MARCH 2020

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 551



HEAD-LINE NO. 551 March 2020
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

So last month, in the February issue, I gave you all a retest. Did you pass? Did you figure out how to read the full issue of the Head-Line is spite of my mixed-up page layout?

The bigger question is whether I can pass the retest with this issue. Obviously I didn't quite get the hang of how to transfer my completed document from the Pages application to the layout required by our printer. I'm hoping to nail it with this current March issue, but if it turns out that I goof it up again, please be patient with me. I'm a work-in-progress.

In the meantime, I want to thank the contributors to this issue. Shout-outs to:

- **Bob Barrie** for our stellar cover design; Bob is a cartoonist who contributes many of our covers;
- **John Garrison** for contributing an article this month, as well as for his new duties as Distribution Manager;
- **Karen Petersmarck** for responding to this month's Meet a Mensan series. I've known Karen for more than a quarter of a century now, but I learned new things about her.
- **Barb Ford** for yet another in her wonderful and thoughtful recipe series;
- **John Voymas**, who keeps us informed every month about the wider world of Mensa as our Region 3 representative;
- **Ginny Brunke Henderson**, who makes sure we have a restaurant each week for our famous Friday night TGs.

RVC 3 MARCH, 2020 Column

John Voymas

The AMC board meeting is on Saturday, March 21. Any member of American Mensa is welcome to call in to the meeting to hear our deliberations. Information will be available at https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/american-mensa-committee-meeting/. One of the topics

that may be discussed at the meeting is what is the definition of an "official" Mensa meeting – is it limited to meetings hosted by American Mensa or the Local Group ExComm or does it include every item listed in the local group's calendar of events or perhaps any event where any amount of local group funds are expended (e.g. $25 for snacks)? **I would appreciate your input on this prior to the meeting.** Please contact me via email at rvc3@us.mensa.org. We may also discuss what is "unacceptable behavior" at an event.

On February 12, a webinar was held to present the new electronic testing approach. We are expecting this to open an additional pathway for prospective members to qualify to join American Mensa.

The Mensa Voucher Program (MVP) has been extended through March 31. This is a great way for friends, neighbors, and countrypersons to see if they qualify to join as the fee for testing or for prior evidence certification is waived. Forgotten your group's code? Search your inbox for "Invite a friend using your MVP code" or ask a Local Group officer. Getting the code in the hands of the right friends and colleagues will result in more codes redeemed and processed, and then more new members.

Check out the https://www.us.mensa.org/ website! Improvements have been made to speed it up, and the long-awaited Search function has returned. Have fun exploring the new and improved site.

March 20 -22 Dayton Area Mensa will host DAMNations 32, their regional gathering. Information is on their Facebook page. You can also go to http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org/index_files/rg.html to get additional details. Be sure to attend Southeast Michigan Mensa's RG on Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19. Info is at https://mensadetroit.com/semmantics/. 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/.

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".

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/.

March 2020
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
John Garrison, Membership Chair

133 Members

MARCH MENSA BIRTHDAYS

2 Jeffrey Buchhop
4 David Brown
4 Eric Lager
5 Roderick Baltzer
17 Eric Sanco
18 Steven Spitzley
26 Thomas Korkoske
26 Frank Dolinar

MENSAVERSARIES

1 Carol Scot
1 Sheila McCoy
4 Ian Smith
5 Jennifer Foesal
6 Mason Miller
7 Kobe Hexon
9 Neal Forss
10 Kathleen Kohagen
11 Eric Laverty
11 Keith Shaw
14 John Paduch
20 Roberta McCall
25 David Uhrmann
45 Elizabeth Evangelista

Other Matters

RIP Patrick Wolf (8/19)
45 YEAR MEMBER
All around great guy.

We will miss HIM.

]

BRAIN TEASER

If a chicken and a half can lay an egg and a half in a day and a half: How long would it take a rooster to hatch a brass doorknob?

ANSWER

A shirt because a vest has no sleeves.

STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 14, 2020
Wendy Carnegie, Scribe

PRESENT: Bob Henderson, LocSec; Elizabeth Evangelista, Vice LocSec; Wendy Carnegie, Scribe; Sharon Plavnick; and Squire Jaros.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

There was no meeting in January so there are no January minutes. Wendy made a motion to accept the December, 2019, meeting minutes as printed. Sharon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Bob said there were problems with the election process in the by-laws and it needed to be rewritten. Following discussion a format for the election process was worked out and the by-laws will be gone over again at the next meeting.

