NOVEMBER 2017

Head-Line



The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 524



HEAD-LINE NO. 524 NOVEMBER 2017
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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Mid-Michigan Mensa Facebook Group

Head-Line and Calendar items are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Camera ready contributions are appreciated, but not necessary. Calendar entries may be emailed, telephoned, or snail-mailed to the Calendar/TGIF Coord. Permission is granted to reprint material from the Head-Line in any Mensa publication, with appropriate credit, unless the material is copyrighted.

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RVC 3 COLUMN

John Voymas RVC 3

Continuing my travels, I drove to Kentucky and had meet and greets with Kentuckiana Mensa (lunch in Louisville) and with Bluegrass Mensa at a Chinese buffet in Lexington on October 7. Met some very active members and had good conversations with both groups. I would like to thank them for their hospitality.

The MVP (Member Voucher Program) program has launched. There are already members who have passed on their unique code to someone interested in joining Mensa and who are now asking for additional codes from members who may not be using them. I hear that some members have a waiting list of three or four people that they would like to pass a free testing code to. These codes can also be used for prior evidence. All members have been assigned a free code. If you had an email on file, you should have received an email with your personal code. If you did not have an email on file with American Mensa (or if you misplaced your email with the code), you can contact the National Office via email at MVP@americanmensa.org or call 817.607.0060. Yet-to-be-redeemed codes will be valid until March 31, 2018.

The next RG (Regional Gathering) will be in Cincinnati the first weekend of December. More information can be found on their site and Facebook page as well as on the Region 3 Facebook page. Contact Tiffany Everett for more information. Then in April, there are two RGs in Region 3. The first weekend of April (6 - 8) Dayton Area Mensa has a terrific RG and the third weekend of April (20 - 22), Southeast Michigan Mensa provides a wonderful set of programs and games. Mark your calendars!

Region 3 used to have several more RGs every year but due to various reasons, we now only have four. I think this trend can be reversed if local groups work together to jointly host such a gathering. For example, Kentuckiana and Bluegrass could team up. Perhaps, Cleveland Area Mensa and East Central Ohio Mensa could do the same. Rochester and Western NY? Columbus? Maumee Valley? Vandalia? A couple of the Michigan local groups? Or maybe a group simply needs some expertise that another local group could help provide as consultants.

It's been several years since there was a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in our region. These are usually a one day series of programs focused on aspects of leading a local group, best practices for events, how to engage new members, etc. A single local group can put

Continued on Page 2

RVC 3 Column — Continued

this together or groups can join forces to create an LDW. People can attend from other local groups. It is designed for both the active leader as well as the curious member who just wants to learn more. Let me know at rvc3@us.mensa.org if you or your group is interested in learning how to host an LDW.

On November 1st, registration for the 2018 AG (Annual Gathering) will begin. Hotel registration will also open that day. Registration can be done via the web or by phone. Early bird registration for members is $199 until February 28, 2018. Non-members pay an additional $40. There will be four hotels in the convention center complex with rates ranging from $134 to $154 (plus taxes).

Recent regional appointments include: Shana Lincoln as Young Adult Mensa (YAM) coordinator, Adam Ketler as Scholarship chairperson, Leonard Dalenberg as Webmaster (re-appointment), Tiffany Everett as Assistant to the RVC with a focus on Facebook including Events (re-appointment), and Betsy Mark as Ombudsperson (re-appointment). Thank you to all who have volunteered to take on these roles. Shana will be helping local group YAM coordinators.

A little bit of housekeeping ...

Local group Bylaws are part of the legal governance within Mensa. It is good practice to review (and possibly update) your Bylaws every few years. If you would like an informal preliminary review of your existing Bylaws, your LocSec/President can send a request to the AMC Bylaws Committee. Please contact Becky Folger, Local Group Services Manager, at BeckyF@americanmensa.org or call her at 817.607.5524 to inquire about an informal review. Becky is wonderful and is dedicated to helping local groups in any way needed. <Becky, please forgive me if you get inundated with emails and calls.>

One other bit of housekeeping ...

Just a reminder that a local group officer (whether elected or appointed) must be a current (dues up-to-date) member of American Mensa. If a person is listed as an officer in your newsletter or website, they must meet this requirement. Former members, lapsed members, spouses, and any other generally helpful, all-around-good-person, can be listed elsewhere in the newsletter or on your website with a title or descriptive phrase of what they do for the local group.

Continued on Page 3

RVC 3 Column — Continued

They simply cannot be listed under a banner or heading that says "Officers".

Looking forward to seeing you as I travel about the region. Have a great month and beginning of the holiday season. Enjoy life!

