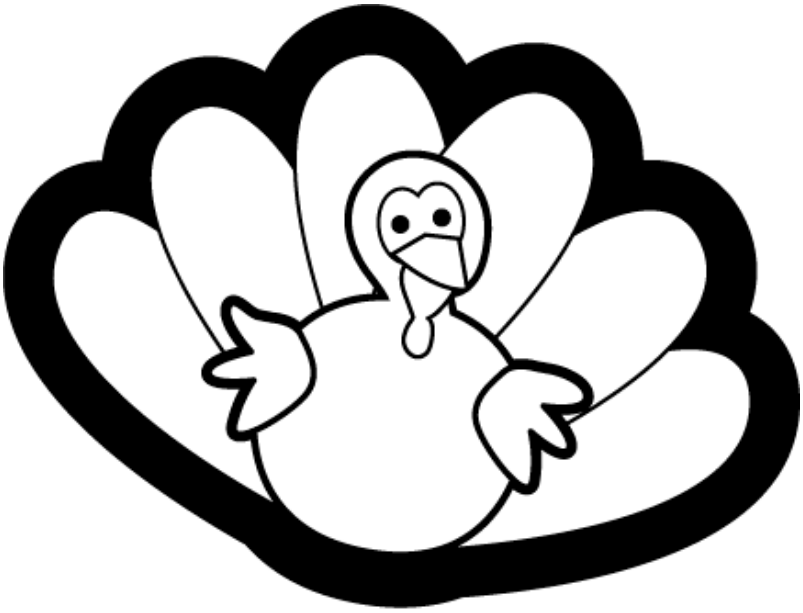
NOVEMBER 2018

Head-Line



The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 535



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HEAD-LINE NO. 535 NOVEMBER 2018
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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Email: RVC3@us.mensa.org

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'Like' Mid-Michigan Mensa on Facebook:
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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Editor's Column: From My Brain to Yours

by Sharon Plavnick

As I write this, I am also looking out my window at a downy woodpecker who is chomping away at peanut butter suet. The goldfinches are feasting on sunflower seeds as usual, although the bright yellow plumage of the males has already faded to a dull gold. The chickadees and nuthatches and tufted titmice continue to hold my attention as they flit around seeking out a smorgasbord diet.

I have come to form a passion for birdwatching late in life. Better late than never, yes? It's not that I didn't appreciate birds before this. I had a pet parakeet as a child. Flamingos have always been fascinating. And a serendipitous sojourn at the exact right time of year exposed me to the awesomeness of the huge sandhill crane migration in Nebraska.

But this summer, I discovered the simple charm of encouraging birds into my backyard. I started with a single hummingbird feeder, and my current inventory reveals 15 feeders now in play. It is time to consider buying stock in Wild Birds Unlimited.

I hate to leave my patio or my window seat and go about the business of life. If I do, I miss magical moments, like right now when a single mourning dove shows up to enjoy the dropped seeds that the ill-mannered finches scatter to the ground. A certain chipmunk shows up at exactly the same time, and even though the dove is twice his size, and flexes his wings in warning, the chipmunk is completely unimpressed.

And hello you beautiful scarlet cardinal! Why is it that you are always accompanied by two lady birds? Is there a ménage a trois going on in the bird world? A little research on *Birds and Blooms* tells me that cardinals do mate for life…but their track record is on a par with humans. So I think this fellow is a genius to have gotten both these females to stick around.

I've experienced many interests and passions throughout my life. Most of them wax and wane; but a few resonate so strongly that I can't imagine how I would get along if I couldn't have them in my life anymore. (Hmm… I detect a topic for a later column.) This bird stuff feels like a keeper. Readers, what about you? What interests became keepers in your life?

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chairman

November 2018

120 MEMBERS

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you

11 Dennis Laakso
25 John Forest
26 Peter Wood

MENSAversaries

Congratulations on your years with Mensa

17 Years Richard Shaffer
15 Years Bryan Sayles
6 Years Tod Eldred
6 Years Jacob MacDowell
1 Year Byron Williams
17 Years Matthew McNaughton
15 Years Richard Weingartner
6 Years Dora Ivkovich
2 Years Ronald Burl

New Members

Welcome — We're so glad you joined us

John Abbot — Mason



RVC 3 November, 2018 Column

John Voymas

There has been some discussion lately regarding the sale of the building where the national office is located. I have been an elected school board member and I am also a licensed real estate agent, so my background will hopefully bring some understanding.

There are two areas of board responsibility that are confidential: personnel issues and the buying and selling of real estate. I learned this many years ago when I was on my local school board. With real estate, the search and the negotiation process must be kept confidential, usually with a small committee handling the day-to-day details and providing periodic updates to their board. In America Mensa's case, the fact that the Foundation was selling the building was made public at the ABM in Indianapolis.

