DECEMBER 2024

Head-Line



The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 608



HEAD-LINE NO.608 DECEMBER 2024
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Editor's Column
by Phoenix Swope

What is an Editor's Column for, anyway?

I'll be honest, I'm not entirely sure the best content to put here. Should this introduce the issue? Explain some of the contents and through-lines? Provide some journalistic content as an opinion piece? All of the above?

Ahh, well, this issue is being mailed to just shy of a hundred folks and will be available for years as part of the newsletter archive in the cloud. Better make it count!

The theme of this, and the next several issues, is **engagement**. It is no great secret that organizations like ours are dwindling in the new era of social media. A quick search online gives a variety of theories as to why, and it seems that nobody has stumbled on an actionable solution.

Yet here we are. I'm writing this, you're reading this, so for some reason we are here engaging with each other. This feels just as important as why groups are in decline: why are some of us still here?

I had the pleasure of sitting in on the Brainstorming SIG run by **Ken Lawrence** (details in the virtual activities calendar, and page 3), and heard some very passionate folks talk about the value of classical philosophy in education and every day life. Names like Plato, Socrates, John Locke…it really was a good conversation with several folks engaging.

I received feedback from last month's supersized issue. Sorry about that, btw. We had a mixup with the printer. All of the feedback came from the in-person TGIF gatherings. Its great to hear folks are getting together and engaging with each other (and the Headline, of course).

There is a holiday gathering coming up (In-Person Activities Calendar, and Loc Sec letter on page 4), and the RVC has a call to action for local and regional leadership and volunteer work (page 7).

…engagement…

So, what about you? You're reading this…what keeps you engaged?

I'd love to know. Send me an e-mail or text message!

As an additional prompt, here is a…

QUESTION?

Why did you join Mensa? What were you hoping to give to, or get from the organization?

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.

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Fri. Dec. 6: TGIF - Coral Gables
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Rd. An MMM favorite for years! Serves Greek foods, seafood, steaks, pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

Fri. Dec. 13: TGIF - Olga's Kitchen, Lansing
354 Frandor Ave in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwiches.

Fri. Dec. 20: NO TGIF This Evening
We'll see you at the Holiday Party tomorrow!

Sat. Dec. 21: MMM Holiday Party
5:30 PM at Martin Luther Chapel, on Abbott Road just north of East Lansing City Hall. Entrees to be provided. Bring a side dish, drinks, and a wrapped White Elephant gift to exchange!

Sat. Dec. 27: NO TGIF This Evening
Enjoy the Holidays with your family and friends!

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about **5:30 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



What'cha doin?

VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MENSA VIRTUAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Ken Lawrence (MensaProctor670@gmail.com)

We talk about whatever anybody wants to talk about. Topics can be brought up ahead of time and commented on in the Facebook M Saturday Discussion

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Saturday

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=KzI4YUhFbklwSnpCTTI4TDdHN0Jsdz09

Meeting ID: 829 0860 0785 Passcode: 1234

MENSA BRAINSTORMING GROUP

Ken Lawrence (MensaProctor670@gmail.com)

Mensa Brainstorming

Time: 9:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Sunday

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09

Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234

BIBLE STUDY

Ken Lawrence (MensaProctor670@gmail.com)

Mensa Bible Study. A Mensa based activity to provide a Christian based examination of the Bible

Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Sunday

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=KzI4YUhFbklwSnpCTTI4TDdHN0Jsdz09

Meeting ID: 864 8888 0838 Passcode: 1234



What'cha doin?

MENSA BRAINSTORMING GROUP

By Ken Lawrence

I would like to bring people's attention to the Mensa Brainstorming Group. Our goals include:

- The opportunity to talk to Mensans all over the country.
- The opportunity to see what programs work and which do not.
- The opportunity to identify areas that the organization can do differently.
- The opportunity to talk about a wide variety of topics which can range from a Young Mensan RG to venison and wild rice. We discuss the advisability of new SIGs.

In fairness we do not have any power to make changes, but we can forward people's thoughts to the AMC. We are not a SIG, our mission statement is too close to other SIGs. We are only a discussion group.

Speaking as a fellow Mensan, we pay a fairly significant number of dollars to keep our gang of merry men and women going. We deserve to have some input in where our money is going. Mensa itself is one of the best resources for good ideas in the world. Not taking advantage of that seems criminal. If we have thoughts and ideas, it seems to make sense to express them.

