ship. The very first thing one noticed was the smell; an overpowering feces and urine smell that was enough to cause an olfactory to close its doors permanently. They supposedly urinated on each other and were not allowed to change clothes for weeks, if at all. And, beer and dope money was not wasted on toilet paper.

As if the smell was not enough, they exhibited the most outrageous and disgusting behavior possible that was designed to shock the senses as much as sticking a wet finger into a light socket. It took a clever mind to come up with new ways to shock and intimidate people. And, there seemed to be no limit to what Sonny Barger, their leader, would do to exact fear, awe and disbelief in anyone within sight or smelling distance.

Then there was Ken Kesey, in freshly laundered clothing, recording history for those who might later be mesmerized by the Angel antics.

I didn't want my dear wife to be exposed to this kind of madness and was ready to remount ---but wait,---what the?---

That doesn't say Hells Angels, it says---'Hal's Bagels'.

Not an outlaw motorcycle club but more likely a bowling team or a troupe of shuffleboard ringers looking for a likely target. And all of them---gray—no, white. After all, this is Florida where the average age is in triple digits.

What an idiot I was to even think---!

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A man very slowly dismounted and slowly raised his arm as if to karate chop his companion's arm completely off, then ever so slowly it fell back to his side. It seemed he was either kick starting his circulatory system or had completely forgotten why he had raised his arm in the first place.

I exhaled with a comforting sigh of relief when suddenly that old familiar smell hit me.

Maybe they were Angels after all with a few years tacked on and different colors to hide their true identity. There was just no mistaking that smell. It was urine and it was strong.

I was sure I could outrun these codgers if necessary but hot lead was a different story.

I was ready to hit the start button and, not being nosier than usual, I heard 'D.O.—D.O.'.

Now what could that possibly mean? Did he mean 'O.D.'? Angels were notorious for doing and selling drugs. Were they just old druggies? They were very old and old folks do get confused.

Then, and I swear, I was not being nosy, I heard 'Depends'.



Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison

June 2012

132 Members

MENSAversaries

Congratulations

48 Years Roy Saper
25 Years John Garrison
13 Years Frank Dolinar
11 Years Mary Winter
3 Years Richard Beaderstadt
38 Years Marvin Fouty
16 Years A .Lawrence Beckon
12 Years Keven Anstett
8 Years Frederick Bies

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday

3 A. Lawrence Beckon
8 Gregory Listing
13 Wendy Kassal
19 Paul Kassal
27 Igor Guro
4 Kevin Smart
9 Gail Wolfe
16 Mark Weiss
27 Matthew Carter
29 Richard Beaderstadt

Reinstating Members

Welcome Back, We Missed You

John Hayden from Mason
John Abbott also from Mason



Food For Thought

By Barb Ford

As I get older, my childhood memories seem to get sweeter. I often find myself thinking of the adults in my formative years from their perspectives. I wish I had paid better attention to family stories, especially those my Mom told. She had a way with stories. She was also an excellent cook. One of her oft told stories took place years before I was born, and it involved cooking.

Around 1950 there were new neighbors across the street from my Mom, Dad, brother and sister. Newlyweds. One morning soon after they moved in, Mom happened to look out the front window and saw a taxi cab roll up. An older woman got out carrying bags of groceries. The cab driver followed her up to the house laden down with more groceries, and several large pots and pans. Curious, Mom found an excuse to walk over for a visit with the new neighbor and her interesting guest. The older lady turned out to be the young housewife's mother-in-law. The mother-in-law was saying, "You married an Italian, so you need to learn to cook for him!" Evidently this lady was making sure her son would have edible cuisine for the rest of his life. Mom was over there most of the day, and learned the finer points of making authentic Italian meatballs and tomato sauce. An instant family favorite, Mom put her own spin on these dishes. She learned about herbs and special ingredients involved that were not necessarily well known outside of the Italian American community. Remember, this was 1950…the Food Network was far into the future. Food was much simpler then, and a variety of ingredients did not exist. Today, we live in a global environment, with ingredients from other cultures readily available in even our most modest grocery stores. I find it fascinating to ponder American life in the 1950's.