There was a conflict with some of the Steering Committee members not able to attend the March meeting. After discussion, it was decided to change the meeting date from March 13 to March 24, 2020.

Bob reported that Roy Saper is working on the Annual Audit.

Bob also reported that he and Marvin Fouty are Co-Chairs for the Scholarship committee. At this time the committee is doing the first round of judging the submitted essays. This part of the selection process ends February 15. A second round of judging will then occur to further weed out candidates. It will be done around the middle of March.

John Garrison passed along a report from Roy Saper that long-time member, Patrick Wolf, passed away August 7, 2019. No other information is known at this time.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

RIP JOANNE SULLIVAN MEMORIAL UPDATE

Joanne's husband, Dave, wants everyone who knew Joanne to know about the plans for her Celebration of Life. It will be held on Saturday, **March 14** from 1 to 4 pm, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in St. Johns (1108 Old US 27)

This is truly intended to be a celebration. Per Joanne's wishes, there will be dancing and light refreshments. Yes…dancing! That's our Joanne, spunky and lively as always.

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN
Meet Karen Petersmarck

Your first job? Your best job? Your worst job? Your dream job?
My very best job was at the end of my career, when I was assigned to staff Engler's Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. Unexpectedly, $1M in funding was allocated, so we could really do things. I headed up our "walkable communities" initiative, which I loved because it addressed both mental health and physical health. I made up an awards program to recognize communities who were doing the right things, which made Michigan kind of famous at the time. The award program resulted in invitations to speak at international conferences and friendships with some great people around the country.

Favorite season?
My favorite season is any time I am at Beaver Island, which would be July-September.

Marriages/Divorces/Children
Two marriages, both of which were good until the first husband ran off with his secretary. It was worth being single for 17 years after that when Bob Lockhart showed up in my life on a blind date. We had 13 ½ years together before he passed away. My two children are now 40ish. John is in Minneapolis, MN. Liz in Portland, MI.

Favorite travel experience
The best trip was an Inside Passage Cruise in Alaska on a 20-passenger boat. The best moment occurred in an inlet named "Ford's Terror" (the name reflects the emotional state of the boat captain getting in and out of the place). Once the treacherous inlet was traversed, it was a very isolated, calm, green spot, with lots of wildlife in view. I can still recall what it was like paddling around with my daughter in a two-woman kayak – the smell of the pure air, the color of the clean, deep water and joy that flooded into my heart from sharing that with Elizabeth.

What you like best about being a Mensan
The quirky, interesting people that Mensa has brought into my life.

Something important you learned in HS
When you go out to lunch at Burger King with 19 other kids in your class, just get up and leave when you see the waitress coming with 19 hamburgers and one BLT.

Educational background
Bachelor's in Food Science (MSU), Master's in Public Health Nutrition (U of M), PhD in Human Nutrition (MSU, at age 50)

Hobbies/interests

1. I love riding my bike. This year, I hope to ride every mile of trail around Lansing, check out the Fred Meijers Trail in West Michigan, and do the Betsie Valley Trail up around Beulah. Would anyone like to come along?
2. Writing. Before the summer, I hope to prepare for publication the wonderful stories my late husband wrote in our "Life Stories" class. His family will treasure them. They are well-written and funny. Then I will try to finish editing all the stories I was able to wring out of my family about our grandparents and my parents. Lots of good material there.

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 an April Mensan ASAP.

Submit to Sharon Plavnick at sharonslp@ameritech.net

After Glo Party a Success!

Wendy Carnegie

The After Glo Party in January was a great success. Approximately 26 members and guests attended. Mid-Michigan Mensa paid for the meat that was served (Cooked by Karen Petersmarck and Elizabeth Evangelista) and members brought side dishes and desserts. There was lots of conversation and laughter. Dirty Christmas was played with children's books and a car cover making many rounds. A fun time was had by all.