If you would like to be part of the discussion, the details are listed in the Virtual Activities Calendar. We meet Sundays at 9PM EST

If you would like to see what we have been discussing for the last six months, check for the Facebook entry M Brainstorming

If you would like to receive a weekly summary of what we talk

about, email **Ken** at MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com

BOB'S TWO BITS

Loc Sec Column

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

This is the time of year when we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for. We in Mid-Michigan Mensa in particular benefit from the efforts of many volunteers who donate their time and efforts to make our Group activities successful. I, for one, am grateful for the Head-Line editors past and present who have made sure that our members are entertained, informed, and invited to each month's planned Group activities. I am grateful for our Proctor and his efforts to drum up interest in Mensa and administer Qualification Tests to interested candidates. As ever, I am grateful that **Ginny** has found and reserved local venues for our TGIF dinners every month for more months than I can count.

I have some good news to share about this and future Head-Line issues: incoming Newsletter Editor **Phoenix Swope** has taken the reins from outgoing Editor **Sharon Plavnik** and is open to suggestions on how to improve the Head-Line. The current print issue will be the first fruits of her collaboration with a new printer who has been recommended by several other Local Groups. Their quote for printing, assembling, stickering, addressing, and mailing our 100+ copies each month came in below what we have previously spent with other printers, while saving us the effort and expense of getting print copies into the mail. If all goes according to plan, we will start to notice the monthly savings in the Fourth Quarter Treasurer's Report to be published in the February 2025 issue.

In addition to selecting and reserving our TGIF venues, **Ginny** has arranged several of our past MMM Holiday Parties.This month's will again be held at Martin Luther Chapel on Abbott Road in East Lansing. This will be a potluck dinner, but **Ginny** has arranged for MMM members to bring entrees, so you will only need to bring a side dish, drinks for yourself, AND a White Elephant gift to exchange! Find something lying around your house that you wouldn't miss, gift-wrap it in pretty Holiday paper, and bring it with you to MLC on Saturday, Dec. 21 (see this month's Activities Calendar for details). After dinner we will draw lots for each available gift, or you may prefer to "steal" someone else's choice. . . It's great fun for all, and some of the gifts may even be worth keeping!

Bob's Word Puzzle

Much like last month's Word Puzzle, these quotes have about half of their characters in their original positions and the rest slightly scrambled: their positions have been swapped with those of others nearby. As before, each letter, punctuation mark and space counts as one character. You should be able to read them easily once you determine the source of each quotation, which should not be too difficult -- they all have the same author!

Cryptic Quote #1:
"Is ayt heer i snod arnkes sbu tigonracne. "- iWllaim hSakseperae

Cryptic Quote #2:
"Lo evallt ,rusa t fe ,wdo orwng otnon".e - liWliaS mhakpseeare

Cryptic Quote #3:
"Lawssel areeht y thm taake iehtr wi slltheial rw." iW -lliahS makesraepe

Four Runners
Bob's Math Puzzle

Puzzle #1:
Four runners on a one-mile circular track start in the same place at time t = 0 and run in the same direction at constant speeds of 1, 3, 5 and 7 mph. At what time are the four runners first at the corners of a square?

Puzzle #2:
Four runners on a one-mile circular track start in the same place at time t = 0 and run in the same direction at constant speeds so that they complete one circuit of the track in 1, 3, 5 and 7 minutes. At what time are these four runners first at the corners of a square?

Geography
Bob's Trivia Quiz

How many of these 15 geography questions can you answer correctly?

1) What is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?
2) Which river flows through the Grand Canyon?
3) Where is Angel Falls, the world's largest waterfall, located?
4) What is the state capital of New York?
5) On what continent would you find the world's largest desert?
6) What is the capital of Ireland?
7) What is the tallest type of tree?
8) True or False: Holland is a region in The Netherlands?
9) What are the 5 Great Lakes?
10) How many time zones does the United States have?
11) What is the world's largest island?
12) What is the name of China's largest river?
13) What is the only country that borders Lesotho?
14) What is North America's longest river?
15) What capital city gets the least hours of sunlight per year?