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

November 2017

Membership Chair—John Garrison

124 Members

MENSAversaries

Congratulations on your years of membership

16	Years	Richard Schaffer	16	Years	Matthew McNaughton
14	Years	Richard Weingartner	14	Years	Bryan Sayles
13	Years	Eric Horner	5	Years	Todd Eldred
5	Years	Dora Ivkovich	5	Years	Jacob MacDowell
1	Year	Ronald Burl			

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you

14		Sandra Callis	21		Beth Hjertos

A Get well wish speedy recovery to Pat Thuemmel following her accident



Mid-Michigan Mensa Steering Committee Minutes

October 13, 2017

Robert Henderson Scribe

The MMM Steering Committee met on October 13, 2017, following our TGIF at Woody's Oasis in East Lansing. LocSec Maria Koutsoukos called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM. Members Wendy Carnegie and Bob Henderson were also present.

The first order of business was to approve the September meeting minutes to be published in the October Head-Line. As the members present had all read these minutes earlier, this item was moved, seconded and approved.

New business: Wendy noted that mailing the Head-Line involves a great deal of monthly paperwork at the East Lansing Post Office. Bob and Ginny Henderson offered to help mail out the November issue.

Old Business: The Committee discussed the planned visit by MMM members to the Lansing Breakout Room at 2722 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing. The October 14 meeting date had been cancelled to allow more members to attend. We agreed to meet instead at 3:00 PM on Saturday, Nov. 18th to enjoy this group puzzle-solving challenge. Those interested may also join us afterward for dinner at the nearby Soup Spoon Cafe (about 5:30 PM). The cost to take part is normally $25 per person, but the Committee members agreed to subsidize half of this cost from MMM Treasury funds. For further details see the articles in the October and November issues of the Head-Line.

Other business: The Steering Committee was still in need of two at-large members. Squire Jaros graciously agreed to serve as one of these, understanding that the duties of this position are minimal.

Bob noted that he had received a copy of Doug McCall's email to Wendy re: how to update the MMM Web page. Bob had downloaded the software that Doug recommended for editing and uploading the affected HTML files, but still needed Doug's login authentication codes in order to undertake his duties as MMM Webmaster.The Committee noted that a

Continued on Page 5

Steering Committee Minutes — Continued

few MMM members had offered to provide help with advance setup so that Elizabeth Evangelista could host our Holiday Party again this year. As help will also be needed with cleanup, we agreed to ask attendees to stay after the party. We discussed the date for the Holiday Party and decided to hold it on Dec. 3rd. Wendy told us that she would contact Elizabeth to set up a starting time for the party.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the October Steering Committee meeting at 6:51 PM.



Escape Room

Wikipedia

An Escape Room is a physical adventure game in which players (a team) solve a series of puzzles using clues, hints, and strategy to complete the game. Players are given a time limit to unveil the secret plot hidden in the room. (Our Escape Room adventure will last about an hour.) Real Escape Game (Escape Room) was developed in Japan by 35-year old Takao Kato. It arrived in San Francisco in 2012. It has spread to Europe, Australia, Budapest, South America and now worldwide. The game was inspired by the works of Agatha Christie. It will cost each person $25 to participate, but the Steering Committee has voted to pay 50% of the price. The final cost to each participant, which is limited to the first 12, will be $12.50. We will meet at 2722 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing at 3:00 P.M. on November 18. Join us afterwards for dinner at a place to be determined. Contact Maria Koutsoukos (517-348-5122) if you would like to participate.

Food for Thought

By Barb Ford

In my world, any time of the year is a great time for hot soup. For me, it is the ultimate comfort food. When I was a kid, one family favorite was my Mom's Bean Soup; made from scratch, of course. I remember helping her sort, rinse and soak beans. She used Navy Beans and/or Great Northern Beans, probably whichever was on sale. This soup took at least 24 hours to prep and cook. There usually was a ham bone involved to impart smoky salty deliciousness in every bite. As an adult, I have prepared my share of scratch made bean soup, and concluded there must be an easier, faster, and yes, healthier way to make this. While Mom's Bean Soup was wonderful; I am no longer into the ham bone idea. I discovered a great ingredient that delivers the smoky full flavor of ham or even bacon. Smoked Paprika. Seriously. Another short cut that delivers flavor and texture is the use of canned Refried Beans. Be careful here, though. Many brands of Refried Beans contain lard or other animal fat. Purchasing vegetarian versions of canned Refried Beans will get around this issue. Here, I provide a basic recipe. You can make it your own by choosing the type of Refried Beans, and adjusting the spiciness to your own liking. Serve it with your favorite brand of hot sauce or chili sauce on the side. Once you make it, you may never soak beans again. It is so good, I think my Mom would have loved it. Especially how quick, easy and yummy it is.

