FEBRUARY 2021

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 562



HEAD-LINE NO. 562 FEBRUARY 2021
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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JOIN 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 planned, we are ensconced in our Venice, Florida condo and loving it. If we have to endure the self-isolating of a pandemic during the winter, this is the way to do it. Just 10 minutes of walking and I'm at the beach watching the seagulls and the pelicans play. 10 minutes in the other direction, and I'm downtown in the historic shopping district. This year I have to content myself with window shopping, but next year my credit card may take a hit.

We are out bike riding as planned just about every afternoon. In the early evenings we find a neat spot to watch the sun set, or watch birds flying back to their homes to roost for the night.

What a life! I keep pinching myself to make sure it's real. I'm also double-masking and staying very distanced to make sure I keep away from Covid cooties. It's possible that we could get the vaccine while we are still here, but I'm not counting on it. The distribution in this county so far has been dismal. We are in the top priority group to get it (65+), but that means nothing when there are so few vaccines available and the sign-up methods are haphazard. I hope by next month's column I may have a better report about this.

In the meantime, I hope my Michigan pals are all getting their vaccines in a far more timely fashion. I'm looking forward to swapping tales about our experiences at a TG maybe this summer. Until then, stay safe, everyone.

What about all of you? If you want to respond to anything you read in this issue, send it along to me at: sharonslp@ameritech.net

LOC SEC COLUMN

Bob's Two Bits for February 2021

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

As I write this on January 20, we have just sworn in a new U.S. president and Congress, giving many reasons for hope but others cause for alarm. It shouldn't have to be that way. . . our Founding Fathers believed that well-informed voters could be counted on to vote in their own best interests and the best interests of the nation they love as well. I think Jefferson even said that he would prefer to live in a nation without a government than a nation without newspapers!

Sadly, too many voters have been misinformed by others who do not have the same broad interests but instead seek to profit by spreading self-serving "alternative facts." Voltaire wisely warned us that those who can make us believe absurdities can make us commit atrocities. As a Mensan and trained engineer, I carry a torch for verifiable facts, logic, and critical thinking over conspiracy theories, motivated thinking, and intellectual dishonesty. Carl Sagan and others have warned of the dangers of valuing show over substance and have also give us powerful tools to help us separate fact from fiction. Let's hope we can all learn to use them wisely.

There is very little new MMM activity to report. The 4th Quarter 2020 Treasurer's Report published elsewhere in this issue has no income listed other than the monthly AML National subsidy and no expenses listed but the printed Head-Line mailing costs. The ongoing pandemic has put a damper on all social activities and still threatens to get worse before it gets better. . . I suggest that we socialize online by visiting MMM's Facebook and Web pages regularly. All respectful comments are welcome (although it stings a bit that one poster described me as "not personable")!

In online news, the MMM Web page has had a few recent updates that make it worth another look. There is a new "Puzzles" tab at the top of the homepage as well as new content on the page that it points to. The "X-Marks-the-Spot" link takes you to a puzzle site outside of Mensa that features 48 new puzzles in 6 sets of increasing difficulty. Can you raise the sunken pirate treasures? I have the solutions if you are tempted to conclude that you have found an unsolvable puzzle!

RVC 3 FEBRUARY, 2021 Column

John Voymas

By the time that you read this, the nomination phase of the American Mensa election season will have ended. I am not a candidate for Regional Vice President for Region 3. I strongly believe in term limits and set the example when I am an officer of an organization. When I ran two years ago, I knew that I would not be running for a third term this year. There are many qualified members of Mensa in our region. They can bring their own ideas to the AMC. Different ideas can help make American Mensa even better.

There has been discussion in different Mensa communities as to whether the nomination thresholds of 250 signatures for national office and 100 signatures for regional office are a barrier to self-nomination. As I write this on December 27, 2020, there are seven candidates for national office who have already exceeded that threshold. There are two regional candidates who have met their requirement with a few others closing in. The nomination period ends on January 31, 2021 and over half the time remains for asking for a nomination signature. The threshold is not an obstruction. However, it does require effort to reach out and ask for members to at least support your nomination (a member can sign all candidates' nominations and I encourage them to do so). That is not a commitment to vote for the candidate - simply a means to ensure that this is a competitive election and that members have a choice. Some might think that without physical in-person events to ask for signatures, that candidates are hampered. I disagree. Two years ago, the majority of my signatures were electronic (and I not particularly outgoing). Candidates who wish to run need to shake the electronic hands and ask for the signature.

Another discussion has been on whether it was a good idea to eliminate the nomination of candidates by a nominating

committee. Some say that this at least ensures that someone will be proffered for each office without having to go through the labor of gathering petition signatures. I disagree. I have been in other organizations where there are official (also known as "preferred" candidates). It is extremely difficult for a self-nominated candidate to win a seat in these kinds of organizations. Many of those who vote simply accept that the organization's nominating committee knows best.