Yes, the Foundation owned the building, not American Mensa. They leased office space to American Mensa. The Foundation board has the responsibility to manage their resources in the way they deem best. Investing in real estate is a common way to invest and to achieve a gain on resources. The market value of any property is what a ready, willing, and able buyer is willing to pay. When such a buyer was found, the Foundation made the decision to sell. If you have questions on further details, Marie Mayer, at the Foundation, would be the appropriate person to ask.

Switching topics ... how can local groups grow their membership? Scott Snider, the marketing person at the national office has been kind enough to provide me with some information to share. It includes some links which are active for specific roles/officers of local groups. There is a plethora of material and I recommend that local ExComms divvy up these resource areas with members of the local group to pursue outreach to potential new members. It will make the work lighter and easier by sharing the load. Scott can be reached by email at ScottS@americanmensa.org.

Here is what Scott has to say:

You're Not Alone

Continued on Page 4

RVC Column — Continued

When it comes to marketing your Local Group, it may sometimes feel like you're a lone warrior facing down a stampeding throng. Where do I start? Which mediums are effective recruiting tools? Which are time-sucks that provide little return? Well, you're not alone: At your disposal are a trove of people, tools, and best-practices documents to help you market your Local Group and publicize its good works. In the past 18-or-so months, we've released and revamped tools:

- The **Prospect Management Tool** helps manage and query prospective members in your group's area.
- The **Email Your Members Tool** (think a nuts-and-bolts Mailchimp or Constant Contact) to help you effectively communicate to those queried audiences.
- Our **recently released marketing and PR vertical** of officer resources containing an all-in-one sharehouse of print and digital ads and social graphics for recruitment and highlighting programs; a comprehensive guide to garnering local publicity; press templates; and more.

In addition, that vertical contact information for a handful national staffers who'd love to hear from you, brainstorm critical art or marketing projects, and provide professional marketing support to help joy crush your next event appearance.

You needn't be the lone warrior on the field of battle – just one call, email, or Facebook message separates you from a battalion of reinforcements.

Oh, one last RVC item ... Elections are coming up Candidate petitions can be submitted between December 1 and January 31. You can find more info at https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/.

Annual Holiday Party

Wendy Carnegie

This year our annual Holiday Party will be a bit different. We have let Elizabeth retire from hosting the party. It will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2018. It will be in the Social Hall of a church. Both date and time have been reserved, but at this last minute, I don't have the name of the church or the time the actual time, other than it will be in the afternoon. Final information will be in the December Head-Line. Also there will be an Elephant Gift Exchange.

Food for Thought

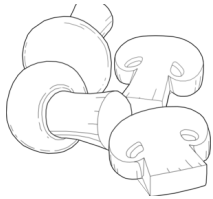
Barb Ford

The Holidays are coming up, and many people will likely find themselves seated at a large table laden with food. Most folks count on a few traditional items to be on the menu. For now, I would like to address the "Green Bean Casserole." I loved this dish as a kid but find it entirely too rich and salty for my taste today. I have attempted to come up with a new green bean dish. I realize there will always be purists who must have the old favorite at the holiday table. That's fine. This new green bean recipe may be an option that many will enjoy.

BARB'S FESTIVE GREEN BEANS

Ingredients:

2 T Vegetable Oil
2 Cups Onion, Diced Medium
1 Pound Sliced Fresh Mushrooms, Any Variety
48 Oz Frozen Cut Green Beans
4 Cups Water
1 Beef Bouillon Cube
1 T Garlic powder
2 t Italian Seasoning
2 t Smoked Paprika
8 Slices Smoked Prosciutto, Chopped Finely



Directions:

In a large pot, cook the onions in oil until slightly caramelized. Add mushrooms, cooking until they begin to brown. Add the beans, water bouillon cube and seasonings. Stir and bring to a gentle boil. Cover, and simmer for a few minutes until the beans are tender. Strain out the cooking liquid* and gently stir in the smoked prosciutto. Cover and remove from the heat for a few minutes. Serve.

This recipe can serve 20 people, but the leftovers are great later.

*Note: If desired, the strained cooking liquid can be reserved and used for a soup base later.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Steering Committee Minutes

Meeting of October 12, 2018

Bob Henderson, Scribe

The October 2018 MMM Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on October 12, 2018 following our TGIF at Coral Gables. Officers and Committee members Wendy Carnegie, John Garrison, Bob Henderson and Squire Jaros attended.

Old Business: The minutes of the September 2018 Steering Committee meeting were read and approved by the members present.

Ginny Henderson has not been able to obtain a firm commitment for the use of the downstairs venue at Martin Luther Chapel in East Lansing for a catered Holiday Party on December 8. Another group has been meeting there in recent years, but they have not yet made arrangements for this year. Ginny will continue to press MLC staff to reserve this venue for the 8th. If necessary we could postpone our Holiday Party until after Christmas.

