FEBRUARY 2025

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 610



MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

http://www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org

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The Head-Line is the monthly publication of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Annual subscription rate is $5.00 for members and is paid through American Mensa, LTD. The annual non-member rate is $10.00 and is limited to current members of other Mensa groups. Office of Publication is 3369 Harper Rd, Mason, MI 48854.

Awakening

Editor's Column
by Phoenix Swope

"Without change something sleeps inside us, and seldom awakens. The sleeper must awaken." — Duke Leto Atreides, *Dune* by Frank Herbert

I've been a fan of the story of *Dune* since I was a very young child. My father introduced the original 1965 book to me as well as the 1984 classic film by David Lynch (rest in peace), and he forever lamented the lost opportunity for Alejandro Jodorowsky's *Dune* to come into being. Since my first exposure, I must have read the book nearly a hundred times and enjoyed Patrick Stewart as Gurney Halleck. All hail the battle pug! The new *Dune* movies produced by Denis Villeneuve have given the franchise new life and popularity (along with a TV spin-off, of course).

If you aren't familiar with the story, I highly recommend reading the original book. Opinions differ on the additional materials.

One of the main themes I've always taken from the story is the tension between action and stagnation. ***"[Paul, the main character] fought the temptation to choose a clear, safe course, warning 'That path leads ever down into stagnation.'"***

Like the book, American Mensa was created in the 1960s, seems to have peaked in the 1980s and 1990s, and… dare we hope for a resurgence in popularity here in the mid 2020s?

Let's avoid stagnation… Let the sleeper awaken!

As an additional prompt, here is a…

QUESTION?

What is something new you'd like to try, no matter how small?

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LOC SEC COLUMN

Bob's Two Bits for February 2025

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

This month's snow and cold can be depressing for those of us who aren't into winter sports, but February also has its consolations: not only is it the shortest month of the year, but the days are finally getting longer again! Next month brings the Spring Equinox, which should usher in higher temperatures as well. . . something to look forward to!

Other things may be frozen, but Mid-Michigan Mensa has been active lately. Members west of Lansing say they want MMM to have more activities near them, so I recommend that they get on the "My Mensa" page at the AML site and contact other former WMM members who are new to our roster. The best activities are built from the ground up by those most likely to participate, but in the meantime MMM plans to schedule a Saturday Brunch in Grand Rapids once a month instead of a TGIF dinner that week. It will be good to hear what issues are of concern to new Group members.

As you can see in this month's Treasurers' Report, MMM is still able to grow our "nest egg" thanks to higher AML subsidies and lower newsletter printing and mailing costs than anticipated. We are also getting fresh help from our newest members: our newsletter editor **Phoenix Swope** in Grand Rapids has volunteered to fill the vacant position on the MMM Steering Committee, and I have gladly accepted her offer. If we get more candidates to run for officer positions, we might even decide to hold an election this year! Of course, MMM still needs volunteers for unelected offices as well, including Membership Chair, Scholarship Chair, and Steering Committee Scribe. Any takers?

Another volunteer from outside the Lansing area has asked and been accepted as MMM's new Webmaster. . . **Leonard Dalenberg** has had the needed experience and has several suggestions for improving MMM's Website, so I have asked him to show us how much better our site can be!

A GLOVe Letter from the RVC

Rick Magnus. February 2025

I'm writing this column at the end of December, which has been an unusually busy month for me, both personally and as RVC. We had American Mensa Committee (AMC) meetings on December 6, 7, & 26, of which only the December 7 meeting was planned more than a few weeks ahead of time. My mother died at age 89 on December 8, with the funeral on December 10. I had cataract surgery on my right eye on December 20 (the left eye will follow on January 3). Add all that to everyday life (including my law practice), and it's safe to say that it's been a month to remember.

Why three AMC meetings? Our bylaws allow a majority of the 15 voting AMC members to call a special meeting on 14 days' notice, and that happened twice. And, if you think that this might reflect a division within the voting membership of AMC, you'd be right. I do think we'll get through this, but it's a bit bumpy in AMC world right now.

I've come to believe that three changes in our bylaws have each contributed somewhat to the problems. When I was on AMC from 2001 to 2003, there were 21 voting members of AMC; now there are 15. Then, as now, there were 5 nationally elected officers (Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2 nd Vice Chair, Secretary, & Treasurer), and 10 Regional Vice Chairs. While there are still 4 appointed officers (Communications Officer, Membership Officer, Marketing Officer, & Director of Science & Education), a bylaws amendment made them non-voting members of AMC. A separate bylaws amendment removed the two most recent Chairs from AMC altogether.

