MAY 2024

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 601



HEAD-LINE NO.601 MAY 2024
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	517-896-0478	evangel6@comcast.net
Scribe:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
	Sharon Plavnick	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
	Squire Jaros	517-730-2619	llahcsramc@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Dues Sub. Adm:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-896-0478	evangel6@comcast.net
Gifted Youth Coord:			
Membership:	Kathryn Teshich	517-281-7259	spartanovich@yahoo.com
Testing Coord:	Richard Wetzel	517-505-6214	dick.wetzel@gmail.com
Proctor:			MensaProctor670@gmail.com
Program Director	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-896-0478	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

WEBMASTER

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

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

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

Dear fellow MMM-ers, I'm asking one of you to replace me. I used to think I was irreplaceable. But then I grew up. So today, I am definitely replaceable, and I am officially resigning from my position as editor of this newsletter. I hope someone will step up in order to keep a print copy of some sort coming to you. I will provide you guidelines and hold your hand as you take the reins. I am prepared to continue getting the Headline published each month until December at the latest, but I hope someone will relieve me before then. Please contact me and/or Bob Henderson if you are interested.

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 May 2024

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

They say "Make hay while the sun shines," but these days Ginny and I are making kilowatts while the sun shines! You guessed it, the solar panel array on our roof is finally up and running. . . So far, it is keeping pace with our average daily demand, which should dramatiically lower our electric bills over the next several months.

Last month MMM held another Mensa qualification test session. Only one candidate showed up, and he was unhappy that the test we administered was not "culture-fair." The AML has recently revised their policy re: qualification retesting, so he will likely get to take a culture-fair test as well. . . That way, his limited English vocabulary need not keep him from qualifying.

Another way to keep our group growing is to retain our existing members. Many new members quit after their first year in Mensa, perhaps because their Local Group experience has not met their expectations. What are your expectations of Mensa at the Local Group level? I had hoped to attend regular Mensa games

sessions, but their attendance kept falling until only the host and I showed up! I'm open to suggestion about possible future group activities, especially if you are willing to put some effort into organizing and running them! I would love to hear your thoughts over one of MMM's Friday dinners.
As well as our usual weekly TGIF dinners, MMM has another group activity planned for this month: a trip to Holland, MI on the 4th for the Tulip Festival! Thanks to Elizabeth Evangelista for making the plans described in her article in the April Head-Line and repeated in this issue. We hope to see you there. . . Elizabeth won't be able to join us due to a family emergency, but those of us who do get to go should remember to thank her for her laying the groundwork for an enjoyable trip!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column MAY 2024

"You are not a leader until you have produced another leader who can produce another leader"- Dr Stephen Brown

A few months ago at work, we hired a new HR Generalist to join my team. Previously, I'd had a coordinator to support me, but he was shared with another department, and it became pretty clear that he thrived in a specific area related to that one. Eventually, he was promoted into a role that would focus on those tasks. The really cool thing about it, though, was that he got an opportunity to try something new (HR) and use the skills he gained in other ways/

Eventually we decided that we needed someone with a stronger background to take on more tasks, and to grow the role. Even though I am the kind of person who tries to do as much as I can myself, I was actually thrilled to get more expertise in our organization. I've seen people feel uncomfortable and unsettled by a new person coming in with a new approach, and new skills, and wanting to do things a new way. But because of the culture of our agency, I know it wasn't about trying to supplant me, or a subtle suggestion that I wasn't enough. Instead, it was a vote of confidence in me as a leader to guide and mentor, and a step to the future that change is necessary. And that maybe, just maybe, the work can be shared.

Mensa has many of the same needs. We have a lot of skilled, talented people who have handled roles for a long time, and do their job well. We sometimes begin to think about certain

tasks as our territory. Instead, having succession planning in place lets us maintain the legacy of those leaders and mold much of it into our future, while looking at things new and exciting ways. It also helps prevent burnout, which is prevalent in long term leaders also need outside influence to grow and change.

And without doing it, we fail to move forward. It is perhaps selfish of me to want to produce others who lead and have my influence count, but it is also about wanting the best of all of us to be the best for all of us. Leadership is a team sport, and everyone can have a role on the field. Sometimes you discover you might thrive in a different position, but you can learn and apply it in different ways too.

Lora Mitchell, RVC3
rvc3@us.mensa.org
614-450-0170

WEEKLY ZOOM GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

From Ken Lawrence

A list of suggested topics, as well as a chance to comment, is available on Facebook under M Saturday Discussion Group. Host Ken Lawrence can be reached at MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com for more information.