THIS PUNNY LIFE:
A BANKING EXPERIENCE

By Uncle John

I have to tell you about a banking experience that happened recently at the credit union I belong to. As I entered the building I saw a rather large bullfrog wearing a backpack sitting on the outside of the door. As I approached he spoke to me. He asked me to please hold the door open for him because he had business to attend to at the credit union. I was totally taken aback because he spoke perfect English with a touch of a French accent. As I hesitated he explained that he was part of a troupe of talking animals currently traveling with a circus. I held the door open for him and he easily hopped through the doorway. He looked around and then sprang onto the desk of the assistant manager. Her name plate said Miss Patricia Wackington. As she gaped at him he politely introduced himself and told her that he wanted to borrow $10,000 so that he could start a business selling imported worms to all of his friends.

I must say that his presence caused quite a stir among the other patrons in the credit union. The manager, a Mister Goldenrod, who was on his way out the door to keep an important lunch appointment with his wife, hurried over and asked what the commotion was all about. Pat explained to him about the talking frog and his strange request. Mister branch manager asked the frog if he had any collateral to secure the loan. Froggy reached into his backpack and produced a small white box. He opened it to reveal a small glassine carving of a mouse. He explained that it had once belonged to Nicholas II and was quite valuable. Mr. Goldy examined the mouse and saw a “made in China” sticker on its bottom. He knew that the mouse had very little value but he was in a hurry to get home and into the waiting arms of his wife.

In his haste to leave he blurted out. It’s a knick knack Patty Wack, give the frog the loan. This old man is going home.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

In my quest to find healthy and tasty foods to add to my diet, I have tried many things. Chia seeds are an ancient South American staple food that is surprisingly healthy. But what do you do with it? I have heard that the ancients used to chew the seeds for energy. Um, that did not work for me. When soaked, the coating on the seeds releases gelatinous soluble fiber goodness. Hmmmm. Just for fun, I thought I would try my own way to speed up the process of getting these seeds to turn into something edible. I decided I would experiment with one of my favorite kitchen appliances: the Keurig. That's right. Hey, don't laugh. This turned out great on the first try, and it is now one of my faves.
Cook's note…. I had just brewed a fresh cup of coffee and wanted to get this pudding going while the machine was hot. I forgot to remove the used K-Cup Pod…. Well, the result was a mild mocha flavor. Yum.

Barb's Cold "Hot Chocolate" Chia Pudding

Ingredients:
1 Envelope Instant Hot Chocolate (Your Favorite Brand)
2 T White Chia Seeds (Black Chia is fine)
1 Pinch Sea Salt
1 Pinch Cinnamon or Allspice
8 Ounces Hot Water Brewed Through a Keurig
2 Drops Vanilla extract

Directions:
Place all dry ingredients in a one pint canning jar. Place on the Keurig brewing platform. Brew 8 ounces water through the unit directly into the jar. Stir vigorously and set aside to slowly cool. When the pudding reaches room temperature, stir in the vanilla. Cover tightly and refrigerate overnight or a couple days, stirring occasionally. This keeps well for a few days. Eat it as it is or add fruit. Bananas are good with it.

Variation: stir in a tablespoon of your favorite peanut butter while it is hot.
This is a seriously good and convenient way to enjoy chia. Who doesn't love chocolate. Who knew we could eat our Chia Pet?

"Chocolate: it flatters you for a while, it warms you for an instant; then all of a sudden, it kindles a mortal fever in you." *Marquise Marie de Sevigne*

MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

Fri. Feb. 28 **TGIF -** Pizza House: 4790 S Hagadorn 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 - P. F. Chang's China Bistro**: In Eastwood Towne Center, 2425 Lake Lansing Rd, Lansing. Upscale Chinese restaurant featuring Asian-inspired dishes made fresh.

Sat. Mar. 14 **Celebration of Life** for Joanne Sullivan: 1108 Old US 27 in St. Johns, from 1 to 4 PM. See article for more details.

Fri. Mar. 20 **TGIF - Grand Traverse Pie Company**: 1403 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing,at the corner of Grand River Ave and Hagadorn Rd. Service is cafeteria style.. Quiches, pot pies, pasties, sandwiches, wraps, soups, salads, and, of course, pie

Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.
(Note change to 3rd Friday this month only)

Fri. Mar. 27 **TGIF - State Room Restaurant:** At Kellogg Center, 219 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing. High-end hotel eatery with a warm vibe offering seasonal American cuisine and an extensive wine list.

Fri. Apr. 3 **TGIF - Lucky's Steakhouse:** 3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos. Famous for their seafood, steaks, and prime rib with all the trimmings.

Fri. Apr. 10 **TGIF - Delhi Cafe:** 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

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