Spring 2026

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Issue 615



Mid-Michigan Mensa

midmichigan.us.mensa.org

187 members

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Member	Ken Lawrence		mensaproctor670@gmail.com
Member	<vacant>		

Appointed Officers

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Treasurer's Report

Quarter Ending December 31, 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE	$12,261.06
INCOME	$544.93
Nat'l Subsidy Sept. 2025	177.80
Nat'l Subsidy Oct. 2025	184.56
Nat'l Subsidy Nov. 2025	182.48
Savings interest	0.09
EXPENDITURES	$141.49
Print & Mail Fall Head-Line	141.49
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
Checking	$9,155.28
Savings	$3,509.22
ENDING BALANCE	$12,664.50

A GLOVe Letter from the RVC by RVC3 Rick Magnus

One of the goals The American Mensa Committee ("AMC") has set for ourselves is to stem membership decline and get real membership growth. Our membership has declined over the last few years, and we all think that having more members is better than having fewer members.

There are multiple reasons for this. One is that more members spreads out the fixed costs of operating our society. Another reason is that more members allows for more personal interactions; as membership grows linearly, the number of possible interactions grows geometrically. (For those of us mathematically inclined, the formula is $\frac{1}{2} n^2 - \frac{1}{2} n$, where n is the number of members.)

Basically, there are two ways to have more members. One is to get more members to join; the other is to keep the members we have.

Getting more members is easier than it sounds. We know that people often join at points in their lives where there's a change, such as graduation, divorce, or relocation to a new city. (Yes, those are also points in lives when lapsed members tend to rejoin.) People join for as many reasons as there are new members. Some people join for the validation Mensa membership gives them; to them, a membership card is the most important part of their memberships. Some people join to find an intelligent romantic partner. Some people join to find a peer group (that includes me, 44 years ago, when I was finishing law school). Some people join to be with people with more general interests than the people with whom they work; this often includes professors and other academics. Some people join just because they're curious about what Mensa is, and want to see us from inside. Under the leadership of Membership Officer David Leavitt, we're working to describe the types of people who might want to join ("personas"), and figure what we can do to recruit people of each type as members. (Of course, we always welcome anyone who's eligible to join to do so, and if you have friends, acquaintances, classmates, or co-workers whom you think might like to join, we'd love to have

you send them our way. Information on joining can be found on our website.)

Keeping members often comes down to having what people want from us available. Local activities, varying by type, interest, and location make a difference. Some people want happy hours or meals out; some people want groups to go to artistic performances, such as dance, theater, concerts, and films; some people want discussion groups about a variety of topics. Some people want nationwide or worldwide online groups through our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) program. Both local activities and SIGs come from members who organize them; each of you may have an idea that will make your membership better, and make others want to stay members. Then there are national events that American Mensa or our related Mensa Foundation organize (such as MindGames®, the Annual Gathering, the Colloquium, and Spark for younger AG attendees). All that said, almost all the nationally sponsored events started with one member who had an idea, and it grew into something significant; perhaps you can come up with the next one.

Cincinnati Area Mensa is hosting a Regional Gathering ("RG") March 6-8, 2026, and registration is now open. I'm sorry that I will miss it, as I travel on a cruise ship with other Mensans (organized by the Hs Special Interest Group), nearly half a world away; some other AMC members have told me that they plan to attend the RG. Mind Games will take place April 16-19, 2026, near Washington, DC ; its slots have filled quickly, but I believe there are spaces on a wait list. Registration is now open for our biggest annual event, the Annual Gathering, which will take place July 1-5, 2026 in Fort Worth (there is no registration cap for the AG); we'll have a Region 3 Meet & Greet at the AG. Western Pennsylvania Mensa is planning an RG September 11-13, 2026, and Dayton Area Mensa is planning an RG December 4-6, 2026.

Finally, here's a gentle reminder that this is membership renewal season. For those of us whose membership expires in 2026 (IOW, excluding life members and those with longer term multi-year membership), you need to renew by the end of March to avoid a lapse.

Events and Zoom Meetings

Bible Study
A Mensa based activity to provide a Christian based examination of the Bible
7:00 PM Eastern Time every Sunday
https://us02web.zoom.us/s/86488880838?pwd=QUVUaFhPSjI0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09#success
Meeting ID 864 8888 0838
Passcode 1234

Discussion Group for Ms
2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) ever Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyeIF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09
Meeting ID 867 2610 8623
Passcode 1234

Mensa Brainstorming
Each Sunday at 9 PM Eastern Time
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHN0Jsdz09
Meeting ID 829 0860 0785
Passcode 1234

Great Books and Beyond
Every Saturday at 4PM ET
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712713531?pwd=heHddn31X52wK7bxQjOlYt8ydupH1c.1
Meeting ID 827 1271 3531
Passcode 1234

Grand Rapids TGIF
First Friday each month
Founders Brewing, 235 Cesar E Chavez Ave SW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (Free parking in the adjacent lot)
https://foundersbrewing.com/visit-connect/grand-rapids-taproom/deli/

March Theodore Talk

The title of the March Theodore Talk is "Dudley Clarke: The Genius of Deception". This virtual event will take place on Zoom March 22 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific).

ABSTRACT

Can one man change the course of a world war? From 1941, working from rooms over a Cairo brothel, British officer Dudley Clarke conceived a new way of fighting the Nazis: using the tools of the mind. Deception in war isn't a new idea, but this eccentric colonel realized that global conflict offered the chance to carry out deception on a global scale. Instead of getting the enemy to put a battalion at the wrong end of the line, he would persuade them to put whole armies in the wrong country. His tools were a limitless imagination and a talent for stagecraft. But his eccentricity would end up nearly destroying everything he'd built.

Robert Hutton, author of The Illusionist: The True Story of the Man Who Fooled Hitler, spent years in Britain's archives digging out Clarke's amazing story; now you will learn it as well.

Register for this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/33trauv9.

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, Thank you.

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.

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Mail to this VIP (Very Intelligent Person)