February 2020

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 550



HEAD-LINE NO. 550 February 2020
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.

The Head-Line is the monthly publication of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Annual subscription rate is $5.00 for members and is paid through American Mensa, LTD. The annual non-member rate is $10.00 and is limited to current members of other Mensa groups. Office of Publication is 3369 Harper Rd; Mason MI 48854.

EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I am freshly returned from my fourth granddaughter trip to The Happiest Place on Earth. I keep a tight eye on my expenses, and they continue to go up with each trip. Not all of that is due to rising costs at Disney World. It also hinges on whether I have any points saved up for plane fare, and how much the fare is at the time I book. My first trip was only 4 days, then 5, and the last two were 6 days. Each day means another resort hotel night, and another day of tickets into the theme parks. There are ways to economize when going to Disney World, but it still puts a pinch on the pocket book. I am profoundly grateful to be a position to do this though, and the memories I create with each of my granddaughters is priceless. I have one more trip to go, which will take place at the end of April. This lucky child gets a few extras because I am thinking this might be the last time I ever go, so I don't want to miss a thing. Don't you wish I was YOUR grandmother?

This issue of The Head-Line is where we say goodbye to the talents of Wendy Carnegie who has kept this rag going for a good many years now. Wendy will continue to serve on the Steering Committee, and we'll see her lovely smile at TGs as usual. While I've been writing most of the content since last March, Wendy has been doing all the layout tasks. If you see any glaring errors or omissions in this issue, it's because I truly don't know what I'm doing yet. You might see more white space than usual. You might see pages out of order. Bear with me while I get the hang of this.

John Garrison will be taking over Wendy's distribution responsibilities. So I'll get this baby to the printer, and he takes over from there. If you don't get this issue, be sure to take it up with John. (Haha…do you see what I did there?)

As always, any comments, concerns, questions, or responses… send to me at sharonslp@ameritech.net

RVC 3 FEBRUARY, 2020 Column

John Voymas

President's Month is here!

Hopefully, by the time you read this, Mensa testing at a public test location will be active. This is not intended to replace proctored testing but is an additional avenue for people who have difficulty scheduling a proctored test session or who prefer to test privately.

Memberships are up! Yes, American Mensa membership is on the upswing and we are ahead of where we were at this time one year ago. With the addition of public testing sites, we should be in very good shape.

Also this month, the Mensa Connect communities for all Local Groups should be active. This can be a great way to post last minute info and to have spirited discussions. Be the first in your group to post! BTW, you control the vertical, you control the horizontal ... oops, that is from an old television show. What I mean to say is that you control whether you receive immediate updates, a daily digest, or you can turn off receiving any email and just check out your local group community whenever you choose.

In March, Dayton Area Mensa plans on their regional gathering. I'll post info as soon as I hear, most likely to the various Local Group and Region 3 Facebook pages. Be sure to attend Southeast Michigan Mensa's RG on Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19. Info is at https://mensadetroit.com/semmantics/. 'Looking forward to seeing you!' there. For more information on upcoming events, you can also check out the Events listing (under the ATTEND drop down) on the American Mensa website at https://www.us.mensa.org/ or check out the RG listings in the Mensa Bulletin.

The Annual Gathering in 2020 will be in Kansas City, MO from July 1 - 5. The day before, the Colloquium will focus on "Advances in Food Science". I hope to see you at both the Colloquium and the AG. For more info on these national events, the direct link is https://ag.us.mensa.org/.

Columbus Area Mensa will host their RG from Friday, October 2 through Sunday, October 4 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Columbus-Worthington. More information will be posted on their website at http://www.columbus.us.mensa.org/.

Be seeing you!