Barb's Easy Vegetarian Bean Soup

Ingredients:

1 T Unflavored Coconut Oil, or Other Vegetable Oil
1 C Onion, Small Diced
1 Clove Garlic, Minced
½ C Carrot, Small Diced
1 C Celery, Small Diced
1/3 C Green or Sweet Pepper, Small Diced
4 C Vegetable Broth
1 t Ground Cumin
1 t Smoked Paprika
½ t Curry Powder
1 t Italian Seasoning
2 15.5 Ounce cans Vegetarian Refried Beans
1 t Apple Cider Vinegar

Continued on Page 7

Food for Thought — Continued

Directions: In a large Sauce pan, sauté onion in oil until translucent. Add garlic, carrot, celery and green pepper. Cook 5 minutes. Add vegetable broth and spices. Simmer 15 minutes. Add the refried beans and vinegar, stir gently until incorporated. Adjust salt, pepper and hot sauce to taste. Serve.



Come One, Come All

Mid-Michigan Mensa Holiday Party

Wendy Carnegie

HO! HO! HO! It's that time again! We'll be celebrating the Holidays with our Mensa family on Sunday, December 3, 2016. Bring your spouse, family, significant other and/or friends and enjoy some good food, great conversation, and our infamous White Elephant Gift Exchange. It will be at the home of Elizabeth Evangelista, 5275 East Hidden Lake Drive, East Lansing 48823. This is a sit-down dinner, and we will gather at about 4 PM and eat at about 5 PM.

Turkey, ham, potatoes and beverages will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

After dinner we will have a White Elephant gift exchange.

We need some volunteers to help clean up following the gift exchange. We will need help with dish washing/drying, take down and put away tables and chairs, etc. Please lend a hand.

Please RSVP with Elizabeth so she will know how much food to prepare. You can contact her at the above address, phone —517-351-3645, or email — evangel6@comcast.net

Santa — The Real Story

Everyone knows the Santa story. They know about the eight reindeer and the legend of Rudolph. As Paul Harvey used to say, “This is the rest of the story.”

1. Santa is Jewish.
2. Santa has 3 college degrees.
3. Santa is a member of Mid Michigan Mensa.
4. Santa plays chess.
5. Santa is a whiz at trivia games.
6. Santa loves sports.
7. Santa loves dogs.
8. Santa is a real nice guy.
9. Santa is a regular contributor to the Head-Line.
10. Santa is real and he is at the Meridian Mall in Okemos.

If any of the readership doubts any of the above I would suggest that they drop by the Santa set at Meridian Mall in Okemos on Grand River and see for themselves. Santa will be there Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve.

Yes, Virginia. There really is a Santa Claus.



November 2017 CALENDAR

Fri., Nov. 3	**CHARLIE'S BAR & GRILL:** 1957 Cedar St., Holt. It's just south of Holt Rd. They serve a variety of American food.
Sun., Nov. 5	**LIT SIG:**The Lit Sig will be meeting at 1:30 P. M. at Elizabeth Evangelista's to discuss *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. Come join us for discussion and treats. Elizabeth's lives at 5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr., Okemos. Her phone number is 351-3645. **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS:** Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before bed on November 4. YEA! I get an extra hour of sleep.
Fri., Nov. 10	**KINGSTON KITCHEN:** 4749 Central Park Dr. It's in Okemos across from Panera's. Serves Jamaican cuisine —hot and spicy only when requested. **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** To follow dinner.
Fri., Nov. 17	**RED CEDAR GRILL:** 150 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. Good food.
Sat., Nov. 18	**ESCAPE ROOM:** 2722 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Meet at 3:00 P.M. See page 5 for more information.
Fri., Nov. 24	**DELHI CAFE:** 4625 Willoughby Rd., Holt. It's between Cedar St. and Aurelius Rd. Good food — also serves good Greek food.
Fri., Dec. 1	**RUBY TUESDAY:** It's in the Meridian Mall. Good food — great salad bar. Santa Claus will try to join us. See page 8 for some fun information.
Sun., Dec. 3	**HOLIDAY PARTY:** Meet at Elizabeth Evangelista's — 5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr. Arrive at 4:00 P.M. and eat at 5:00 P.M. See page 7 for further information.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about 5:30 PM and order about 5:30 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, Where, When, and Why. The deadline to schedule an event is the 15th of the month before the event. You can contact Pat Thuemmel, Calendar Coord. at: 1604 Barritt St., Lansing, MI 48917; Phone: 517-927-1168; email: patjtl@comcast.net