Autumn 2026

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Issue 616



Mid-Michigan Mensa

midmichigan.us.mensa.org

167 members

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Head-Line is the newsletter 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 yearly and is limited to current members of other Mensa groups.

Head-Line is published 4 times per year as follows: Winter (December–February), Spring (March–May), Summer (June–August), and Autumn (September–November). Items received by the 15th of the month before the cover date will be considered for publication.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report
Quarter Ending June 30, 2026

BEGINNING BALANCE	$12,939.07
INCOME	$508.22
National Subsidy Mar. 2026	$188.24
National Subsidy Apr. 2026	$157.52
National Subsidy May 2026	$162.36
Savings interest	$ 0.10
EXPENDITURES	
Print & Mail Summer Head-Line	$130.06
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
Checking	$8,607.82
Savings	$4,709.41
ENDING BALANCE	$13,317.23

A GLOVe Letter from the RVC
by RVC3 Rick Magnus

I'm writing this at the end of July. American Mensa's Annual Gathering ("AG") took place earlier this month in Ft. Worth, TX. I had a great time, and participated in some Mensa business. There was at least one member present from every active group in Region 3, and I was pleased to meet so many of you, both old friends and new. As always, we had a Region 3 Meet & Greet, and had some good discussions, joined in part by Becky Folger of the National Office and American Mensa Chair Jon Gruebele. The 2027 AG will be closer to Region 3, in Atlanta.

Business at the board meeting generally went smoothly. We made various appointments, including chair for the 2028 AG in Philadelphia. We approved sending some Bylaws amendments to the membership for a vote next spring (and referred some others back to committees). The only contested vote came on a linguistic issue (Must a subcommittee include only members of the committee creating it, or must it be labeled a task force?).

We did accept the annual audit, which deserves further comment. Our audit is a joint audit of American Mensa and of the Mensa Foundation, and our accountants expressed some reservations over how the Foundation accounted for returns on some funds. To be clear, no money is missing, and the matter will be fixed in the near future. You may read the audited statements on the AML website.

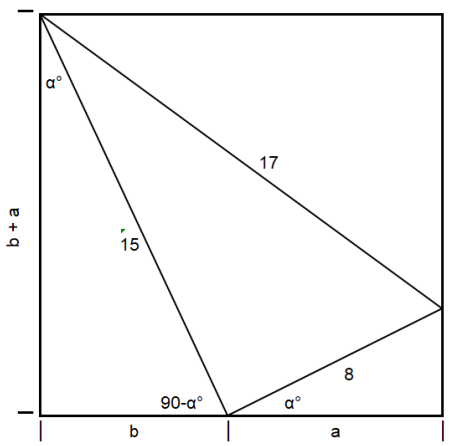
Awards! Billie Lee of Southeast Michigan Mensa was one of two winners of the Gifted Youth Program Award. Four Culture Quest® teams from Region 3 (more than any other region) finished in the top 21 places: Nerds N'At of Western Pennsylvania Mensa placed 5th, Uncle Churd of East Central Mensa placed 15th, Readin' & 'Ritin' & 'RithmaTiC of Cincinnati Area Mensa placed 16th, and Joe's Brunch of Western New York Mensa place 17th. National Award winners include a Chairman's Service Award to Billie Lee of SEMM, a National Service Award to yours truly, and a National

Certificate of Appreciation to Sandy Johnson of SEMM, Congratulations to all!

Western Pennsylvania Mensa is hosting an RG September 11-13, 2026, and Dayton Area Mensa is planning an RG December 4-6, 2026. Both should be stimulating intellectual and social environments for attendees.

Bob's Geometry Puzzle

A right triangle with side lengths of 8, 15, and 17 units is inscribed in a square of side (b + a) as shown in the diagram. What is the value of the ratio b / a?



September Theodore Talk

The title of the September Theodore Talk is "How to Communicate with Someone Who Disagrees with You". This virtual event will take place on Zoom September 27 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific).

Register for this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/yppyp84x

Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, as long as you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording. All Theodore Talks have Closed Captioning enabled, and this year we are offering Translated Captions as well.

The Theodore Talk lecture series is made possible by the generous financial support of Life Member Dr. Mark Cohen.

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the Mensa National Events Calendar or by visiting the American Mensa home page.

Questions? Contact us at MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com.

THEN & NOW

Remember when…San Francisco Mensa members took part in the 1989 Cognitive Sciences Project via the Stanford Research Institute (SRI)? Probably not, since it was eleven years before the report was declassified.

SRI had been under contract by US military intelligence to provide a science-based evaluation of exceptional human perception which was already in play in Russian intelligence. Their results confirmed the natural human ability to acquire information across time and space.

This research document is one of thousands in the declassified project archives collectively known as Project Star Gate on the FOIA website, though the project names varied over time. Some San Francisco Mensa members got a front row seat. https://www.irva.org/

In screening for talented remote viewers, the researchers found, “Qualitatively, the San Francisco Mensa organization appears to be a better population for screening for remote viewers, because seven individuals met the a priori criteria for inclusion in the second-stage screening, and only none or one did from the other two groups, respectively.”