Today, Mom's meatballs and sauce are still legendary. I have mastered them, adding my own twist. Comfort food for sure.

Thanks, Mom. We miss you. Are you making meatballs in Heaven?

I like to think so.



Diabologic: Planetary Resources

by Frank Dolinar

The appeal of “What If” started when a friend in grade school gave me a copy of Robert A. Heinlein’s book *Red Planet*, the very first science fiction (SF) book I’d ever seen, let alone read. I was eight years old. I very rapidly became a fan of the genre, helped along by a local librarian who also read SF.

As readers of these essays will have noted, I’ve recently become an advocate (in real life) of one of SF’s recurring themes, managing our local space, specifically the stuff in and near the Earth-Moon system. This brings me to this month’s topic, the creation of Planetary Resources, a new company whose mission statement – stated simply – is to build spacecraft and mine asteroids.

Before you decide that this is pure science fiction, you might want to read the text below, a recent entry from Slashdot.org, that shows plenty of promise, lots of science & engineering talent, but no fiction.

> Planetary Resources Confirms Plan To Mine Asteroids
> Tuesday April 24, 2012 @ 11:33AM
> Matching widespread predictions, The Bad Astronomer writes with word that *"The private company Planetary Resources has announced that it plans to mine asteroids for water, air, and even precious metals in the next few years. Your initial reaction may be to snicker a bit, but it's headed by Peter Diamandis — who established the X Prize — has several ex-NASA personnel running the engineering, and also has the backing of a half-dozen or so billionaires. So this is no joke — their plan looks solid, and may very well be the first step in establishing a permanent human presence in space."*

How will this work? The announced business plan includes a mere handful of steps, each of which is crucial to the overall mission. Based on my current understanding, these are:

1. Beginning within 24 months, launch of a growing fleet of tiny astronomy satellites (designated the Arkyd 101) to identify and track a class of asteroids known as near-Earth objects (NEO).
2. Identification of such asteroids that will come close enough to Earth to allow these objects to be approached and surveyed by the second version of the Arkyd spacecraft, the surveyors, which will allow close evaluation of the structure and content of these asteroids. Planetary Resources is specifically looking for asteroids composed of water ice and platinum group metals. The water can be split into hydrogen (for fuel) and oxygen (for atmosphere), the metals can be mined,

Continued on Page 11

Diabologic--Continued

separated, smelted, and used as raw materials for orbital industry.

3. Landing on selected asteroids, stabilizing any spin/tumble motion, and moving them to either lunar orbit or to a stable Lagrangian point (e.g. L5) in the moon's orbital path around Earth.
4. Mining selected asteroids using the third form of the Arkyd spacecraft and delivering the resultant raw materials where and as needed.

Will this be easy? No!
Will there be problems, mistakes, failures? Almost certainly.
Will it work? Yes!!

Planetary Resources mission plan is a dramatic departure from business as usual in the space program. With the financial and technical expertise that Planetary Resources has gathered together, a philosophy that accepts that mistakes will happen and be learned from, and an approach that expects a long term effort, even given the excellence of its resources, this will work.

The effort is already underway. Planetary Resources knows it will take years before it has a set of mature technologies and years more before it begins to make money. However, once it has passed the stage of "proof of concept", it will not only make money (for the company and its investors), it will change our perception of working in space, and become the beachhead for permanent human expansion into space.

It's the beginning of the space program I've been waiting for since the end of the Apollo missions.

It's about time.

