FEBRUARY 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 586



HEAD-LINE NO. 586 FEBRUARY 2023
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

Region 3 Vice-Chairman: Lora Mitchell
Email: RVC3@us.mensa.org

STEERING COMMITTEE (ELECTED BOARD)

Loc Sec:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com
Vice Loc Sec:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scribe:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
	Sharon Plavnick	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
	Squire Jaros	517-775-4833	llahcsramc@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Dues Sub. Adm:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Gifted Youth Coord:	Your Name Here		
Membership:	Kathryn Teshich	517-281-7259	spartanovich@yahoo.com
Ombudsman:			
Proctor:	Your Name Here		
Program Director	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scholarship:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
SIGHT Coord:	Dee Becker	517-349-3292	deebecker@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

HEAD-LINE EDITOR

Sharon Plavnick. 517-285-8740 sharonslp@ameritech.net
Circulation Manager Your Name Here

WEBMASTER

Robert Henderson 517-676-3369. rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

MMM WEB SITE: http:/www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org

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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

A member recently mentioned to me that the Head-Line suffers from a variety of design issues. Well….yeah. I just want to be clearly on the record as saying that I continue to use the templates that were handed off to me when I took on the editorship job, and I'm pretty sure these were the same templates in use back when I first joined in the 90s. I fully agree that this publication could use a significant update in design, but I doubt that it will happen under my tenure. So let me be also be clear that if any wonderful member reading this has been thinking "I could do a way better job" I would not be at all insulted if you stepped up and said so. I have no plans at this time to leave this position, but I'm not wedded to it either. So if anyone wants the job, I'd be thrilled to hand it over. Just saying.

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 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

2023 has started off painfully for long-time member Elizabeth Evangelista and for Celia Guro, Igor's wife, who have each been hospitalized with a broken hip or pelvis. They are facing months of physical therapy and would probably appreciate our well-wishes. . . The Steering Committee should look into sending them get-well cards at the very least, and MMM can most likely afford to send them appropriate get-well gifts as well.

Mid-Michigan Mensa is making a few changes this year in the hope of improving your Local Group experience! For some of us who still have to work, the 5:30 starting time for TGIF dinners has made them difficult to attend at times in the past. Starting this month, TGIF dinners will start at 6:00 PM instead of at 5:30. Please see the notice in the Events Calendar and keep it in mind. . . We hope to see more of you on Fridays from now on!

Starting as of last month, the hard-copy Head-Line is being mailed First Class rather than as a bulk mail periodical. We only mail out about 60 copies each month, and are happy to pay a little more for First Class

stamps rather than fill in the time-consuming monthly and yearly USPS forms required in order to maintain a periodical mailing account. With the time saved, we hope to get each month's Head-line to you in time for you to plan on attending more MMM activities even when they are scheduled for early in the month. We would appreciate your feedback as to when you receive this month's issue in the mail. . . Would sooner be helpful?

Many thanks to the six MMM members who have taken on the job of judging the Mensa Foundation Scholarship competition for college student applicants in our area! We have received 55 essays to be judged by our two panels of 3 judges each. The first round of "Yes - No" judging may already be over by the time you read this, but the second (scoring) round will continue through the end of this month. Please let me know if you can lend a hand as soon as possible. . . If so, the judging workload can be made more managable than the current 25 or 30 essays each to be scored online. All you need is an Interned connection and a willingness to help deserving local college students to reach their academic and career goals!

There WILL be a Steering Committee meeting after the TGIF dinner on the third Friday in February (see the MMM Events Calendar inside the back cover). Possible topics to be discussed are the MMM annual Anniversary Party in August, revisions to the MMM policy regarding the lead time needed for publishing event announcements, and the state of the MMM Treasury (see the 4th Quarter Treasurer's Report elsewhere in this issue). Suffice it to say, the Treasury can afford the added postage cost of mailing the Head-Line as First Class!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column February 2023

This morning I attended my usual 3rd Wednesday Safety Council meeting. I'm usually not enthusiastic about it even if it's normally useful information, at least in part because seeking a parking spot at 730am is really not my thing. Today it felt even more burdensome because it's cold out there, and the subject was ERAFs (the forever chemicals kind, not the fall protection kind) and it has zero applicability in my current industry. Or so I thought.