The voting phase begins on April 15 and ends on May 15. Please take the time to review candidate bios and election statements. Ask them questions in Facebook groups and in Mensa Connect communities. Then select the candidate who you believe is the best person to represent you for the next term on the AMC.

As a reminder, my local group, Southeast Michigan Mensa (SEMM), is planning their first V-RG (Virtual Regional Gathering). This will take place on Saturday, February 20, 2021. There will be three Zoom "sessions": Hospitality, Games, and Speakers/ Programs. Pre-registration will be required so that the Zoom links can be sent to you. View info at https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/entries/gathering-pending-title28/.

Dayton Area Mensa will be having an RG March 26 - 28. This will be a virtual RG. Details should be available on the national calendar of events and the Dayton Area Mensa Facebook page.

The next American Mensa AMC meeting is tentatively set for March 20. This may be virtual or we may be able to meet in person. That decision should be made by the time that you read this. Check the American Mensa website for updates.

Looking forward to seeing some of you in person this spring.

Cheers!

PUZZLES
submitted by Bob Henderson

PUZZLE: Ants on a Stick

Twenty-four ants are placed randomly on a meter-long rod; each ant is facing toward one end or the other with equal probability. At a signal, they proceed to march forward (that is, in whichever direction they are facing) at 1 cm/sec; whenever two ants collide, they reverse directions. How long does it take before you can be certain that all the ants are off the rod?

See answer on page 9.

WORD PUZZLE:
Starting with the first word on each line, change one letter at a time to spell the second word. Can you reach the target within the suggested number of steps? If you are stumped, look for the Word Ladder solver link on the MMM Web Site "Puzzles" page.

From CRIME to TRUMP in 3 to 8 steps
From PENCE to POKEY in 4 to 9 steps
From CRIME to TRIAL in 5 to 10 steps
From TRUMP to TRIAL in 6 to 11 steps
From CRIME to PENCE in 7 to 12 steps
From TRIAL to POKEY in 8 to 13 steps

From TRUMP to PENCE in 8 to 14 steps
From CRIME to POKEY in 9 to 15 steps
From PENCE to TRIAL in 9 to 15 steps
From TRUMP to POKEY in 9 to 15 steps

PONDER THIS

by John Garrison

Super heroes and Super Villains are in the news today ranging from movies, TV, video games, comic books, clothing, costumes, and what have you. They all have super powers. Some fly. Some have super strength. Some have x-ray vision. Some shrink to the size of ants. Some use special tools. Some are invisible. Some have super speed. And the list goes on and on.

If you could have one super power what would it be and why?

Response from Sharon Plavnick:

I love this one. I've wished for teleportation powers ever since I first saw Samantha twitch her nose. Why? So that I could go anywhere I want instantly, no fuss, no muss. Want to visit my grandkids?….here I am. Ready to give them back to their parents?…bye kids. Want to take in a ooncert or a play?….no parking issues. No worrying about bad weather. Turns out to be boring?…instantly back home in front of the TV instead. See all the wonders of the world without having to deal with airports, customs, squishing baggage overhead. Visit a national park out west on Saturday…see one in the east on Sunday. And the list goes on. Yep…teleportation is my first choice.

Anyone else? Send your thoughts to John at midmimensa@aol.com or to me at sharonslp@ameritech.net and I'll publish them under John's byline.

FEBRUARY 2021 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison, Membership Chair
120 Members

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Gary Johncox
4 Danielle Merckling
17 Corina Andorfer
21 David Macik
25 Todd Eldrid
1 Squire Jaros
15 Gordon McDonald
19 David Uhrman
25 Ian Clemente

FEBRUARY MENSAVERSARIES

1 year John Madigan
6 years Charles Rose
11 years Steven Spitzley
41 years Joan Forgrave
4 years Eric Roath
10 years Carol Duane
20 years Douglas McCall

MEMBERS NEW TO GROUP

Pooja Mindigouda
Keith Stewart
Okemos
Williamston

Welcome Aboard

Mid-Michigan Mensa on Facebook

We now have SIXTEEN members in our private Facebook group. Can we entice a few more of you? Feel free to post questions or thoughts about pretty much anything on your mind, and to comment on those posts of interest to you. Because it's a private group, anything you post or comment on is seen only by other group members, so it's a relatively safe space. Or just lurk if you prefer. If nothing else, this provides a convenient way to update members between the arrival of your monthly Head-Lines.

Find the group by doing a search on Facebook for Mid-Michigan Mensa - MMM.