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report		
Quarter Ending December 31, 2019		
STARTING BALANCE		**$5,556.08**
INCOME		**354.51**
National Subsidy Sept. 2019	$103.70	
National Subsidy Oct. 2019	136.10	
National Subsidy Nov. 2019	114.65	
Savings interest	0.06	
EXPENDITURES		**42.05**
Head-Line		
Printing OND	0.00	
Postage ND	42.05	
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
Checking		3,744.55
Savings		1,997.78
Post Office		126.21
ENDING BALANCE		**$5,868.54**

Respectfully submitted, Bob Henderson, Treasurer

February 2020

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chair

133 Members

FEBRUARY MENSA BIRTHDAYS

1 Gary Johncox
1 Squire Jaros
15 Gordon McDonald
17 Corina Andorfer
19 David Uhrman
21 David Macik
25 Todd Eldrid

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 year Sandra Callis
3 years Eric Roath
5 years Charles Rose
5 years Roderick Baltzer
9 years Carol Duane
10 years Steven Spitzley
19 years Douglas McCall
40 years Joan Forgrave
46 years Patrick Wolf

Other Matters

RIP B. Joanne Sullivan
(see obituary on page 6)

- **Former Steering Committee member.**
- **Lit Sig Coordinator**
- **Scholarship Chair**
- **All around Great Individual**

We will all miss her.

STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

We did not have a quorum of steering committee members in attendance at the January 10th TG, so there are no minutes to report this month.

RIP JOANNE SULLIVAN

It is with great sadness that we report the death of long-time member, Joanne Sullivan. Joanne was a very active member for all her years in Mid-Michigan Mensa, notably serving as our Scholarship Chair, and Gifted Youth Coordinator for many years until her recent illness. She was a regular at the Friday night TG table, and I for one will miss her witty and intelligent conversation.

Obituary

ST. JOHNS - B. Joanne Sullivan, age 72, of St. Johns, MI, passed away Sunday, January 5, 2020, at Hazel Findley Manor, St. Johns, MI.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a future date to be announced.

Joanne was born in Wenatchee, Washington on April 1, 1947, the daughter of Jack Gibson and Thelma Joyce (Butler) Webster. She graduated from Nathan Hale High School and Way College of Biblical Research. Joanne married David Sullivan on July 16, 1980 in Rome City, Indiana.

Joanne was past director of the Clinton County Senior Center and was a past treasurer for the Lioness Club. She was a member of MENSA and involved with Caring and Sharing Family Life Services. Joanne was involved in the community and enjoyed volunteering.

She is survived by her husband David Sullivan of St. Johns, MI, children: Christine and David Vacca of Olmsted Township, OH; Jessica and Ian Forsyth of Ann Arbor, MI; and Thomas Sullivan of Melborne, FL. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes. com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, MI.

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN
Meet Mike Knowlton

First Job: Between the ages of fourteen and seventeen I traveled with Gooding's Million Dollar Midway and other carnivals during the summer months. I worked game concessions for my Dad. I was pretty good at talking people out of their last dime, four-eyed nerd that I was. I remember working by myself at a festival in Livonia when I was fourteen, sleeping in a trailer with a $1000 bank in my sleeping bag to keep it safe. I also remember sleeping in a car for a week at the State Fairgrounds on 8 Mile. My dad had left me there to paint our pony ring for the upcoming State Fair. I learned quite a bit about life during those years.

Best Job: Teaching at a General Motors stamping plant, and in the military. I loved it! I worked for GM for thirty-six years, retiring as a Journeyman Diemaker. Not particularity fond of my time on the factory floor, but my ten or so years as a classroom instructor was excellent. As for the military, I retired from the Army Reserve as a Sergeant First Class (SFC) with twenty years of combined active duty/reserve service. I served for awhile as a Reserve Drill Sergeant, a former squid teaching infantry skills. Who would have guessed?

Worst Job: 5th hand on a paper machine at Kalamazoo Paper Co. My role was gofer and dirty-job doer. I lasted one week.

Education: I held court at the Karmel Korn Shop down the street from Kalamazoo Central High School for three years, a skilled truant. I dropped out of school after my third year in the tenth grade to join the Navy. I scored rather well on the aptitude test they gave us in boot camp and the Navy sent me to Electronics Technician Class "A" School. I had to teach myself trig, and a little bit of calculus to make it through, but I made it. Heck, the Navy even promoted me a few times. When I returned to the world, I enrolled at Western Michigan University with ambitions of becoming an elementary school teacher. During my time in the Navy, I managed to earn twenty-six undergraduate credit hours taking the CLEP (College Level Examination Program) exam, Western accepted these credits, I had tested out of my Freshman year. Life happened… marriage, child, job responsibilities. I found myself making nearly three times the starting salary of a school teacher in the Kalamazoo system working as an apprentice diemaker, so I put my dreams on hold. I have held senior status at the university since 1973. I am told, two more classes and the Wizard will issue me a brain. (cont.)

