



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



CultureQuest 2000

**Why is there a picture of the 14th place 2000 CIM
CultureQuest team on the cover?
Maybe it's because one of these men is
mentioned in this issue of MIND.**

(See Pages 3, 5, and 6)

Publishing Statement

Central Indiana Mensa, a Local Group of American Mensa, Ltd., publishes *MIND* monthly. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization open to all persons scoring in the 98th percentile on a standardized intelligence test. Mensa neither endorses nor opposes the opinions published in *MIND*, which are those of the individual contributors.

Contribution Guidelines

MIND contributions may be sent to mind.editor@yahoo.com, or Teresa Gregory, 6076 Dewey Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46219. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material, and may not include personal attacks. No anonymous contributions will be published, but the Editor will withhold the author's name from the public on request. Contributions should be in hand no later than the first Friday of the month for the following month's edition.

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mind

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Did you recognize the men on the cover? (Dom Jervis, Gary Peretich, George Dunn and Larry Marcus.) Be sure to read Jan's column and the following article about a contest that involves one of them.

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

What a great time we had at the Annual Gathering in Louisville this year. A big Thank You to Mary Lee Kemper, the brains behind it. She had a co-chair in Marc Lederman, but this was Mary Lee's show. I talked to her one early Sunday morning at the Indianapolis RG when she was getting her proposal ready. She said she wanted to chair a great Midwest AG, and that's what she did.



This was my first AG in several years. My intention was to go to a lot of programs, but [hanging head] the hospitality area was just so darned hospitable, and I kept seeing people I haven't seen in several years. Renewing old friendships is one of the best perks of Mensa and the AG. The next two AGs are on opposite sides of the country (San Diego and Hollywood, Florida) but then in 2018, we are here in Indianapolis.

At the AG, I participated in a panel discussion with several other Mensa officers on...are you ready for this?...how to spend Mensa money on the members. See Jan's LocSection column and page 6 to understand the irony in this. Ideas? Oh, yes. I have ideas!

As some of you may recall, I mentored a high school student as part of the Starfish Initiative program here in Indianapolis. It's a great program that matches deserving students with an adult who will help them in the process of getting into college. My scholar (as they are called) graduated in 2014. I received an email a few weeks ago from someone at Starfish. They have a very enthusiastic young girl who joined last year, but her mentor didn't follow through and just disappeared. The people in the organization thought she should have an experienced mentor to take over and asked me. I get to meet her soon and I'm excited. So this old dog will be learning some new tricks with a new pup.

New tricks: My grandson (almost-eight-year-old Sam) and I have been doing the summer reading program at the Indianapolis library. I found out on our first visit that he had only been to one city library, the one closest to home. Each time we go (about every two weeks) we visit a different branch. We have also been learning about geocaching. (It's like a treasure hunt.) Last week, we found our first cache. It was hidden in a library. It was great! We knew it was there somewhere, and we were talking about it when an employee, and older man, rolled out from between two shelves where he had been shelving books (he was on a wheeled stool) and said in a low voice, "Are you looking for the cache?" It was like a wonderful movie cliché. This cache had been placed before Sam was born. What a great way to start a new hobby.

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

The Annual Gathering – Central Indiana Mensa (CIM) had a great showing at Mensa’s AG (annual national convention) in Louisville. I counted 40 people who I knew from our group and I imagine there were more of you who I didn’t see or don’t know by sight. The fireworks over the Ohio River were great and brought back memories of watching them over the Charles River at Boston’s AG last year. I spent most of my time in sessions learning more about how Mensa works at the national level and how to help improve our group; helping as assistant onsite registrar; and socializing in hospitality. Next year’s AG will be in San Diego.



Generosity – As we go through life, we learn about generosity in many ways, both as recipients and by observing the actions of others. I’m thinking broadly about generosity of spirit and kindness, and gifts large and small, as well as monetary generosity. Every so often, a single act of generosity astonishes us because it is unexpected and because it is exceptionally generous. Such is the gift that **Dom Jervis** is making to our group. Dom is leaving \$5000 (at least) to CIM in his will. Dom belonged to our group in the late 1990s and early 2000s and says his time in CIM has been the highlight of his Mensa membership. He would like our suggestions for specifically how the money will be spent. Please read about the details of a contest for the best suggestions on page 6 in *MIND*. **THANK YOU, DOM!!!**