> Topic: Virtual Discussion Group open to all Mensans.
> Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Saturday
> https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09
> Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234

Additionally, Ken runs two other SIG meetings. One is a Brainstorming SIG, every Sunday at 9pm, eastern time: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTI4TDdHN0Jsdz09
More information can be obtained from MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com or at the Facebook Group (20+) M Brainstorming | Facebook

Also Mensa Christian Bible Study SIG every Sunday 7pm eastern time. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86488880838?pwd=QUVUaFhPSjI0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09

Bob's Word Puzzle:

See if you can find a few word sequences starting by adding one letter at the beginning or end of a short word to make a longer word, then repeating until you reach a 5- or 6-letter word? The original and added letters cannot be rearranged. Some examples are able - table - tablet, a - am - ram - ramp - cramp, ail - nail - snail, and a - aw - raw - craw - crawl - scrawl. Bonus points if you reach a word over 6 letters long!

Bob's Math Puzzle: Picking Cards

A friend asks you to pick 2 of the 4 different cards in his hand. How many different pairs can you pick?

Let's count the possibilities: There are 4 ways to pick the first card, leaving your friend holding 3 cards. Then there are 3 ways to pick a 2nd card. Can you pick 12 different pairs? No, because picking the same two cards in reverse order gives the same pair! There are really only 6 different pairs you could pick. . .
Puzzles like "How many different hands of M cards can you pick out of N cards" can be solved using the numbers in one row of Pascal's Triangle. You can find the row to use for N cards as follows:

Each row starts and ends with 1. Multiply this by N / 1 to get the second number in the row, N. Multiply that by (N - 1) / 2 to get the third number, then multiply the 3rd number by (N - 2) / 3 to get the fourth number. Proceed in this manner until you get to 1 again. These (N + 1) numbers can be used as follows: The initial 1 shows the number of ways of picking none (M = 0) of the N cards. Next comes N / 1, the number of different ways to pick 1 of the N cards. Repeat to get the numbers of ways to pick 2, 3, 4, . . . etc. of the N cards. Last is 1 again, the number of ways in which you can pick all N of the N cards.

Can you use the above to find how many ways you can pick a hand of 4 out of 8 cards?

Trivia Quiz:

Can you answer these typical pub trivia questions? If you score 100 of the possible 200 points, you could be winning gift certificates at your favorite local watering hole!

Round 1 (5 points each):
A. Which one of the five Great Lake lies entirely within the United States?
B. Which celebrity named his daughter "Moon Unit" (first and last names)?
C. What was the ship's computer's name in "2001: A Space Odyssey"?
D. Who manufactured the first vaccine to protect against COVID-19?

Round 2 (10 points each):
A. What date is written on the tablet held by the Statue of Liberty?
B. Who was the first communist leader of China (first and last names)?
C. What auto pioneer gave his name to Oldsmobile (first and last names)?
D. Who managed the project to create the first atomic bombs?

Round 3 (15 points each):
A. Who was the first president to be elected in the 20th century?
B. After oxygen, what is the most common element in Earth's crust?
C. Who wrote the Communist Manifesto in 1848 (first and last names)?
D. What do you call a planet that's outside of our solar system?

Round 4 (20 points each):
A. After FDR and Reagan, which president got the most electoral votes?
B. Who won on Eurovision in 1976 with the song "Save Your Kisses for Me"?
C. What leader declared a fatwa against author Salman Rushdie in 1989?
D. What is the area of a circle with a radius of exactly 1?

See answers on page 7

MAY 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
92 members

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Harrison	May 9
Robert Henderson	May 16
Graham Goble	May 19
Michael Haven	May 20
Richard Schaffer	May 21
Eric Roath	May 23
Joan Forgave	May 26

MENSAVERSARIES

Michael Haven	5 yrs
Charles Allison	37 yrs

MENSA TRIP TO HOLLAND MI TULIP FESTIVAL

After cancelling our trip to Holland last October due to bad weather, we're trying again on May 4th, which is opening day. Meet in the parking lot in front of Barnes and Noble bookstore at Lansing Mall on W. Saginaw St., at 9:45am. We'll organize into carpools and leave at 10am, arriving around noon. There will be lots of fun things to do and see, and Windmill Park, with the tulip fields, should be beautiful. There is also an Immersion Garden with 65,000 tulips. This requires an advanced registration online and costs $15 per person for one hour. It is open till 4. Plan to join me in the fun on May 4.
Elizabeth Evangelista 896-0478 or evangel6@comcast.net.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report
Quarter Ending March 31, 2024