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN (CONT)

Family: Divorced with one most excellent daughter. I am not just proud of her; I stand in awe.

How I became a Mensa member: I was serving in Vietnam aboard a repair barge, servicing river patrol boat radars in the Mekong Delta. One night we were sitting in our shop reading a copy of Argosy magazine. This particular issue had a photo of one of our SEAL team members on the cover. As I skimmed through the magazine, I came across an article about this organization whose members scored well on IQ tests. I sent a letter to what was then the National Office in New York City. As I recall, the contact name was Margot S….? She responded and I managed to get some documentation to her, attesting to my self-perceived brilliance. She responded; I was in! This was the Fall of 1968. I have been a Mensa member on and off for the past fifty-one years. I hardly ever make meetings; I subscribe to the Groucho Marks take on groups… I am suspicious of any organization that would have me as a member. (Just kidding, just kidding).

Bucket List: Frame my brain and hang it on the wall. Return to Vietnam - Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) and the village of My Tho specifically.

Not your typical Mensa member, but then, who is?

LET'S MEET YOU

Members of MMM: I need your responses. No need to wait for me to email or call you; just send it in. Don't overthink it; one or two sentences per topic is just fine. Respond to as many topic headings as you want; omit any you don't want. Make up your own topics. I need my March Mensan ASAP.

Submit to Sharon Plavnick at ameritech.net

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

For some reason I have been craving fruit lately. I decided to experiment with a compote. This cooked concoction is turning out to be quite versatile. Serve a spoonful alongside any roasted or grilled meat, in yogurt, on ice cream and even spread on toast. Easy to make, this recipe is best made a few days before serving. Make and share this treat with those you love. Change it up. Make it your own.

BARB'S FRUIT COMPOTE

Ingredients:
1 20 Ounce Can Pineapple Chunks in Natural Juice (Juice Included)
1 C Fresh Organic Cranberries
1 Medium Apple, Diced, With Skin
2 Fresh Mandarin Oranges, Peeled and Chopped
1 Pinch Allspice
1 Pinch Ground Cardamom
1 Pinch Sea Salt
¼ C Diced Crystallized Ginger
½ C Sugar

Directions:
In a large sauce pan, combine all ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 25 minutes, stirring frequently. Turn off heat, cover and allow mixture to cool in the pan. Place in an airtight container. Refrigerate.

FEBRUARY 2020 CALENDAR

Fri. Feb. 7 **TGIF - Olga's Kitchen:** 354 Frandor Ave. in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwich.

Fri.Feb.14 **TGIF - Boston Market:** 6435 S Cedar St, Holt, between Willoughby Rd and Aurelius Rd. Tasty ready-to-serve dishes.

Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

Fri. Feb. 21 **TGIF - Red Lobster:** 3130 East Saginaw St, Lansing, just north of the Frandor Shopping Center. Delicious seafood, especially lobster!

Fri. Feb. 28 **TGIF - Pizza House:** 4790 S Hagedorn Rd in the Hannah Plaza, East Lansing. Good selection of Italian food and, of course, pizza

Fri. Mar. 6 **TGIF - Henry's Place Neighborhood Pub:** 4926 Marsh Rd, Okemos. New American Cuisine with inspiration from all over the world.

Fri. Mar.13 **TGIF** - Grand Traverse Pie Company: 1403 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing. It's in the Brookfield Plaza at the corner of Grand River Ave and Hagadorn Rd. Service is cafeteria style, so bus your own dishes before you leave. Quiches, pot pies, pasties, sandwiches, wraps, soups, salads, and, of course, pie (best a-la-mode).

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**. 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 Mensa website at http://midmichigan.us.mensa.org/calendar.html