Magna Carta – Our July speaker Gerard Magliocca, professor at the IU law school, gave quite an interesting talk on Magna Carta. (No, I didn’t leave out the “the.” He taught us that by custom one doesn’t put “the” in front of Magna Carta.) Most western scholars consider it to be the document that laid the foundation for the rule of law, property rights, and the notion that no one, not even the king, is above the law. Magna Carta was an agreement between King John and the aristocracy, so it applied to only a small fraction of the people in Britain. The U.S. Supreme Court cited Magna Carta several times this year in opinions they released. He also talked about how Americans and American law consider it to be a much larger part of our history and heritage than the British do. The only monument to Magna Carta, in Runnymede, England, was put up and paid for by the American Bar Association. Thanks, **Ann Hake**, for arranging another great speaker!

Don’t forget – To send **Dom Jervis** your ideas To check out the Gen X/Y Cinder SIG To join the Central Indiana Mensa Facebook group To sign up for the Central Indiana Mensa Meet Up To volunteer to help with our Regional Gathering.

How Would YOU Spend \$5000?

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Now that I have your attention:

A few weeks ago, we received an email message from **Dom Jervis**, a former member of Central Indiana Mensa. He was active in our group for several years until around 2002. He told me that his years in our group were “the highlight of [his] nearly 20 years as an M.” (M = Mensan)

Dom is working on his estate and plans to leave at least \$5,000 to Central Indiana Mensa!! What a wonderful surprise! And what a tribute to those of you who were active in our group back then—you just never know how your friendship and kindness will be re-paid. I’m imagining an ExCom many years in the future marveling at the generosity of one of our past members when they receive the news and oversee fulfilling Dom’s wishes.

→ Dom would like our help in deciding how the future members of CIM will spend his bequest. **Please think about that and send your suggestions to him at domenickjervis@hotmail.com by September 30, 2015. Please cc: me (jan@mw.net), too, so we can also collect peoples’ ideas.** They would be good for the (current) ExCom to consider. Even if you don’t have ideas on ways to spend Dom’s money, he would like to hear from you, so please send him a hello and a thank you. If you don’t have access to email, please contact me for Dom’s mailing address.

Dom will choose the ideas he likes best and put them in his will. He will also award gift certificates for the Mensa Boutique for the three ideas he likes best. Remember, the deadline is **September 30th**.

[Ed. Note: Dom is on the far left in the picture on the cover. He was a very active member of CIM when he lived here. Can anyone name the man next to him? The one who is not George Dunn or Larry Marcus?]



Petra's Punny Page

Petra Ritchie

Shotgun wedding - a case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Have a really clever pun to contribute? Email: petraritchie@msn.com

Music You've Never Heard Of, Part I

Teresa Fisher

I must admit that most of my musical taste and knowledge comes from the radio. With a few exceptions I've been willing to let radio station Program Directors decide what I should listen to, and this has worked well for me. I like music that has standard chord structures, played on tuned instruments, with at least somewhat meaningful lyrics. It wasn't until Netflix gave me access to oddball documentaries (OK, so not all of my tastes are conventional) that I found out some people love music that's everything mainstream music is not.

Off the Charts - The Song-Poem Story (2003)

Produced and Directed by Jamie Meltzer

Did you ever see an ad in the back of a magazine soliciting poems to be set to music? *Off the Charts* tells us everything we need to know about that business.

Custom music writing has various price points depending on what the lyricist wants done (for example, it costs more to have a song included in a compilation album), but the basic cost in 2003 was \$249. For that price someone will write music to fit the lyrics, and a band of professional (has-been) musicians will record the song. Total time from first reading of the lyrics to the finished product is around 48 minutes. About 30 songs are recorded in an hour and a half. Retakes are rare, usually happening only when a band member can't suppress a laugh.

It would be difficult to overstate the horribleness of the lyrics people submit. One man interviewed for the movie said he deliberately wrote the most awful lyrics he could think of, and the man who recorded the song apologized and admitted it was "the worst thing I've done." The title was *Blind Man's Penis*. I'll spare you an excerpt. No one's lyrics are ever turned down due to lack of talent. Imagine having to write music (in a matter of minutes) for a poem with no meter or symmetry. And then imagine you're the musician or singer who has to sight-read and record that song without rehearsal.

Popular themes are Christmas, Elvis tributes, patriotism, romance, and religion. Lyricists interviewed for the movie seemed quite pleased with the results, and some of them have paid to have several poems set to music. One man featured in the movie wrote lyrics for a song called *Angeleria*, about his bicycle; another titled *Non-Violent Taekwondo Troopers*; and one about Annie Oakley, with whom he is obsessed.

