SEPTEMBER 2024

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 605



HEAD-LINE NO.605 SEPTEMBER 2024
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

Region 3 Vice-Chairman: Rick Magnus
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

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

First, I want to mention how delightful it was to meet some of our newly-merged West Michigan members at the Anniversary Party in August. What a treat to hear new stories about how people came to join Mensa and what their life experiences have been. Welcome! I hope more of you will be able to meet up with more of us as time goes on.

Second, I recruited heavily among both old and new attendees at the party to drum up interest in taking over my duties as editor of this Head-Line. A couple of you did not express a flat-out no, although there was definitely reluctance to give a flat-out yes. You know who you are, and thank you for even considering it. However, you have a reprieve for now. Another West Michigan person has contacted me to express a definite interest, and that person is shadowing me for this September issue to see what is truly involved. If all goes well, I will introduce that person next month, and by November I hope she will be doing the actual process more on her own.

This is so exciting!! We have other positions open as well. Perhaps a few more souls would like to step into one of those opportunities. We still need a Distribution Manager to relieve Bob and Wendy from their chores of collecting printed copies, stapling, labeling, and mailing. It takes a village to get the print copy of this newsletter into your hands each month. Would you like to join our village? We also have steering committee openings, and we need a Gifted Youth Coordinator as well. Speak up and let Bob know.

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 September 2024

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Michigan has had a great growing season, promising an equally great harvest season! The corn is high, our apple trees are bursting with fruit, and kids are already going back to school. Mid-Michigan Mensa has also grown: in August we got to meet several new members at our Summer Anniversary party, and we got so engrossed in conversation that we never even opened the card and board games that we had brought. . . Many thanks for the efforts of the MMM folks who organized the party as well as those who drove so far to attend. We plan on scheduling some

upcoming TGIF dinners to the west of Lansing so that our newest members won't find the driving distance too prohibitive.

We have also scheduled a Mensa Qualification Test in Okemos for August 24, 10 days after this writing. It will be interesting to find out whether MMM's larger geographical area also leads to more membership prospects. . . sadly, this year has not seen many prospects tested to date, and even fewer have been accepted into Mensa. Our Proctor has already volunteered to administer qualification testing in Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, or wherever new member prospects can get to them, but we will probably need local help to find and reserve appropriate test venues such as library meeting rooms.

In case you haven't previously read it in the Editor's Column, MMM has no newsletter editor lined up for after the December issue, when Sharon will be leaving that position for a well-deserved rest. How would you like the opportunity to decide what news MMM sends out to our members? Someone with publishing software and experience would be a great fit! We already have a printer and contributors lined up, but need an editor to put a few pages together every month (or two) starting in January. Please let me or Sharon know if this sounds like a position that you could handle. . .

(EDITOR'S NOTE: As I mentioned above, we do have a person who has stepped forward. But please let us know if anyone else is interested, in case this falls through for some reason.)

A GLOVe Letter from the RVC. Rick Magnus. September 2024

The Annual Gathering, held this year in Kansas City, is both energizing, and tiring. For an introvert like me, the energizing part is a bit odd, because what most energizes me is driving home, alone, thinking about what a good time I had. Seeing old friends, meeting friends I previously knew only online, and making new friends is an important part. Everybody does an AG in his or her own way; speakers, debates, games, puzzles, tournaments, leadership development workshops, meet-and-greets, SIG get-togethers, and much, much more. Region 3 was well-represented, and as RVC, it was my pleasure to host the Region 3 meet-and-greet on Wednesday; members of about half our local groups attended and participated.

Another part of being RVC had me participating in various AML functions, including the AMC meeting and the Annual Business [Membership] meeting. Much of the AMC agenda consisted of appointing officers and committee members (I'm serving on three committees this year: Bylaws,

Events, and Name and Logo). The mini-minutes, a summary of the meeting, can be found on the AML website.

Personally, I think my favorite AG program this year was the one about the 1981 collapse of walkways in the hotel where we were holding the AG. It was eerie hearing about it as we sat just a few feet away; it was a tragedy that never should have happened.