Each of the 4 groups of AMC members tended to have certain commonalities. The past chairs brought institutional memory. The national officers tended to be big picture thinkers. The RVCs brought a more regional perspective. The appointed officers represented important segments of organizational interests. And no one group of voting members (5 nationally elected officers, 10 RVCs, 4 appointed officers, and 2 past chairs) had a majority of votes on AMC. Today, we, as RVCs, have 2/3 of the votes on AMC.

The other change that happened is that AMC terms were extended from 2 years to 3 years. This was done to match terms on Mensa's International Board of Directors (IBD), and to have a larger portion of the terms be outside election season. But I think an unintended effect of this change is that turnover on AMC is now higher. It's one thing to run for a second term when that means 4 years on AMC; it's very different to run for a second term when that means 6 years of service.

So if you listened to one or more of December's AMC meetings, and thought it sounded mildly chaotic, I won't disagree with you. Debates can be intense, then issues get resolved by a vote. Do realize that AMC meetings are just the tip of the iceberg of organizational governance; a lot happens between meetings, either in person-to-person communications or in various committees,[1] and we are successfully accomplishing a lot in ways that are not noticeable. (Many of the committees will gladly take new members; contact the committee chair if you'd like to volunteer, or you can contact me and I'll put you in touch with the committee chair.)

Dayton Area Mensa and Cincinnati Area Mensa are hosting a Regional Gathering March 7-9 in Sharonville, OH (a northern suburb of Cincinnati). It's a great chance to meet other Mensans without traveling too far from home, and have a generally great time chatting, hearing speakers, and playing games. You can find more information on the internet.[2] Mensa MindGames, at which we test new table games, will take place in Portland, Oregon, from April 24-27, and be chaired by Region 3's own Stephanie Thornton; I'm not sure if there's still space, but you can find more information at this site.[3] American Mensa's Annual Gathering, the largest gathering of Mensans on the planet each year, will take place July 2-6 in nearby Chicago; there is no cap on attendance, so you most definitely can register now for the AG.[4]

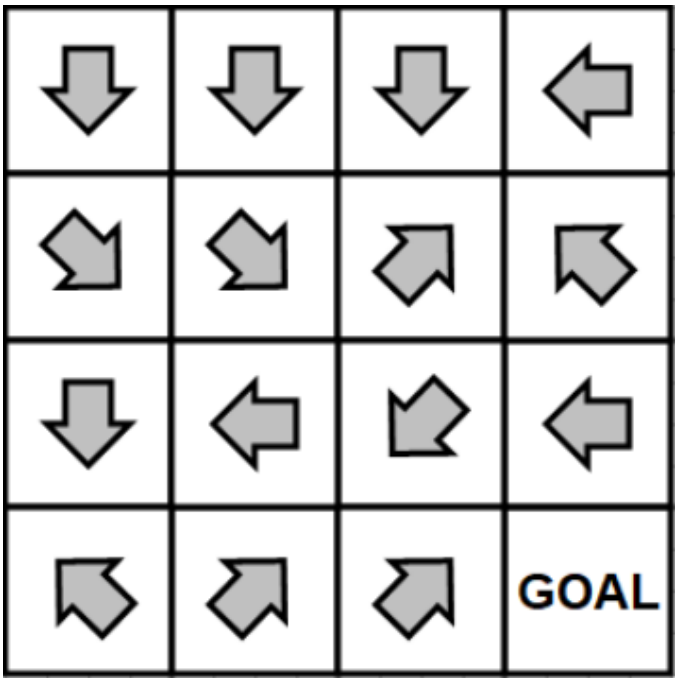
[1] See National committees for the list.
[2] MAD MAC RG
[3] Mind Games 2025 Judge Registration
[4] American Mensa's Annual Gathering | July 2-6, 2025

Bob's Word Puzzle

Can you find some examples of a long word made up of two (or more) shorter words? The words should be totally unrelated, and no letters should need to be changed or rearranged. I found several examples with 6 or 7 letters: ARC + HER, TAB + LET, BAR + GAIN, and HONE + STY, among others. Longer words are more difficult. . . Good luck!

Bob's Math Puzzle

Find a path through the 4X4 Arrow Maze below, starting at the upper left corner. Follow the arrow from there in a straight line to another arrow, then repeat until you reach the lower right corner. Each arrow you reach will allow you to start moving in its own direction (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally). You don't have to turn at every arrow if there is another one beyond it, but you must stay inside of the grid! What is the shortest path to the goal that you can find?



IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

Fri. Feb. 7: TGIF - Delhi Cafe (Lansing)
4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

Fri. Feb. 14: TGIF - Hibachi Grill (Lansing)
5837 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. Extensive buffet boasting 250+ American, Asian & Italian items, plus hibachi dishes.

Sat. Feb. 15 10:00 AM: Saturday Brunch - Cherie Inn (Grand Rapids)
969 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids. Just west of Eastown, in the East Hills business district, this European-style cafe is one of West Michigan's best-kept secrets.

Fri. Feb. 21: TGIF - Olga's Kitchen (Lansing)
354 Frandor Ave in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, Snackers, and Olga's signature gyro sandwiches.

Fri. Feb. 28: TGIF - Coral Gables (Lansing)
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.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about **5:30 PM** but feel free to join us at any time. Come and get acquainted. All members and friends are welcome at the events. Any member may schedule an event. Please remember to include **Who**, **What**, **Where**, **When**, and **Why**. The deadline to schedule an event is the **15th of the month before the event**. Please contact **Ginny Brunke Henderson**, MMM 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

VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

MENSA VIRTUAL DISCUSSION GROUP
Ken Lawrence (MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com)

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

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

MENSA BRAINSTORMING GROUP
Ken Lawrence (MensaProctor670@gmail.com)

Mensans like to express their views on how things should be in our organizations. While we do not have a way of implementing suggestions, we do have a forum for talking about them. (M Brainstorming Facebook Group)

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHN0Jsdz09
Meeting ID: 829 0860 0785 Passcode: 1234

BIBLE STUDY SIG
Ken Lawrence (VirtualChristianBibleStudy@gmail.com)

Religion has a longer intellectual history than science, and Newton published more about the Bible than he did physics. We evaluate the Bible from a Christian perspective, and you are welcome to join us. (Virtual Christian Bible Study SIG)

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86488880838?pwd=QUVUaFhPSjI0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09
Meeting ID: 864 8888 0838 Passcode: 1234

Bob's Trivia Quiz

1) On Dec. 20, 2000 its stock was at $79; a year later it was at 42 cents

2) Raymond Burr battled evildoers from his wheelchair as this crimefighter

3) Symphony with 4 movements, including the "Ode To Joy"

4) Its inventor needed extra sleeping space in his cramped apartment

5) Compound with three oxygen atoms (and no others)

6) WWII symbol of women in the workforce

7) This Massachusetts city was the capital of the US whaling fleet

8) A lack of blood flow to the brain causes this, the medical term for fainting

9) A major African port, this city has a name meaning "house of peace"

10) Brennan's in New Orleans is famed for this flambéed fruit & rum dessert

11) This alliterative literary award is named for Russia's preeminent poet

12) You can "beat" this chef on TV

13) Captain of the Bonhomme Richard, he said, "I have not yet begun to fight"

14) Some clownfish live safely with this type of stinging sea creature

15) This marine mammal is similar to a manatee



RICHARD'S MUSINGS

Richard Horvitz

This will be an introduction as to who I am and an introduction to a new column, Richard's Musings, which will be appearing in the Head-Line.

I have been a member of Mensa for over 50 years. I was active in the West Michigan group when I first moved to Grand Rapids, but dropped out a few years after then and only began regularly attending meetings again after my wife passed away in April of 2023. I was a regular attendee at the Saturday morning breakfasts at Cherie's until they stopped having these early last year. I was born and raised in the Boston area, and went to Harvard College there. After 11 years of attending graduate schools and training programs in various cities, I moved to Grand Rapids in 1977. Quite literally, I answered a blind box number advertisement in a professional journal for a job in a "desirable Midwestern city." When I found out the job was in Grand Rapids, I had heard of it for the furniture industry and President Ford.

For 39 years I worked as a laboratory medicine professional at Butterworth Hospital. I was a "jack of all trades" there: setting up new tests, overseeing quality control, working with medical and laboratory staff to help get the right test for what the doctor was looking for and to help the doctor understand what the test results meant, and working with the department computer system to accurately communicate test information to physicians. I retired from this position in 2016.

While doing a residency program in New Haven, Connecticut, I met a woman in the lobby of his apartment building talking to the doorman about the Patty Hearst trial. We were married shortly before we moved to

Grand Rapids, and remained married until she passed away. We did not have any children.