"Annie Oakley was a lady and a markswoman.
Annie Oakley is deceased but not forgotten.
From what I heard Annie was not rotten.

With the help of Christ Annie was 'rifle nice.'
I have taken a vow of celibacy until marriage
But if Annie was to tempt me into her carriage
I might lose to Miss Oakley - it's not funny
Annie is one of my historical honeys."

(Take *that*, Burt Bacharach!)

We learn about the musicians who wind up in this end of the music business, and even see an angry recording studio argument. Gene Merlino calls himself the King of the Demo Singers and estimates he has recorded 10,000 song-poems over a 35-year period. He had a legitimate career in show business, particularly when he sang with the Anita Kerr Singers in the 1960s, and now finishes his career by singing such songs as *Be My Shark*, *Jimmy Carter Said Yes*, *Gem Your Igloo*, and a duet with a woman about a telephone speed dial called *Memory Dial*. ("You're number two on my memory dial, but you're number one in my heart.") At the launch party for the documentary a band sang some of the songs mentioned in the film, including *Blind Man's Penis*. The (temporary?) band called itself the Amazing Embarrassonics.

There is a growing number of song-poem connoisseurs who collect and listen to the music churned out by the companies who produce it. You can read their online critiques of a genre of music they are pleased to find for sale on vinyl at surplus outlets, music store bargain bins, and on Ebay. There is a CD called *American Song-Poem Anthology* which is available from Amazon, and I bought it. It is bad. Very, very bad.

Between 1900 and 2002 an estimated 200,000 song-poems were produced by a dozen or so companies, and despite their promises of a potential hit song, there has not yet been one.



**Central Indiana Mensa Presents
A Regional Gathering
W.T.F.
(Winter Time Fun)
January 29 - 31, 2016**

**Bring a Buddy!
Free Mensa Test for non-members included with a full
weekend admission
\$60 until October 31.**

Register and pay online at: <http://cim-rg-2016.eventbrite.com>
Or... mail a completed form and your check to the Registrar.
See Indymensa.org for more information.

Heat

Robert O. Adair

Sam Centigrade and
Joe Fahrenheit,
the guys who invented heat.
Things were really tough
for ordinary people before
this great invention.
The rich could go South,
the poor had to tough it out.
They took baths in ice cubes,
they punished wrongdoers,
making them do penance
kneeling in the snow.
The scientific majority
opposed their findings
as they have every
advancement of science.
Old timers opined:
"If freezing to death
was good enough for
my grandfather,
it's good enough for me!"
finally things settled down
and people began to accept
this strange innovation,
even the scientific community.
Sadly, the two men fell out
over what to call temperatures
Fahrenheit or Centigrade.
They quarreled endlessly,
then went their separate ways
never speaking to each other.
Later some guy named Celsius
highjacked the Centigrade name.
It was all very sad.

[This is one of Robert's unpublished poems. It seemed like the right time to print it.]

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Move In	Robert E Montgomery	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Andrea Lynn Gallagher	Zionsville	IN
Reinstating	Jerry D Lawrence	Evansville	IN
Renewing	Anthony Morgan	Whitesville	KY
Renewing	Donald Bradley	Franklin	IN
Renewing	Prof Robert E Neth	Columbus	IN



A Few of My Favorite Things

Teresa Gregory

August bring with it a few of my favorite things. If anyone would like to join me at these, let me know. The more people, the more fun!

Buck Creek Players Present “The Music Man”

July 31-August 2

11150 Southeastern Avenue | Indianapolis, IN 46259 (317) 862-2270

info@buckcreekplayers.com

A BCP audience favorite, the Play-A-Part Fundraisers separate themselves from The Playhouse's traditional productions in that all roles are "won" through an online silent auction with no required auditions! Veteran musical theater performers join first-timers to give this classic musical a comedic twist much like *The Carol Burnett Show*. CIM's own Ken Kern has appeared in every Play-A-Part production. These are very funny. I plan on going to the Sunday matinee. If you plan to go, be sure to check their website. There is road construction out that way.

The 48 Hour Film Project

Tentative date: August 8

Tentative Location: Indianapolis Museum of Art.