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More essays at http://nanosteps.net/Diabologic

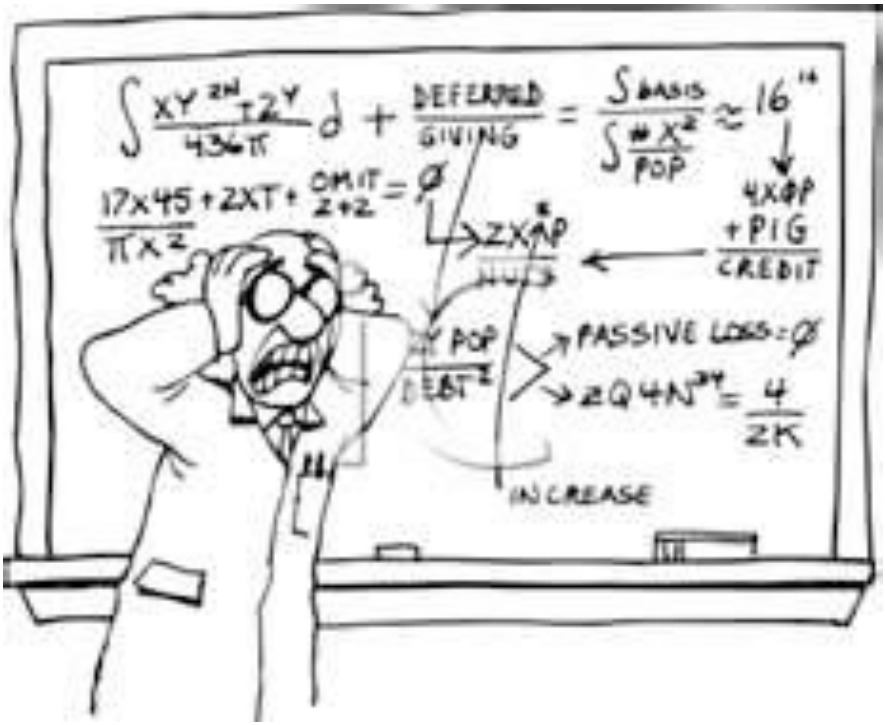


Answers to Math Puzzle

For a fair coin, heads (H) and tails (T) each occur with 50 percent probability. The 4 equally-likely outcomes of 2 flips are HH, HT, TH, and TT. The second flip matches the first in 50 percent of these cases.

Knowing that at least one of the two flips comes up heads, the equally likely outcomes are reduced to HH, HT, and TH. The second flip matches the first in only the first of these 3 cases, so the chances are only 1 in 3 that both flips come up heads.

There are 8 equally-likely outcomes for the 3 coin flips: HH-H, HH-T, HT-H, HT-T, TH-H, TH-T, TT-H, and TT-T. In the 4 cases HH-H, HH-T, HT-T and TH-T, you get more heads than he does. He has the same or more heads in the other 4 equally-likely cases, so you each have a 50 percent chance of paying for lunch.



LUGNUTS BASEBALL MEANS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY FOR MMM

John Garrison

It has been a few years since our Scholarship Fund has been in the black. This year there is hope on the horizon that we can again award local scholarships to those who enter our essay contest.

MMM has entered into an agreement with the Lansing Lugnuts Baseball team to operate food concessions at four of their home games this season. We must have at least 10 workers at each game. Admission, lunch and parking is free. We will earn between $350 and $400 per game. All of this money is slated for exclusive use for our scholarship program. A person can work one, two, three or all four games.

The four game dates and our arrival times are as follows:

Friday - April 27 @ 8:30 AM
Tuesday - May 8 @ 8:30 AM
Sunday - July 4 @ 5:00 PM (Fireworks after the game)
Sunday - September 2 @ Noon (Labor Day Weekend)

Please note the variances between arriving times. The games will start about an hour and a half after we open the booth. Games usually take less than 3 hours.

This is one time Mensa really needs not only your mind but your body too.

Please contact John Garrison (517) 349-7313 or Wendy Carnegie (517) 339-1448 for more info or to sign up.