Next year's AG will be closer for those of us residing in Region 3, when it's held in downtown Chicago. After that, AGs will follow in Ft. Worth, Atlanta, and Philadelphia. Or, if you want something smaller, closer, and shorter, but almost as much fun, most of you will still have time to attend Western Pennsylvania Mensa's Rivers Three Regional Gathering, over Labor Day Weekend, near Pittsburgh; the schedule of gatherings can be found on the AML website.

Congratulations to the CultureQuest® teams from Region 3 that finished in the money, Uncle Churd from East Central Ohio Mensa (11th), and Nerds N'at from Western Pennsylvania Mensa (16th), both in the adult division., Special congratulations go to Brain Teaser from Dayton Area Mensa, which won the Next Generation (youth) division.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report

Quarter Ending June 30, 2024

STARTING BALANCE	$8,588.79
INCOME	$327.05
AML Subsidy Mar. 2024	97.75
AML Subsidy Apr. 2024	93.16
AML Subsidy May 2024	136.08
5/3 Bank savings interest	0.06
EXPENDITURES	$77.53
Head-Line Postage (100 stamps)	68.00
Party Supplies	9.53
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
5/3 Checking	$6,790.94
5/3 Savings	1,998.86
USPS Postage	48.51
ENDING BALANCE	$8,838.

Bob's Word Puzzle: Spell Check "Misteaks"

Your spell checker has a glitch: every so often it changes one letter of a word to a different letter, completely changing the intended meaning. Here are some examples of its output. . . Can you decipher the intended meaning of each sentence? For example, Holt Road could be misspelled as Holy Rood, but you can probably do better yet!

1) These puzzles have been swell chucked.
2) John and Mary were harried by the garish priest.
3) We attended the hoard meeting victually via Doom.
4) Our son bent to shout damp this hummer.
5) Winder Olympic shorts include Huge, Hurling, and Ski Dumping.
6) My latent jib was as a Museum Decent.
7) The cook ruined our dessert by putting bustard in the bustard.
8) The monkey ate hat from his hanger.
9) My recant blight from Net Work was dampered by mad heather.
10) Oar bunker bloated us a tome loaf.
11) The Love Danger code into down on a while scallion.
12) A royal side rose with the Marked Map.
13) The porker lent up his larder to leach the root.
14) Our lone-retimed Candor died of canker.
15) My cat weeded body word alter a fonder bonder.

Bob's Math Puzzle:

How can you find the largest area for a polygon when you are given only its side lengths? For example, how much area can be enclosed by a heptagon having sides lengths of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 units? A square with sides of 7, 6 + 1, 5 + 2, and 4 + 3 units has an area of 49 square units, but 3 of those sides could "bow out" to enclose more area.

I found a hint in the book "536 Puzzles & Curious Problems" by Henry Ernest Dudeney, as edited by Martin Gardner. He asks us to find the largest area for a quadrilateral given its 4 side lengths, and also provides a formula for its area similar to that given for three sides of a triangle. In passing, he notes that the quadrilateral with the maximum area can be inscribed in a circle.

Bob's Trivia Quiz:

1) It's the largest & southernmost of Ireland's counties
2) King Philip's War in the 1670s was led by Massasoit's son from this nation
3) And quiet flows this 3-letter river, mostly south 1,200 miles to the Sea of Azov

4) Congress has this alliterative ability to levy taxes & spend government monies
5) John wrote the book of Revelation while he was in the isle that is called this
6) "Blame It On The Rain" was the last No. 1 hit for this Europop duo before it was revealed that they didn't actually do their own singing
7) South Carolina was a top producer of this plant that produces a blue dye
8) It's the idea of having a little whiskey the morning after you've had a lot
9) 2 brothers were fishing here when Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"
10) Several years after an earlier one, Navratilova faced Connors in a match called this
11) This type of verb doesn't take a direct object
12) Judge, the defendant is this 3-word Latin phrase for "not master of one's mind"
13) It's a court order requiring a person to do or to cease doing a particular act
14) A defense claiming one knew nothing is named for this "Hogan's Heroes" character
15) This Nobel-winning American chemist wrote 5 laws on crystal structure