A GLOVe Letter from the RVC

Rick Magnus. December 2024

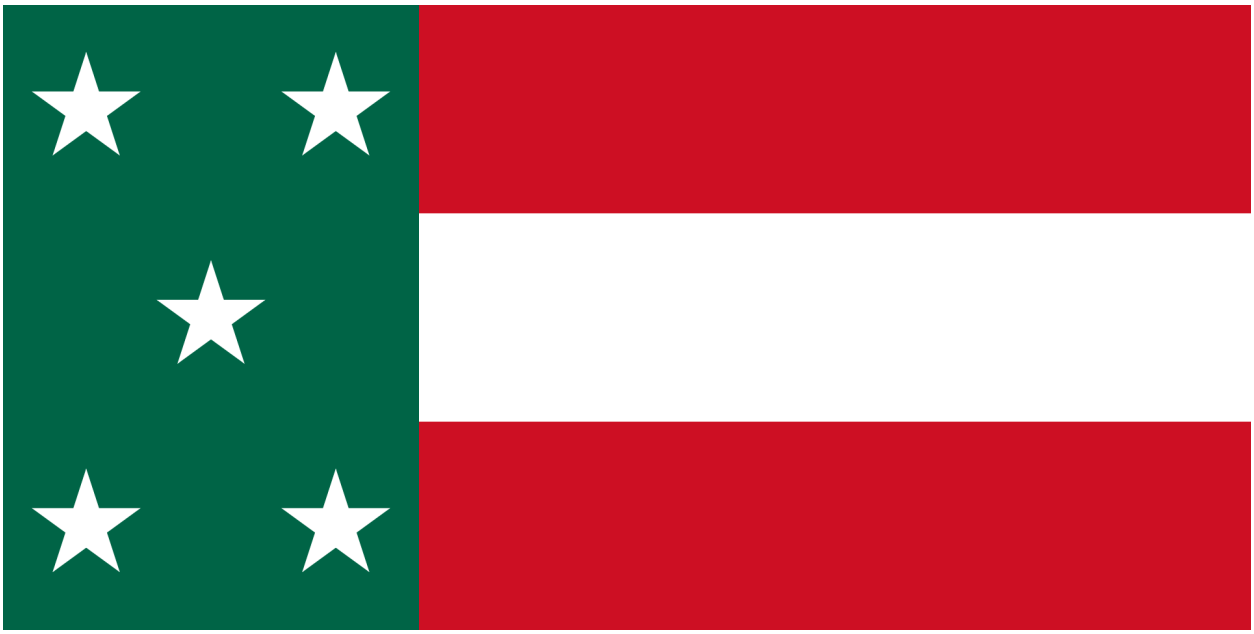
By the time you see this column, we will have an Interim Executive Director in place, leading the staff in our National Office; a permanent ED will, hopefully, be in place in a few months. The AMC has just one employee, the Executive Director, and the rest of the staff work for the ED. You can see the listing of our National Office Staff on the website. In addition to the ED, there are currently 21 names showing (although that can vary a bit); one works solely for the Mensa Foundation, and others are part-time, so the number of full-time equivalents is under 20. The work the staff does for us is invaluable, and the support they provide to national appointees and local groups is spectacular.

That said, most of the work done in American Mensa is done by member volunteers at local, regional, and national levels. My thanks go to each of you reading this—you know who you are—and I can't thank each of you enough.

Local group groups are usually the entry point for most AML leaders (although there is no experiential requirement for service on most national committees). Stagnation can be fatal for almost any organization, and that's true of Mensa local groups as well. Moving new people into leadership roles is crucial to your group's survival, and that must include generational change. None of us is immortal, and bringing in younger leaders is a must. Obviously, the time available to lead varies with stage of life, so it's normal that some sorts of leadership skew older than others. Taking time off from a position and returning can be quite useful, because we need both youthful energy and institutional memory. We know that groups that don't bring in new and (sometimes) younger leaders eventually stagnate and die. If you haven't served in a leadership position in your local group, think about volunteering, or even running for a starter position in your group's next election. If you need more information on what you can do, contact your Local Secretary.

Speaking of generational change, it's true that I returned as RVC 3 after a 21 year hiatus. An occasional return isn't a bad thing, but let me be clear: I do not intend to serve another term as RVC. I'm hoping that one or more readers of this column will be ready to step up and run for and/or serve as RVC 3 when this term ends in 2027. Why not you? (And if you'd like to do some regional efforts in the interim, I'll gladly work with you to find an appropriate spot that matches your interests and talents.)

Finally, an apology. In last month's column, I missed an award winner from this region; specifically, I missed one of the Region 3 members who won a National Certificate of Appreciation. So, to **Catherine Rock** of East Central Ohio Mensa, I offer both congratulations, and my sincerest apology. (Yes, some editors caught and corrected my mistake before it made it in the newsletter. Mensa editors have eagle eyes—or perhaps I should say, Owl Eyes.)