The challenge? To make a film in only 48 hours! Each team is given a character name and occupation, a line of dialogue, and a prop that must be used. They draw from a hat the genre of their film. Then they're off! Filmmakers from all over the Indianapolis, IN area will compete to see who can make the best short film in only 48 hours. The winning film will go up against films from around the world at Filmopalooza 2016 for a chance at the grand prize and an opportunity to screen at the Cannes Film Festival 2016, Court Métrage. These are short films, so if you don't care for this one, the next one might really wow you. Our own John Blankenship has participated in this in the past.

August 2015 Events

Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Soho Café & Gallery, 620 South Range Line Road, Carmel, IN. Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

Culture Vulture – after Ham 'n' Eggs @ Mormon Temple. **Aug 1** @ 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., 11565 Temple Dr., Carmel, Indiana. The growing community of Mormons in Central Indiana have been building a Temple in Carmel. They are holding an open house for the community. I suggest we take this opportunity to satisfy our curiosity about the architecture and decorations, as well as the tenants of the faith they transport.

Bridge Club – 1st Sunday of every month, 2 p.m., Contact: Bob Van Buskirk, 317-359-6907 or rvanbuskirk@netdirect.net. Location will change each month.

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

Mensa Meetup at the Monon Mixer @ Monon Community Center Waterpark, Thursday, **Aug. 13** @ 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Meet at the Monon Community Center Waterpark. Hang with your Mensa friends. Allison Brown will try to reserve a Cabana—look for a black Mensa Tee. Admission free for “Escape Pass” holders, otherwise \$10. You must be 21 and have ID.

Monthly Gathering – 2nd Friday at 7:00 p.m. NOTE THE NEW LOCATION: Quality Inn Castleton on the SW corner of Allisonville Road and I-465 (8380 Kelly Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46250). See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free.

8/14: Speaker: For those who have enjoyed "10 Minutes of Math and Science" and would like a full program, our own George Dunn will present: “Alternative Enumeration.” We may count on ten fingers, but that’s far from the only method that humans have chosen to number the things in their universe. Talk covers different bases, selected standards, choices of multiples and the search for prefixes. Also, a contest (with prize) to name the largest counting number without using reflexives or reiterations.

(Events are continued on the other side of the calendar.)

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Bridge Club	3	4	5 Indy Lunch Bunch
9	10	11	12
16 Mensans Dining Out	17	18 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom Paducah Area Group Meeting	19 Indy Lunch Bunch
23 Book Group	24	25	26
30	31		

August 2015 (Cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ham 'n' Eggs; Calendar Deadline Culture Vulture
6	7 <i>MIND</i> deadline	8 Mensa Testing
13 Monon Mixer	14 Monthly Gathering;	15
20	21	22
27	28 Cinder	29

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meetup group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meetup is free to join and you will get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

August 2015 Events (cont.)

Mensa Test – Saturday, August 8, Wayne Library, 198 S. Girls School Rd., Indpls., IN. Registration 10 a.m., Test 11 a.m. Contact Steve Merchant at editor32@outlook.com or 317-431-8645.

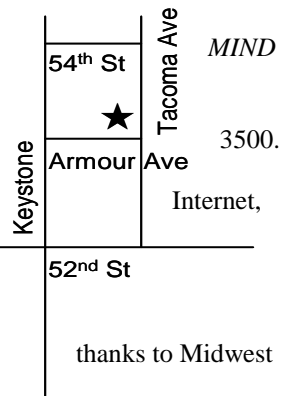
Mensans Dining Out – 6 p.m., August 16, ATHENS on 86th, 2284 86th West 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260. Call Bob Zdanky for more info. 317-219-3773

Paducah Area Group Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. Anyone in the area is welcome to join fellow Mensans for dinner. For location and more information on this group, contact Charles Rawlings, rawlings@siu.edu

MINDBending/ExCom – 3rd Tuesday of the month. *MINDBending* is the preparation of next month's for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the *MINDs*.

8/18, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-Pizza and soft drinks provided.

MINDBending is held at the offices of Midwest 5348 N. Tacoma Ave., which is 1 block east and 1 block north of 52nd St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.



A Big Thank You to all the July *MIND*benders and Internet for hosting the event.

Cinder – 4th Friday at 7 p.m. 721 E. 55th St., Indianapolis. A SIG for the Gen X and Gen Y crowd. Contact Ethan Blocker-Smith at MensaCinder@gmail.com.

Book Group – 2 p.m., 4th Sunday of the month,

8/23 *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War* by Don Doyle (No relation to Leo and Jan, or Sir Arthur Conan, but still a damned fine author!)

Contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

For last minute changes to events check the Central Indiana Mensa group on Meetup.com. <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>

September *MIND* calendar items due 8/1/15 to: biltmore@topdogcom.com.

Four To The Fore

George Haynes, RVC4

A few weeks ago I sent a request to all the Local Group Presidents (LocSecs) and Newsletter Editors. I would like to extend that same invitation to all active Mensa members within Region 4. My request will be a standing offer that is always open. The request is as follows:



Please send me info which celebrates and highlights the achievements, celebrations, and unique aspects of your local group. These can be at a group or individual level. The salient point is that Mensa awesomeness within Region 4 is communicated often. :)

Why am I asking for this? At every AMC meeting (the American Mensa Committee, i.e. the Executive Board), I will be given the opportunity to briefly talk about all things Region 4...**your region**. My ideal scenario is to have a deluge of Region 4 goodness that is too voluminous to finish in the brief time I am given at the AMC meeting. This all depends on you. The more info you send me the more difficulty I will have in finishing the recounting all the great things within region 4. Make my life difficult this way. What an awesome problem to have if I cannot finish talking about all the wonderful things going on within our region.

Just to help you out a bit, below are some examples of the types of things you could send me. This list is just a starting point and a beta version. I encourage you to recklessly springboard from this list with your own ideas.

We had a successful RG. Highlights included.....

We have a new local SIG. The SIG is called....

Our local group won the following awards at the AG....

Our local group did some community volunteer work involving.....

Our local group executive committee is a well oiled machine in which everyone works together in a spirit of collaboration and friendship.

I spoke about Mensa at my job and one of my colleagues expressed an interest in getting tested.

Our local group gives a scholarship. Details of the scholarship are.....

A long absent friend who had dropped out of sight for years recently rejoined our local group. We are thrilled to have him/her back.

As I write this I am packing to go to the AG. By the time you read this we may have crossed paths and chatted in Louisville. Whether we sat in a meeting together, chilled in Hospitality, or just briefly converged in the hall, I am glad we met in person.

Travel Through Time to WeeM 4D

By Jeudi Juetten, WeeM PR Chair

Time to register for the 40th Anniversary of Mensa's best party—HalloWeeM 4D-Time Travel WeeM! This year's event is October 29 – November 1, 2015. THE CLOCK IS TICKING: registering in advance helps US make it the best possible event for YOU by ensuring sufficient food, beverage, programming, and general WeeM awesomeness. TICK TOCK! Register at <http://chicago.us.mensa.org/WeeM/index.php>

Chicago Area Mensa hosts the largest regional gathering of Mensans in the U.S. It's four days of food, fun, costumes, games, and opportunities to learn new things and meet friends from all over. There'll be programs like "Gasjets to Stratajets," "The Changing World of Publishing," LGBT Ally Training, and "You Can Get (Almost) Anything You Want." We'll have presentations about the Chicago Police Department, a history of mob violence in Chicago, the Ethical Humanist Society, writing and publishing scifi thrillers, scrapbooking, renaissance woodwinds, and a "Moby Duck" book discussion. (Yes, you read that right!)

There's even a rumor going around that a TARDIS will be visiting, which is timely because, like WeeM, it's bigger on the INside.

We're back at our timeless hotel, the Westin North Shore, with a discounted rate of \$115 through July 27. The hotel offers newly refurbished rooms with mini-fridge, a great workout room, pool, and beautiful outdoor walking path. Rooms are filling up fast, so don't wait until the nick of time! Reservation issues can be directed to WeeM-HotelLiaison@chicago.us.mensa.org

Again this year, we'll have yummy new meals in our nationally-famous Hospitality Suite with 24-hour snacks and beverages. We have a huge game room, Poker and Werewolf tournaments, our pun-tastic Friday night costume contest, Saturday night Pretentious Drinking and the Epicurean Experience (for non-drinkers and kids,) not just one but TWO dances, kids programming and child care.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE IDEAS!

- Know someone who would be a great speaker, has an interesting seminar to give, or a fun performance to present? Contact Program Chair Lacey Hudec
- Have an idea for a great excursion, like a crafts or cooking class, or cultural outing? Contact Excursions Chair, Cynthia Clampitt!
- Got a game tournament idea? Contact Deb Johnston, Tourney Coordinator!
- Suggestions for the young crowd? Contact Kids and Tweens Chairs Kim & Joel Kohler!