See answers on page 7

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=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHN0Jsdz09
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

SEPTEMBER 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair

191 **members**

BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer McNamara	Sept 2
Laura Markee	Sept 10
Saif Fatteh	Sept 13
Diann Belluomini	Sept 16
Neal Forss	Sept 16
Thomas Allor	Sept 17
Michael Skrocki	Sept 18
Judyth Hakala	Sept 19
September Peters	Sept 22
Richard Woltersom Dr	Sept 24
Mary Fitch-Mihovich	Sept 25
Daniel Thompson	Sept 28

MENSAVERSARIES

Paul Billsen	2 yrs
August Clark	3 yrs
Michael Rademacher	10 yrs
Matthew VanderMolen	10 yrs
Mason Miller	12 yrs
Kristen Shuler	17 yrs
Brenton Wilburn	22 yrs
Paul Kassal	22 yrs
Clay West	24 yrs
Brian McGrain	26 yrs
Dean Vander Linde	33 yrs
John Larson	34 yrs
William Deary	36 yrs
Walter Syroid	38 yrs
Linda Harrison	39 yrs
Robert Henderson	44 yrs
J Dennis Marek	48 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

MATH PUZZLE ANSWER

The above hint caught my attention because an Excel program I wrote recently gives the same result for polygons having more sides! I think the general solution is to inscribe the polygon in a circle, where the polygon sides are chords of the circle and the circle's radius is chosen so that the last chord just reaches the start of the first chord. Each chord (polygon side) is one side of a triangle whose other two sides are the circle's radius, so the enclosed area is just the sum of those triangular areas. For the heptagon given above, the maximum area is 54.72495 square units. Note that its 7 sides can be in any order without changing either these triangular areas or their sum.

Trivia Answers:
1) Cork
2) The Wampanoag Nation
3) The Don
4) The power of the purse
5) Patmos
6) Milli Vanilli
7) Indigo
8) Hair of the dog
9) Sea 0f Galilee
10) The battle of the sexes
11) Intransitive
12) Non compos mentis
13 Injunction
14) Sergeant Schultz
15) (Dr. Linus) Pauling

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

Who does not love a good frozen treat? It can be hot out, or not. Frozen treats always work. Make it at home? Heck yes! One that always brings raves is this pineapple buttermilk sherbet. It tastes complex, but it really is so simple. An ice cream maker is not needed, but can be used. A trusty blender or food processor, and a container to freeze this yummy stuff will get the job done. Quick and easy, this is a nice recipe to make with the kids. Anyone who thinks they do not like buttermilk…. don't tell them it's in there. They just might love this sherbet. This recipe is one that is sure to be requested often, no matter the season.

Pineapple Buttermilk Sherbet

Ingredients:
2 C Whole Buttermilk
1 (8-ounce) Can Crushed Pineapple, undrained
¾ C Sugar
1 Pinch Sea Salt

Directions:
Puree pineapple with its juice in a blender or food processor. Add sugar and buttermilk, and pulse a few times to mix.
Freeze in a shallow airtight container for at least 8 hours, stirring twice.
This mixture can also be frozen in an ice cream maker.

Makes about 3 cups

"There's hardly anyone whose favorite dessert isn't ice cream in one form or another, especially in the summer."
John Hadamuscin

SEPTEMBER 2024 MMM Activities Calendar

Friday, Sept. 6: TGIF - Hibachi Grill
5837 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. Unpretentious eatery boasting 250+ American, Asian, & Italian items on a buffet, plus hibachi dishes.

Friday, Sept. 13: TGIF - Harrison Road House
720 E Michigan Ave, East Lansing. Good selection of burgers, sandwiches, salads, and drinks. Specialties include Crabs Rangoon and Chicken Pierre.

Friday, Sept. 20: 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.

Friday, Sept. 27: TGIF - Outback Steak House
617 N Canal Rd, Lansing. A west-side favorite. . . Australian-style steak, chicken, and shrimp on the barbie!

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