If you have any concerns, contact admins Wendell Proudfoot (wendellfp@gmail.com) or Bob Henderson rlhenderson@peoplepc.com), or just PM either of them while on Facebook.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report		
Quarter Ending December 31, 2020		
STARTING BALANCE		**$6,276.42**
INCOME		**297.71**
AML National Subsidy Sept. 2020	$98.60	
AML National Subsidy Oct. 2020	99.60	
AML National Subsidy Nov. 2020	99.45	
Savings interest	0.06	
EXPENDITURES		**76.55**
Head-Line:		
Postage - October	19.03	
Postage - November	19.20	
Postage - December	19.42	
Postage - January	18.90	
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
5/3 Checking		4,386.86
5/3 Savings		1,998.02
USPS Periodical Postage Account		112.70
ENDING BALANCE		**$6,497.58**

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN

Nothing to see here. Hopefully next month.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you want this feature to continue, please respond to some of these. Don't overthink it…one or two sentence responses are just right. Skip any Qs that you don't want to answer. Please don't be shy. This is YOUR newsletter….please participate.

Send your response to: sharonslp@ameritech.net

- Your first job? Your best job? Your worst job? Your dream job?
- Pet peeve(s)? (No more than 3
- Night owl or early bird?
- Favorite season?
- Marriages/Divorces/Children
- Favorite travel experience
- What you like best about being a Mensan
- Earliest childhood memory:
- Something important you learned in HS
- Educational background
- Favorite travel experience
- Hobbies/interests
- Favorite food(s)
- At the top of your bucket list

Puzzle Answer:

The key to this puzzle is that, ants being interchangeable as far as we're concerned, it would make no difference to the process if they passed one another "like ships in the night" instead of bouncing. Looked at that way, it's clear that each ant is simply marching straight ahead and must fall off within 100 seconds. You can't afford to wait any shorter amount of time because if there's an ant starting at one end of the rod facing the other end, some ant won't exit the other end until 100 seconds later.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Barb Ford

Date of writing: June 09, 2020
Edited: January 18, 2021

So much is happening in our world these days. I have so many questions and thoughts, as do most folks I know. My usual observer's assessment is: "…things are not always as they seem…" There are always many sides to every story and every event that happens.

Regarding current times, many characterizations are being used. The Event, The Great Awakening, The Ascension, The Transition. I am certain that all humans residing on Earth will see incredible things unfold in the extremely near future. I could write volumes about this but will keep this short and throw out names and concepts that have been on my recent radar. Do your own research. Special shout out to Santa, Juan, Raven, Charles, Simon and Don.

I have been thinking a lot about John Kennedy lately. Princess Diana as well. Are they alive? Nikola Tesla and his work will reemerge. These people and others might be connected. Many we think are gone still remain.

I hear Buckingham Palace is empty and the Queen's crest has been removed. Bye, Liz, Chuck, William and Harry…. Many well-known individuals we think we see are no longer here. Stay tuned

The United States, India, Russia and China: Working together? Yup.

Look to see these topics and names to hit the headlines. Quantum Grammar, Internet and Financial System. GITMO, NESARA/GESARA, previously suppressed cures for diseases, photons, energy, anti-gravity, gold backed currency, ETs, space travel, time travel, Schumann Resonance, truth, new internet, tiffany blue, 17, 45, 19, 5D and FREEDOM. So. Much. More.

Souls throughout the Universe are envious of Humans who have front row seats to this amazing Event in Earth's timeline.

The best is yet to come. Buckle up, Buttercup! Wakey wakey. Get your popcorn.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The *Headline*, has room to publish your writing. Your poem, your puzzle, your book or movie or theater or music review, your opinion on any topic of interest to you. Your thoughts, your concerns, your questions.

Send your submissions to me, Sharon Plavnick, at sharonslp@ameritech.net.

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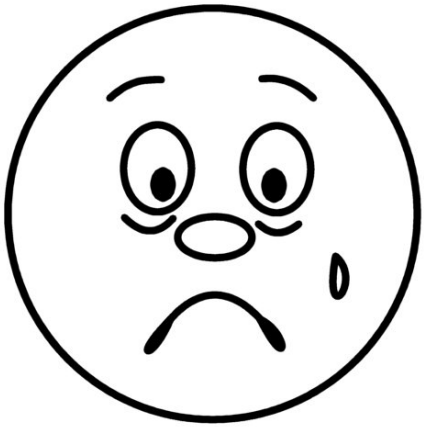
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The *Headline*, has room to publish your writing. Your poem, your puzzle, your book or movie or theater or music review, your opinion on any topic of interest to you. Your thoughts, your concerns, your questions.

Send your submissions to me, Sharon Plavnick, at sharonslp@ameritech.net.

FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR

ALL MMM DINNERS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED TILL FURTHER NOTICE.



FOR VALENTINE'S DAY, I WISH YOU A SHOT IN THE ARM

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