- Got books that are just taking up room and collecting dust? Bring them for our Annual Book Sale Chairs Teresa Tucker & Robert Little to sell for a charitable cause!

WEEM NEEDS YOU!

This event couldn't happen without our team of very enthusiastic and friendly volunteers. Many volunteer positions are available in hospitality, games, vendors, publicity, registration, and so on. Contact our Volunteer Coordinators at Volunteers@chicago.us.mensa.org to sign up. You can also volunteer on site, but signing up in advance helps better plan for a smooth event.

Contact WeeM Chair Heather Booton at WeeM-chair@chicago.us.mensa.org

For the whole WeeM Team list, go to :

<http://chicago.us.mensa.org/WeeM/WeeMteam.php>

The WeeM Team hopes you'll join us for the time of your life at HalloWeeM 40!

Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Title: *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*

Author: Elizabeth Kolbert

Publisher: Picador, Henry Holt and Company

Year: 2014



Book Description: *The Sixth Extinction* is a variation of the paleontological theme to which I alluded in my last book review, although the tone of this rendition is much more elegiac than celebratory. While *Latin for Bird Lovers* is a paean to the human capacity for language, the focus of *The Sixth Extinction* is on *homo sapiens*' not-so-harmonious relationship with his/her natural environment – to wit, species are currently disappearing more rapidly than has ever previously occurred in the history of our planet, the root cause being, perversely, the unique human ability to conceptualize and act accordingly. But rather than rail against our figurative departure from the Garden of Eden, the author approaches her subject matter with earnest enthusiasm, and takes us on a literary excursion via her various international fact-finding missions. Heading each chapter is a species that symbolizes the event depicted within – e.g., *discoscaphites jerseyensis*, an ammonite (tiny shelled creature) that disappeared at the end of the Cretaceous period. Beginning with the current plight of the world's amphibian population, the book traces the history of paleontology and the development of extinction theories, from Cuvier's early nineteenth-century "catastrophism" to the Alvarezes' "Extraterrestrial Cause" of the 1980's. The narrative then crash-lands into the

Continued on next page

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present-day Anthropocene, or “new era of humankind.” Each chapter thereafter highlights, in stark and stunning detail, one of our current “deadly sins”: the overloading of the atmosphere with carbon dioxide through the burning of fossil fuels, thereby raising average temperatures and acidifying the oceans; the invasion and destruction of natural habitats by pipelines, seismic lines, ranches, plantations, hydroelectric projects, etc.; the redistribution of species through global travel and trade; and, most glaringly, the wholesale hunting and poaching of the larger mammals. The author concludes by stating that, for better or worse, we are, according to our natural proclivities, deciding our fate.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? My lifelong interest in dinosaurs and other ancient creatures having whetted my curiosity about extinction causes, I was already familiar with the Alvarez theory about the asteroid impact at the end of the Cretaceous Period. However, I was not aware of the preceding four mass extinctions, or of the frightening possibility of a sixth one in the not-so-distant future. Unsettling, to say the least, but immeasurably informative.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? This is a must-read for anyone who is concerned – or at least curious – about the future of life on this planet. The writing style is lucid, low-key, and laced with subtle humor – guaranteed to appeal to all types of intelligent readers. Please note that the author would probably prefer that the reader be environmentally friendly and access her work electronically (see the quote below).

How long might it take to read this book? As the subject matter is both horrifically fascinating and highly relevant, and the language refreshingly explicit, the reading process should be expeditious – two days at the most.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: “To argue that the current extinction event could be averted if people just cared more and were willing to make more sacrifices is not wrong, exactly; it still misses the point. It doesn’t much matter whether people care or don’t care. What matters is that people change the world... This capacity predates modernity, though, of course, modernity is its fullest expression. Indeed, this capacity is probably indistinguishable from the qualities that made us human to begin with: our restlessness, our creativity, our ability to cooperate to solve problems and complete complicated tasks. As soon as humans started using signs and symbols to represent the natural world, they pushed beyond the limits of that world... Were people simply heedless or selfish or violent, there wouldn’t be an Institute for Conservation Research, and there wouldn’t be a need for one. If you want to think about why humans are so dangerous to other

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species, you can picture a poacher in Africa carrying an AK-47 or a logger in the Amazon gripping an ax, or better still, you can picture yourself, holding a book in your lap.”