New Business: Wendy noted that we do not have enough active members to fill all of the officer and appointed positions specified in the Mid-Michigan Mensa bylaws. A change in the group bylaws would require the approval of the MMM membership and American Mensa Limited. The membership and AML would also have to approve any decision to disband the group. Wendy agreed to discuss these concerns with Region 3 Vice Chair John Voymas to get his ideas on how best to resolve them.

Aaron volunteered to serve on the MMM Steering Committee to fill the vacancy left by Pat Thuemmel, who has been unable to attend meetings.

Mid-Michigan Mensa will not conduct admission testing in October due to scheduling issues between our Proctor and the limited number of local test venues. It was recommended that we train more Proctors, but this would require that they meet AML requirements including admission test audits.

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved, seconded and approved that we adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report

Quarter Ending September 30, 2018

BEGINNING BALANCE		**$5,224.16**
INCOME		**294.61**
National Subsidy June 2018	$97.05	
National Subsidy July 2018	97.90	
National Subsidy Aug. 2018	99.60	
Savings interest	0.06	
EXPENDITURES		**198.77**
Purchase MMM checks	18.23	
Anniv. Party supplies - G. Wolfe	53.15	
Head-Line		
Printing JAS issues	63.18	
Postage JAS issues	60.21	
Money order fees	4.00	
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
Checking		3,239.55
Savings		1,997.48
Post Office		82.97
ENDING BALANCE		**$5,320.00**

Editor's Correction

Sharon Plavnick

Last month my Editor's Column contained an essay about unsolicited advice that I gave out dealing with a theme of "just do it." An inadvertent printing error caused the last two paragraphs to be omitted, leaving a rather abrupt and choppy ending. Oh Horrors!! My precious words!!

I won't reprint the article in full, but I do want the last two paragraphs in the record, so here they are:

> In both situations, the person I spouted off to made the phone call and made the plane reservation. I sure hope they each come back home with the same certainty that they made the right decision.
>
> What about you? Is there someone you need to see one more time? I'd love to hear about the results of your just-go moment.

I am pleased to report that one of the persons I mentioned did indeed come home very pleased with his decision to go. Whew…so far, so good.

November Thought Question

We will soon know the results of the mid-term elections. Will the political landscape undergo a major shift of the pendulum in response to the riveting events of the past two years? Is there a solution to the partisan lines that seem to be more deeply drawn than ever? Is there a way to retain the best elements of this democratic republic without all the drama that seems to unfold daily? Is the Constitution really under siege, and if so, by which philosophy?

I have thoughts and opinions about these questions, but not a single firm answer. I rather doubt that there is a firm answer. But we could certainly do better, right? What would make us better?

Send your thoughts to me by email: sharonslp@ameritech.net
I'll publish as many responses as I can. I do reserve the right to edit for grammar and spelling. I also reserve the right to edit for brevity if needed, but I'll consult with you first.

November 2018 Calendar

Fri., Nov. 2	**TGIF - SOUP SPOON CAFE:** 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Wide menu selection, including vegan choices. MMM's have enjoyed eating there since our Escape Room adventure last November.
Fri., Nov. 9	**TGIF - CANCUN MEXICAN GRILL:** 2398 Jolly Rd, Okemos, west of Okemos Rd. Good Mexican food and big margaritas. **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**: to follow dinner.
Fri. Nov. 16	**TGIF - HIBACHI GRILL & SUSHI BUFFET:** 5837 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, in Delta Center. Large selection of Oriental foods, with sushi, salad, and dessert buffets.
Fri., Nov. 23	**TGIF - BOSTON'S RESTAURANT & SPORTS BAR:** 3301 Towne Centre Blvd, Lansing. Sports-themed bar serving gourmet pizzas, burgers, wings & more in a relaxed space.
Fri. Nov. 30	**TGIF - OZZZY'S KABOB**: 3536 Meridian Crossings Dr. #260 in the Meridian Crossings Mall. Low-key venue for typical Middle Eastern fare such as chicken shawarma and a tasty okra stew
Fri., Dec. 7	**TGIF - DELI CAFE:** 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. Good Greek and American food.
Sat., Dec. 8	**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY:** Save the date. Further information in Dec. Head-Line. Contact Wendy Carnegie orGinny Brunke Henderson with questions.
Fri., Dec. 14	**TGIF - TONY M'S:** 3420 Creyts Road, Lansing. Family-owned Italian restaurant featuring pizza, pasta, burgers and salads. **Steering Committee Meeting:** to follow dinner.

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 Ginny Brunke Henderson, Calendar Coord. at: gbrunkh@peoplepc.com or 517-676-3369. Calendar event information can also be found on the Mid-Michigan Website: www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org