How to Get People to Like You Better

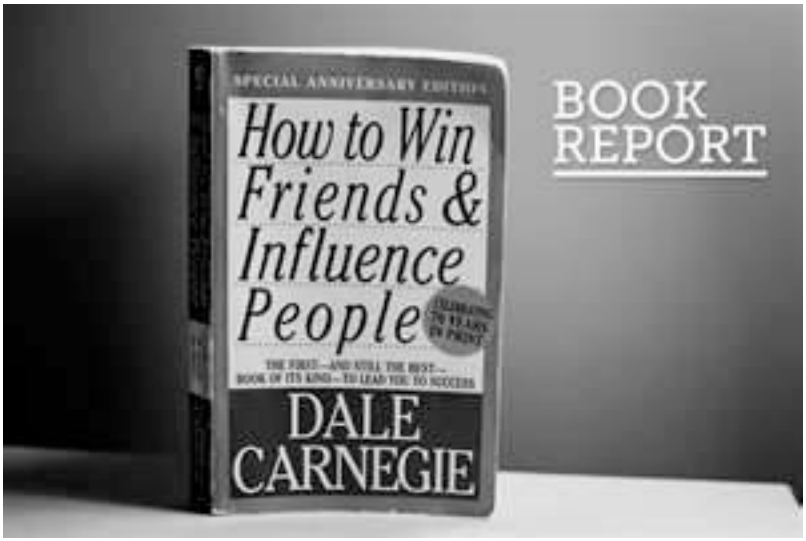
Phil Kline to Speak June 22

by Karen Petersmarck

Have you ever noticed that some people seem to be just naturally likable? It's true that people are born with varying degrees of functionality in brain parts important for social success. However, whatever equipment we are born with, we can learn some skills that make it easier for others to like us.

Fortunately for us, one of our own members, Phil Kline, has spent years as a teacher and manager of Dale Carnegie Courses, and he has agreed to share with us some tried and true rules from that powerful tradition. Not only is Phil well-versed in the Carnegie material, he is also an effective, sought-after speaker. As a member of the National Speakers Association, he has presented the major elements of this talk to numerous national and international groups.

Phil will speak after dinner on June 22, at about 6:30 or whenever desert has been served. Join us for dinner or come at 6:30 and pull up a chair. See the calendar for location.



JUNE 2012 CALENDAR

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Fri. June 1	**TGIF: PIZZA HOUSE:** 4780 Hagadorn, in the Hannah Plaza.
Fri. June 8	**TGIF: EVERYDAY RESTAURANT:** 1375 E. Grand River Ave., E. Lansing. It's on the corner of Hagadorn and Grand River in the Brookshire Plaza. Chinese Food.
	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: After dinner at the Everyday Restaurant.
Fri. June 15	**TGIF: BEGGAR'S BANQUET:** 218 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.
Fri June 22	**TGIF: BANGKOK RESTAURANT:** 420 E. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. On the corner of Cedar St. and Saginaw Hwy.
	SPEAKER: Former member, Phil Kline, will speak on "Selling Yourself". Phil is a really good speaker. Join us for dinner at 6:00 PM or afterward, about 6;45 PM To hear the Phil.
Fri June 29	**TGIF: SCHULERS BOOKS AND MUSIC:** 2820 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing. It's in the Eastwood Towne Center. We will eat on the patio if weather allows.
Fri July 6	**TGIF: MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET:** 2875 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. It's in the Eastwood Towne Center.
Fri July 13	**TGIF: ALDACO'S:** 6527 S. Cedar St., Lansing. Near the intersection of S. Cedar St. and S. Pennsylvania Ave. You can have the Mexican buffet or order from the menu.
	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: After dinner at Aldaco's.
Mid July	**LA SENORITA RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER:** Save the 11 and/ or 18 of July for A dinner fundraiser at La Senorita Restaurant. See the July Head-Line for full details.



TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at 6:00 PM, but you're welcome at any time. Come and get acquainted. All members and friends are welcome at the events above. Any member may schedule an event. Please remember: who, what, when, where, and why. The deadline to schedule an event is the 15th of the month before the event. You can contact Elizabeth Evangelista, Calendar Coord., by regular mail: 5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823; by phone: 517-351-3645; or by email:evangel6@comcast.net