Additional Remarks: Is this book truly a call to action, or merely an engaging intellectual exercise? The reader can, and will, make that decision. In the meantime, this volume is an excellent candidate for a future book discussion, as mass extinction is a hot topic – in more ways than one, it would seem. *Carpe diem.*



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 5/19/15

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. Members present were: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Jon Applegate, Ethan Blocher-Smith, Ann Hake, Diane O’Brien, Karen Steilberger, Karen Wilczewski, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick. Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jud Horning, Petra Ritchie, and Nancy White.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the April ExCom meeting. Ann Hake moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Ethan Blocher-Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Karen Zwick presented the Treasurer’s report. She said the Outdoor Gathering likely finished in the black, and she will have a full report on it next month. Ann Hake moved that the Treasurer’s report be accepted as presented. Ethan Blocher-Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 2 new, 5 reinstating, and 2 move-in members, and 17 prospects. There were 116 lapsed memberships which is more than in the past. Teresa Gregory suggested that the promotions that enabled people to test for free resulted in less-committed members. We get points toward a “gem” award for contacting lapsed members. We will get mailing labels for them next month. Jon Applegate said that the more personal the contact is, the better. He, Ann Hake, and Bob Zdanky volunteered to help with contacting lapsed members.

Old Business

Credit card/PayPal payments: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that EventBrite seemed to work well for the OG.

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Culture Quest: Jan Pfeil Doyle said Culture Quest went well. Winning teams will be announced at the Annual Gathering in July.

Outdoor Gathering: Teresa Gregory said 38 people came, including some first-timers. Some of the past regulars did not come. People had a good time. The liquid nitrogen ice cream was a highlight. Teresa said a park ranger does a walkthrough before we leave, and he complimented our group on our cleanup each year. Karen Zwick will reserve the camp for next year.

New Business

Future events – EventBrite - publicity: Karen Zwick suggested that we consider adding \$5 to the event fees to cover the expense of using EventBrite. EventBrite allows for different rates for one event, so she suggested having a cutoff date to precede a price increase for the OG to encourage people to sign up. Teresa Gregory advised her to find out if the camp fee will increase next year. Teresa suggested making flyers for the next RG and OG available at the AG in Louisville, as there may be many attendees from this part of the country.

By-laws: Jon Applegate reported that the committee on by-laws met to set agendas and timeframes. The committee members will be interviewing the office-holders about their roles in light of the by-laws. Bob Zdanky said he would like an option for electronic voting to be documented in the new by-laws.

Boundaries: Jan Pfeil Doyle said she found out by chance that the boundaries between us and the Ft. Wayne group were changed. Seven members are affected. The issue is not resolved yet.

Equipment: Jan Pfeil Doyle asked the group to consider buying a projector for the monthly program speaker. Ann Hake will look at options and consult with Karen Zwick. Karen Zwick moved that the ExCom research options and purchase a projector for an amount not to exceed \$350. Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion and it was passed.

Leadership Development Workshop: Jan Pfeil Doyle said a Leadership Development Workshop will be offered at the AG for chapter LocSecs and membership officers. National will reimburse up to \$75 in expenses for those who attend. If she or Bob Zdanky is not able to attend, Jon Applegate may be able to.

There being no other business, Karen Zwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Steilberger

Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 05/18/2015)

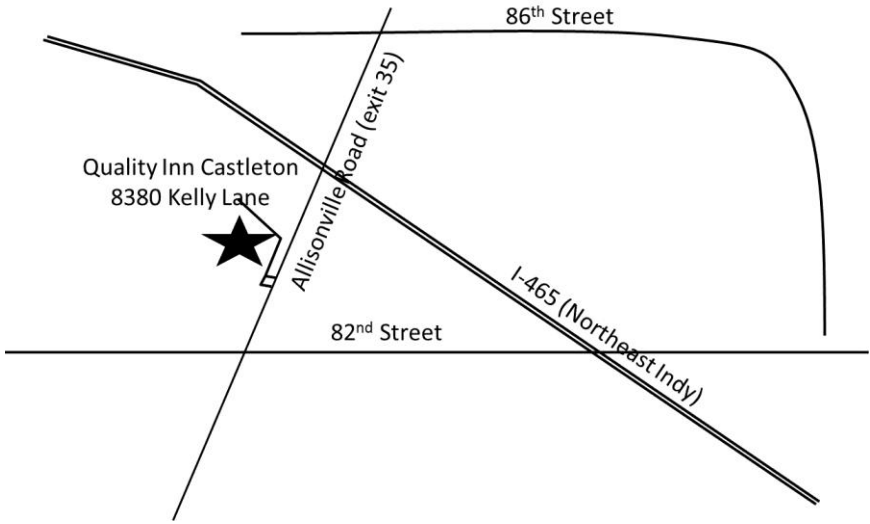
Bank Accounts	04/20/2015	05/18/2015
Checking – Regular	\$7,315.20	\$7,093.92
Checking – Scholarship	\$531.53	\$531.53
Checking – Youth Membership	\$427.34	\$427.34
Checking – RG/OG Fund	\$8,604.66	\$8,360.57
Vanguard Account	\$3,740.27	\$3,740.27
Total Assets	\$20,619.00	\$20,153.63