For many years my wife and I were involved with owning and showing Samoyed dogs. We traveled all over the country to attend shows, and even got dogs we owned into Westminster a number of times. I almost had to make my debut showing one of our dogs on the floor of Madison Square Garden.

I keep myself occupied reading magazines and Internet articles on a wide variety of topics, attending emeritus education programs at Aquinas College and elsewhere via Zoom, and staying physically active. For many years I ran 10K and 5K races, and a couple of times even the Old Kent River Bank Run. I go to the Mary Free Bed YMCA to do strength training, running, and swimming, and in warmer weather go running outdoors on neighborhood streets. I stay quite physically active for a man my age.

I intend to cover in Richard's Musings a variety of topics. Some of these will be reports on my various recent travels. One of the last things my wife said to me, before she had a severe stroke which rendered her unable to speak and soon led to her death, was "I want you to travel." She and I had taken a number of trips together before COVID came along in 2020. For nearly 3 years, between this pandemic and her declining health, I had hardly been able to get out of our house. Two of the first things I did after her death were to reactivate my YMCA membership and to renew my passport. Since her death I have taken two foreign trips, a Danube River cruise tour last May and a trip to England, Scotland, and Ireland in September. I am planning a trip around South America this March. I will also report on some places I have visited in the United States. People in Western Michigan Mensa knew me for my interest in naval ship history, and, yes, I will write a few articles on this subject. But this will not be the primary subject of my Musings. I have enough different topics on a variety of subjects that this should give me material for a variety of interesting pieces for a while to come.

FEBRUARY 2025 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kathy Teshich, membership Chair
198 Members

Birthdays

Squire Jaros	Feb 01
Elizabeth Peacock	Feb 01
J Dennis Marek	Feb 19
Phoenix Swope	Feb 20
Ruth Lilley	Feb 24
Todd Eldred	Feb 25
Paul Cumberworth	Feb 28

Mensavereries

Michael Callahan	1 yr
Eleanor Keating	1 yr
Allan Sherwin	1 yr
Carol Scot	1 yr
Paul Erickson	2 yrs
Glen Houting	5 yrs
Eric Roath	8 yrs
William Kendrick	13 yrs
Stephen Hartmann	14 yrs
Carol Duane	14 yrs
Steven Spitzley	15 yrs
Kevin Kane	18 yrs
Thomas Slater	23 yrs
John Stephenson	25 yrs
Joel Anderson	28 yrs
Brinton Butler	36 yrs
Nan Van Andel	39 yrs
John Davidson	43 yrs
Joan Forgrave	45 yrs
Richard Woltersom	47 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Word Puzzle

More examples include GAR + DEN, BILL + ION, PORT + ION, BIT + TERN, BAR + KING, PEAS + ANT, SAT + URN, ANT + HER, AN + GEL, IN + TEND, BOT + HER, BAR + RING, BAT + HER, VINE + GAR, WIN + DOW, etc. Let me know if you find other examples worth sharing!

Math Puzzle

If you get lost or stuck following the arrows in the forward direction, try following them in reverse. . . Find an arrow that points directly at the goal, then find one that points directly at the arrow you just found, and in 12 steps you should be able to "back up" to the starting arrow in the upper left corner!

Bob's Trivia Answers:
1) Enron
2) Ironside
3) Beethoven's 9th
4) Murphy bed
5) Ozone
6) Rosie the Riveter
7) New Bedford
8) Syncope
9) Dar-es-Salaam
10) Bananas Foster
11) The Pushkin Prize
12) Bobby Flay
13) John Paul Jones
14) Anemone
15) Dugong

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report

Quarter Ending December 31, 2024

STARTING BALANCE	$8,901.98
INCOME	$621.58
AML Subsidy Sept. 2024	241.24
AML Subsidy Oct. 2024	190.16
AML Subsidy Nov. 2024	190.12
5/3 Bank savings interest	0.06
EXPENDITURES	$519.90
Head-Line Printing & Postage (CTI)	316.32
Head-Line Printing (ASA))	100.85
100 Stamps - 1st Class	73.00
Winter Party supplies	29.73
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
5/3 Checking	7,004.68
5/3 Savings	1,998.96
ENDING BALANCE	$9,003.66

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-Michigan Mensa. Mensa is an international society in which the sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any one of a number of 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 any other organization. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s), and in no way to be construed as the opinions of Mensa. Office of publication is 3369., Mason, MI

Mail to this VIP (Very Intelligent Person)