It was honestly one of the best CASC talks I've been to in years. He covered common household uses, toxicity in firefighting foams, bioavailability, obscure research from Norway, the works. And all without alarmism. It was practical science, and I was so glad I hadn't brought my laptop and tuned it out.

About halfway into it, I also thought about what a good RG talk or monthly speaker it would be for Mensa. I've attended some great ones over the years, and I pretty much appreciate learning new things including on subjects I am not naturally intrigued by. I have found Mensa is a great place for education. We almost universally seek out unusual subjects and fill out brains, and the curiosity rarely wanes. Within the region the opportunities vary a lot: some chapters have a standing in monthly person event, some are virtual, some are hit-and-miss, and some access events that are local but not exclusive to Mensa. If you are looking for additional events SouthEastern Michigan Mensa (SEMM) has a standing invitation to all members within the region to attend their 3rd Saturday monthly virtual speakers. Past subjects have included CERN Large Hadron Collider, The Real Author of Shakespeare's Plays, The Mercury 13, and Aphrodisiacs. If you are interested in this resource, please see Mensadetroit.com. Many thanks to their Vice President, Harley Berger, for his incredible selection of speakers and to the chapter leadership for continuing to share it with others.

Speaking of education, Mensa for Kids is another great education resource. You've probably heard that during the peak of the pandemic, mensaforkids.org online hits were in the thousands per day. It's value as a resource has not diminished, and I hope those of you who have in interest in youth education have had an opportunity to visit the website. The Mensa for Kids Excellence in reading program does not require membership, and it is open internationally to youth readers, their teachers, and librarians. And it involves "earning" a t-shirt with reading! I also want to give a special acknowledgement to our many dedicated scholarship judges and chairs. The application window closed in January, and everyone is hard at work reading and judging essays. I really appreciate you. I also very much appreciate the generous donors who make these scholarships possible.

So many of you make a difference. Thank you.

Lora Mitchell
RVC3@us.mensa.org

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report
Quarter Ending December 30, 2022

STARTING BALANCE	$7,870.20
INCOME	$281.56
AML Subsidy Sept. 2022	94.50
AML Subsidy Oct. 2022	93.50
AML Subsidy Nov. 2022	93.50
5/3 Bank savings interest	0.06
EXPENDITURES	$103.56
Head-Line:	
Postage - Oct.	22.70
Postage - Nov.	22.40
Postage - Dec.	22.46
Postage - Jan.	36.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
5/3 Checking	$6,001.19
5/3 Savings	1,998.50
USPS Postage Account	48.51
ENDING BALANCE	$8,048.20

Bob's Word Puzzle for February

Zelda's spell checker has a glitch that randomly deletes the middle two letters of her input, resulting in a different word than the one she had intended. Can you figure out which 6-letter words Zelda had typed in before her spell checker shortened them to these fifteen?

1) BEAR, 2) CORE, 3) FEEL, 4) GRID, 5) HALE, 6) HEAL,
7) LIAR, 8) MARE, 9) NEAR, 10) PACE, 11) PEEL,
12) PEON, 13) RAGE, 14) RAID, 15) SALE.

Bob's Math Puzzle for February:

Can you find the area of a square as a function of its longest linear measurement, the length of its diagonal? If you remember that the length of the diagonal D expressed in terms of the side S is D = S * sqrt(2) and that the area of the square is S^2, you can quickly determine that D^2 = 2 * S^2, or Area = S^2 = D^2 / 2.

If that was too easy, find a similar function for the area of a regular hexagon. Is a hexagon larger or smaller in area than a square having the same maximum distance D across its opposite corners?

See Answers on page 7.

FEBRUARY 2023 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
113 members

BIRTHDAYS

Squire Janos	Feb 1
Gordon MacDonald Jr	Feb 15
David Macak	Feb 21
Todd Eldred	Feb 25

MENSAVERSERIES

Lloyd Conway	1 yr
Eric Roath	6 yrs
Carol Duane	12 yrs
Steven Spitzley	13 yrs
Joan Forgrave	43 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Bob's Word Puzzle Answers (you may find others):

1) BEGGAR, 2) COHERE, 3) FENNEL, 4) GRAVID, 5) HANDLE, 6) HERBAL, 7) LINEAR, 8) MATURE, 9) NECTAR, 10) PALACE, 11) PETREL, 12) PERSON, 13) RAVAGE, 14) RANCID, 15) SAMPLE.