Source: CIA declassified FOIA files

Screening For Remote Viewing Talent, Trask, V., Lantz, N., Luke, W., May, E., (1989)

SRI Project 1291 (Declassified 2000/08/08)

https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP96-

00789R002200580001-4.pdf

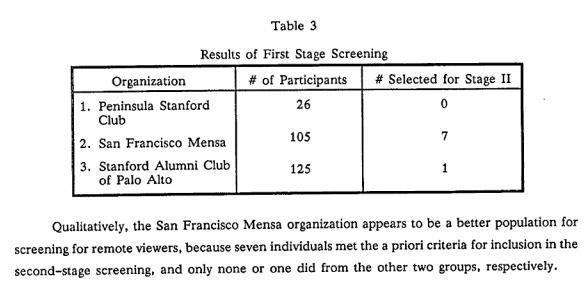


Table 3

Results of First Stage Screening

Organization	# of Participants	# Selected for Stage II
1. Peninsula Stanford Club	26	0
2. San Francisco Mensa	105	7
3. Stanford Alumni Club of Palo Alto	125	1

Qualitatively, the San Francisco Mensa organization appears to be a better population for screening for remote viewers, because seven individuals met the a priori criteria for inclusion in the second-stage screening, and only none or one did from the other two groups, respectively.

The Mensa connection is still strong. The International Remote Viewing Association (IRVA) was founded by military veterans of the formerly classified US intelligence program Project Star Gate and Stanford Research Institute scientists Hal Puthoff and Russell Targ. https://www.irva.org/

IRVA is a nonprofit 501c3 that promotes research, education, and practice in remote viewing as it relates to human perceptual and cognitive capabilities.

There are currently four Mensa members on the IRVA board of directors:

- Julia Ashley, Columbus Area Mensa, RVC3 2013-2017, IRVA Director & Board Secretary

- Lyn Buchanan, Star Gate Remote Viewer, New Mexico Mensa member & IRVA Director

- Gregory Cooper, Central Florida Mensa member & IRVA Director

- Gregory Radabaugh, South Texas Mensa member & IRVA Director

This year's IRVA conference is within driving range for Region 3. It runs from October 1st to 4th at the University of Dayton Marriott. Mensa members welcome. Use discount code HIPSIQ26IRVA to register for in person or online attendance. https://www.irva.org/irva-2026daytonconference-registration

The Spark You Might Not Know About
by Molly Bundschuh

One of my favorite parts of Mensa's Annual Gathering is one that many attendees never see. While the rest of the AG is in full swing, several dozen Young Mensans are gathered in their own space, spending three days learning, creating, making friends, and embracing the things most of us love about Mensa.

It's called Spark!, and for many families, it's the highlight of the AG.

Spark! is more than just a place for kids to spend time while their parents attend the AG. It's an opportunity to meet others who share their interests and excitement about learning. It's a place where asking weird questions is encouraged, where being passionate about a niche topic is celebrated, and where kids can discover they aren't the only ones who think the way they do.

We keep a packed schedule. This year's participants explored aviation, wildlife, art, robotics, biology, chemistry, environmental science, and problem-solving through activities led by organizations including the Frontiers of Flight Museum, Wildlife on the Move, Crayola Imagine Arts Academy, Snapology, Mad Science of DFW, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, Dallas Arboretum, Challenge Island, and more.

Mensa members shared their own passions, too, leading sessions on everything from music and wordplay to mathematics and pirates. One of our own Young Mensans, 12-year-old Tanvi G. from Northern New Jersey Mensa, led three talks about quantum physics and presented like a seasoned pro.

In between workshops, presentations, crafts, and games, Young Mensans discover that here at Mensa, they're surrounded by peers who share their enthusiasm. They don't have to apologize for knowing too much or getting excited about topics other kids might not understand. They can just be themselves.

Friendships form quickly. Kids who arrive a little shy leave asking how many days remain until next year's AG. Parents exchange phone numbers. Families reconnect with friends they've made over the years. For many, Spark! is what turns the AG from a one-time excursion into an yearly reunion.

That sense of connection is reflected in the numbers, too. This year, Spark! welcomed its largest group of participants in over a decade. We cap the program at around 65 children each year so that every child has the opportunity to participate, make connections, and feel like part of the group. Every spot represents a family making Spark! part of their AG experience and a child getting the chance to find their people.

If you've got a Young Mensan aged 4–12, I hope your family will consider joining us for Spark! at next year's AG in Atlanta, June 30–July 4. Be on the lookout for registration this fall!

And if you don't have a Young Mensan, I hope you'll remember Spark! anyway. Our youngest members aren't just the future of American Mensa - they're an important part of our community today. Lots of Mensans join because they want more opportunities to meet people who operate on their level. Spark! is a reminder that the experience of finding people who understand you isn't unique to adulthood. Our youngest members deserve those opportunities, too. A game day, a science activity, a family meetup, or simply giving a Young Mensan a chance to share something they love can be enough to get started. If you're looking for ways to support youth members in your Local Group, I'd love to help! You can reach me at mollyb@americanmensa.org.

Geometry Puzzle Solution

We know that the inscribed shape is a right triangle because the square of the longest side length (the hypotenuse) is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two leg lengths. The angle between its shorter legs is thus 90°, and the angles labeled as α° in

the diagram are indeed equal. Thus, the smaller right triangles with their 90° angles at the square's bottom corners are similar triangles.

Similar triangles have the same length ratios between corresponding sides: in this case, the ratios (b + a) / 15 and a / 8 are each equal to the cosine of α°. A little algebra gives 15 * a = 8 * (b + a), then 7 * a = 8 * b, so b / a = 7 / 8.

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 Harper Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9352

Mail to this VIP (Very Intelligent Person)