STARTING BALANCE	**$8,555.11**
INCOME	**$287.56**
AML Subsidy Dec. 2024	**93.80**
AML Subsidy Jan. 2024	**93.65**
AML Subsidy Feb. 2024	**100.05**
5/3 Bank savings interest	**0.06**
EXPENDITURES	**$253.88**
Head-Line:	
200 First-Class Stamps	**134.00**
MMM Winter Party Supplies	**69.88**
MLC for holiday party venue	**50.00**
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
5/3 Checking	**$6,541.48**
5/3 Savings	**1,998.80**
USPS Postage Account	**48.51**
ENDING BALANCE	**$8,588.79**

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer
For N = 8 cards, find the row of Pascal's Triangle that goes 1, 8, 28, 56, 70, 56, 28, 8, 1. The 5th entry tells you that there are 70 ways to pick a hand of 4 cards out of 8. If the puzzle asked in how many ways you could pick 4 OR FEWER cards out of the same 8, adding 1, 8, 28, 56, and 70 gives a total of 163 ways.

Word Puzzle Answer
Here are more examples (your sequences may differ): oral - moral - morale, am - amp - lamp - clamp, ill - pill - spill, sue - sued - suede, I - in - ink - kink - skink, a - as - ash - ashy - rashy - trashy, as - asp - rasp - raspy, I - in - din - dine - diner, at - bat - bate - abate, or - ore - core - score - scored, I - it - mit - emit - remit, sue - sued - suede, a - pa - spa - spar - spare, rap - crap - scrap, op - ope - rope - grope, I - in - win - wing - swing, a - an - and - band - bandy, I - in - pin - pine - spine - spinet, a - am - cam - camp - scamp - scampi.

Trivia Answers:
Round 1: A) Lake Michigan, B) Frank Zappa, C) HAL, D) Pfizer
Round 2: A) July 4, 1776, B) Mao Zedong, C) Ransom E. Olds, D) Oppenheimer
Round 3: A) Teddy Roosevelt in 1904, B) Silicon, C) Karl Marx, D) An exoplanet
Round 4: A) Richard M. Nixon (520 in 1972), B) Brotherhood of Man, C) Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran, D) Pi (3.14159. . .)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

The month of May has long been celebrated by many cultures around the world. Our ancient Celtic ancestors paid homage to the earth and the spirits that awakened her in the spring. At the beginning of May, the Celts celebrated Beltane, which means “bright fire.” The Druids constructed great bonfires on the hills, and herds of cattle were driven between the fires. This was believed to provide protection and fertility to the herds in the coming year. Farmers also made a practice of leaping over the bonfires to ensure a plentiful harvest. Among the many other activities that centered around Beltane was always a great feast. Oat cakes, or bannocks were a traditional favorite food prepared for these feasts. I have my own version of oat cakes that are very different from those made by our ancestors. They are more like scones than the dense oat cakes in the traditional recipes. Somehow, I think the Celts of long ago would have enjoyed my oat cakes just as well. (Maybe even better!)

LADY BARBARA’S OAT CAKES

3¼ Cups All Purpose Flour
2/3 Cup Cane Sugar
½ t Sea Salt
¾ t Baking Soda
1 t Baking Powder
1¼ Cups Oatmeal (uncooked)
1 Cup Raisins (Craisins work, too)
2 Sticks Cold Butter
1 Cup Buttermilk

Combine all dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Cut in the butter until the dough looks crumbly. Stir in the raisins or other dried fruit. Add the buttermilk and gently stir to bring dough together. Do not over-work the dough. It will look like there is not enough liquid. Do not add more! Turn the dough out on a lightly floured surface, and press it together to form a square about 1½ inches thick. Cut the cakes into approximately 2-inch pieces. Press the corners in and place the cakes on lightly floured baking sheets about 2 inches apart. Brush the tops with a little buttermilk and sprinkle sugar over them. Bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes. The cakes should be a light golden brown.
Serve with fresh soft butter.

“As for butter versus margarine, I trust cows more than chemists.”
Joan Dye Gussow

MAY 2024 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. May 3: TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill
1754 Central Park Drive, Meridian Township. Wide choice of Mexican dishes and great margaritas.

Sat. May 4: MMM Outing to Holland, MI Tulip Festival
See related article in April and May Head-Lines for details.

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

Fri. May 17: TGIF - Coral Gables
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Rd. An MMM favorite for years! Serves Greek foods, steaks, seafood,
pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

Fri. May 24: TGIF - Asian Taste
132 S Cedar St, Mason, kitty-corner vs. the Speedway station. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties, including Crabs Rangoon and Orange Chicken.

Fri. May 31: TGIF - Bravo! Italian Kitchen
2970 Towne Center Blvd, Eastwood Towne Center, Lansing. Ginny's favorite! Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance serving pasta, grilled dishes, pizza and more.

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