Math Puzzle Answer

If you divide the hexagon into 6 equilateral triangles of side S, the longest distance across the hexagon is D = 2 * S. The area of each triangle is S * h / 2, where h is its altitude = S * sqrt(3) / 2. Multiplying that out, the area of each of the 6 triangles is S * S * sqrt(3) / 4 = S^2 * sqrt(3) / 4, so all 6 triangles total an area of S^2 * 3 * sqrt(3) / 2 for the area of the hexagon. Substituting D / 2 for S, the hexagon's area in terms of its longest dimension D is Area = D^2 * 3 * sqrt(3) / 8. Finally, comparing the hexagon's area of D^2 * 3 * sqrt(3) / 8 to the square's area of D^2 / 2 gives an area ratio of 3 * sqrt(3) / 4 = 3 * (1.732) / 4 = just under 1.30, so a regular hexagon is very nearly 30% larger than a square having the same maximum distance D across its corners.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

Near the beginning of February, the ancient Celts celebrated a holiday they called Imbolc. The name of this holiday comes from the Gaelic, meaning “in milk.” It was at this time of year that the sheep and cattle prepared for the birth of their young by beginning to lactate. Soon after, Spring would arrive. For people who lived their lives so close to the Earth, the coming of Spring was something to celebrate indeed. They took their cues from the animals that were so important to them. The births of farm animals are wondrous to behold. I have had the incredible experience to assist at lambings in my younger years. I would do this again in a heartbeat. If anyone out there has a flock of sheep, and needs help with lambing, call me. Seriously!

While most of us don’t have large farm animals we depend on, we do have pets. Dogs have been domesticated and associated with humans for many thousands of years. Our dogs give us companionship, service, amusement, and unconditional love. Most of us would do anything we could to ensure the safety and well being of these devoted family members. This month, Rocky and I have perfected a recipe sure to please all the pooches you know and love. It calls for only the best quality ingredients. Rocky proclaims it to be a winner! Yes, he supervised the formulation process. Though he was the chief Taste-master, he wishes to acknowledge all of the dogs who selflessly volunteered as official tasters: Lila, Molly, Kane, Baron, Peyton, Texas and Hunter. They loved this recipe! Roll up your sleeves and get the kids involved with this one. Don’t be surprised to find your dog in the kitchen with you. They know when you are making something special for them!

ROCKY’S FAVORITE DOG BISCUITS

One each, beef and chicken bouillon cubes
¾ Cup hot water
1/3 Cup shortening, ¼ Cup peanut butter, (creamy or chunky) 2 large eggs,
½ Cup protein shake mix
3½ Cups whole wheat flour

Dissolve bouillon cubes in water, set aside. In a mixer, beat together shortening, peanut butter, eggs, and protein shake powder. Add bouillon mixture and blend well. Mix in 1 cup of flour. Switch to dough hook, and add the rest of the flour ½ cup at a time. Make sure flour is mixed in before adding the next ½ cup. If your mixer tells you that it is working too hard, turn it off and switch to the Armstrong method (get your hands in it and work it into a uniform mixture.) The dough will be dense and crumbly. Firmly press the mixture into a jelly roll pan or cookie sheet until it is packed down evenly. Use a bench scraper or knife to cut the biscuits into 1”x 2” pieces. Bake for 50 minutes in a 325 degree oven. Turn the oven off, open the door and leave the biscuits to harden. You may need to leave them in the oven overnight to fully harden. No need to refrigerate them, but do place them in a vented container for storage.

Viva la dogs!!

FEBRUARY 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

NOTE THAT START TIME HAS CHANGED TO 6PM

Fri. Feb. 3: TGIF - Champps Kitchen + Bar
2800 Preyde Blvd, Lansing, east of Eastwood Towne Center. Family-friendly sports bar chain serving burgers and comfort food in a buzzy ambiance.

Fri. Feb. 10: TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill
1754 Central Park Dr, Okemos, near Wal*Mart. Good Mexican food and great margaritas!

Fri. Feb. 17: 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.

Fri. Feb. 24: TGIF - Pizza House
4790 S Hagedorn, in the Hannah Plaza, East Lansing. Good selection of American and Italian dishes, including, of course, pizza!

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about **6 PM** and order soon after 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