Profit & Loss Statement (04/21/2015 – 05/18/2015)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering income	102.00
	401.3 – Outdoor Gathering Income	200.00
	402 – National Mensa Income	460.08
Total Income		\$762.08
Expense		
	501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	1.99
	503.1 – Outdoor Gathering Hospitality	444.09
	505 – Food for ExCom/MIND	76.44
	505.1 – MIND Printing	340.76
	505.2 – MIND Postage	245.00
	510.2 – New Member Mailings – postage	70.00
	520 – Miscellaneous – flowers sent for member funeral	49.17
Total Expenses		\$1,227.45

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Quality Inn Castleton
8380 Kelly Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46250



Directions from I-465 From I-465 on the NE side of Indianapolis, take Exit 35, Allisonville Rd • Turn south on Allisonville Rd • Take the first right onto Kelly Lane • Follow Kelly Lane around to the Quality Inn.

Directions back to I-465 • Turn right from Kelly Lane onto Allisonville Rd • immediately get into the left turn lane • Make a U- turn at 82nd St to go north on Allisonville Rd • Entrance ramp for I- 465 E/S is on your right • Entrance ramp for I-465 W is on your left.

Directions from Allisonville Rd from the north • Take Allisonville Rd south toward 82nd St • After you cross over I-465, take the first right onto Kelly Lane • Follow Kelly Lane around to the Quality Inn.

Directions back to Allisonville Rd northbound • Turn right from Kelly Lane onto Allisonville Rd • Immediately get into left turn lane • Make a U-turn at 82nd St to go north on Allisonville Rd.

Directions from Allisonville Rd from the south • Take Allisonville Rd north toward 82nd St • After you cross over 82nd St, take the first left onto Kelly Lane • Follow Kelly Lane around to the Quality Inn.

Directions back to Allisonville Rd southbound • Turn right from Kelly Lane onto Allisonville Rd.

Region 4 RVC

George Haynes RVC4@us.mensa.org,

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Jan Pfeil Doyle, jan@mw.net , (317) 431-3500
Parliamentarian	Ethan Blocher-Smith, MensaCinder@gmail.com , (260) 413-0093
Secretary	Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net
Sargent-at-Arms	Jon Applegate, jkapplegate@bluemarble.net , (517) 896-5022 (812) 825-2080 (answering machine)
Ass't Gifted Children	Diane O'Brien, robrien25@comcast.net , (317) 753-4371
Program Chair	Ann Hake, amhake@yahoo.com
Vice-LocSec & Membership	Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com , (317) 219-3773 Karen Zwick, kzwick@outlook.com , (317) 626-3789
Treasurer	
Calendar Editor	Karen Wilczewski, biltmore@topdogcom.com , (317) 849-9022

Area Coordinators

Bloomington	Nan Harvey, NanHarvey@gmail.com , (812) 345-9608
Evansville	Dr. Louis Cady, lcadymd@mac.com , (812) 429-0772
Kokomo	Vacant
Lafayette	Joe Stamper, joe_stamper@comcast.net , (765) 474-4759
Muncie	Jason Smith, munciemensa@gmail.com

Other Volunteers

Cinder SIG	Ethan Blocher-Smith, MensaCinder@gmail.com
Ham 'n Eggs	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org
Gifted Children	David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org , (317) 973-0258
Ass't Gifted Children	Laurel Richardson, Lhabitat@aol.com , (317) 244-0000
SIGHT Coordinator	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org
Proctor Coordinator	Teresa Gregory, teresa.gregory@yahoo.com , (317) 430-1761
Ombudsman	Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net , (317) 695-5741we33
RG/OG Chair	Teresa Gregory, teresa.gregory@yahoo.com , (317) 430-1761