Clue #2

DECEMBER 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair

196 members

BIRTHDAYS

Caroline Perkins	Dec. 1
Charles Allison	Dec. 3
Zee Aslam	Dec. 3
Wendy Carnegie	Dec. 5
Brian McGrain	Dec. 6
John Abbott	Dec. 6
Catherine Beeman	Dec. 7
Walter Syroid	Dec. 8
Elizabeth Ginebaugh	Dec. 12
Jason Osbourn	Dec. 16
Jill Redder	Dec. 20
Daniel Johnson	Dec. 25
Ronald Burl	Dec. 30

MENSAVERSARIES

Eric Horner	5 yrs
Hiroki Fujiwara	6 yrs
Daniel Johnson	10 yrs
William Tupy	11 yrs
Jason Osbourn	14 yrs
David Salsbury	14 yrs
Kenneth Bonifield	16 yrs
Richard Hobrla	20 yrs
Clyde Creque	20 yrs
Eric Sanko	24 yrs
Sharon Plavnick	31 yrs
Joyce Kowatch	43 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

WORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

Quote 1
Read the first two characters (including the double quotes) in forward order, then the next two in reverse. Repeat for the next four characters, and continue until you reach the end. The result should be "I say there is no darkness but ignorance." - *William Shakespeare*

Quote 2
Read the first three characters in forward order, then the next three in reverse. Repeat for the next six characters and continue until you reach the end. The result should be "Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none." - *William Shakespeare*

Quote 3
Read the first four characters in forward order, then the next four in reverse. Repeat for the next eight characters and continue until you reach the end. The result should be "Lawless are they that make their wills their law." - *William Shakespeare*

FOUR RUNNERS ANSWERS

Puzzle #1
The relative speed of each runner vs. the next slower runner is 2 miles per hour, so that the gaps between them increase at 2 mph. On a circular 1-mile track, the 4 gaps total one mile. When each gap is 1/4 mile, which occurs 1/8 hour (7.5 minutes) after they start, the four runners will be equally spaced around the circular track, marking the corners of an inscribed square.

Puzzle #2
This one is trickier! Let's start by finding out how far the 4 racers must run in order to return to their original positions, which will happen when each has run an integer number of miles. It turns out that the least common multiple of 1, 3, 5, and 7 minutes is 105 minutes, when they will have completed 105, 35, 21, and 15 laps respectively, returning to their starting position.

The gaps between runners are then integer numbers of miles, but as in (a) we are looking for gaps of 1/4 mile. If they run half as long, they will complete 52.5, 17.5, 10.5, and 7.5 laps with the runners back together at the half-mile marker. This is beginning to show promise. . .

If we again cut the time in half, the runners can only complete 26.25, 8.75, 5.25, and 3.75 laps, with half-mile gaps between pairs of runners. We are looking for 1/4-mile gaps, so let's try cutting the time in half again. . . This gives distances run of 13.125, 4.375, 2.625, and 1.875 miles. Their positions on the track are just the fractional parts of these distances, or 1/8, 3/8, 5/8, and 7/8 of a mile. These distances are the desired 1/4 mile apart after they have run for 13.125 minutes, which is 787.5 seconds.

Bob's Trivia Answers:

1) Africa
2) Colorado River
3) Venezuela
4) Albany
5) Antarctica
6) Dublin
7) Redwood
8) True
9) Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario
10) 6
11) Greenland
12) Yangtze River
13) South Africa
14) Missouri River
15) Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

I recently came across my old recipe file card box and just had to take some time to go through it. There are treasures going back more than 50 years. For me, one of my strongest memory paths involves food and family. Today, I share a recipe entitled “Mom’s Health Muffins,” 1981. I remember her making them, and how good they were. I had to make them again, and with a few updates to accommodate my own preferences, they turned out very nice. Thanks, Mom.

MOM’S HEALTH MUFFINS

Ingredients:

1 C Quick Rolled Oats
1 C Whole Buttermilk
1 Large Egg
½ C Packed Brown Sugar
1 C Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
1 t Sea Salt
1 t Baking Powder
1 t Baking Soda
½ C Softened Butter
1 C Chopped Dried Fruit and/or Nuts (My favorites: Dates and Walnuts)

Directions:

In a medium bowl, combine Oats and Buttermilk. Soak together 1 hour.
In the meantime, sift together Dry Ingredients: Flour, Salt, Baking Powder, Baking Soda, set aside.
After 1 hour of soaking Oats/Buttermilk, Beat in Egg. Then stir in Brown Sugar.
Stir in Dry Ingredients. Mix in Butter. Gently stir in Chopped Dried Fruit. Fill greased muffin tins 2/3 full, and bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes.
Makes 12 regular sized muffins.

“What is patriotism but the love of good things we ate in our childhood.”
-Lin Yutang

MOVING?
Send change of address information to:
AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.
1315 Brookside Dr. Hurst, TX 76053

POSTMASTER: Send address changes and returns to address above.

HEAD-LINE is a monthly publication of Mid-Michig Mensa. Mensa is an international society in which sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any one of a number standard IQ tests. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose only purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. Mensa itself holds no opinions, no champions, no causes, and is not affiliated with an other organization. The opinions expressed herein those of the author(s), and in no way to be constru as the opinions of Mensa. Office of publication is 3369., Mason, MI

Mail to this VIP (Very Intelligent Person)