



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



**Look who came to see us at the
Hollywood AG! Our old friend,
Kishor Kulkarni!**

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

table of contents

Old Dog/New Tricks	4
LocSection	5
Summer Blast	6
Mensa Youth See Where Colts Play	7
Petra's Funny Page	7
Welcome New Members	8
August 2017 Events	9
RVC4 Column	13
Books on the Runway	14
Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes	16
Treasurer's Report	17
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	18
Contact Information	19

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

Do I look like a threat? I try not to be.

Jan Pfeil Doyle (with husband, Leo) and I flew to Florida for the Annual Gathering on Monday, July 3.

I tried to see if I could pack minimally for an eight-day trip, so I had my backpack and one suitcase that qualified as a carry-on. I bought it specifically for that reason. I had no checked luggage.



When I went through the security check, someone asked me if I was 75 years old. I said no. (If I was 75, I could keep my shoes on.) I got in the line and emptied my laptop into a bin, my baggie of toothpaste and travel sized shampoo into a bin with the contents of my pockets and my shoes, and put my bags on the belt. The Indianapolis International Airport has a scanner that “sees all.” I have a right total knee replacement, and this scanner sees it so I don’t set off any alarms. So, I was surprised to be pulled out of the line after going through the scanner. A woman said she was going to have to pat me down. I told her I had a knee replacement, and she said that wasn’t the problem. I was wearing blue jeans that were a little long, so I had rolled them up at the hem. She had to pat my ankles. Honestly, I didn’t have a big machete tucked into the cuff!

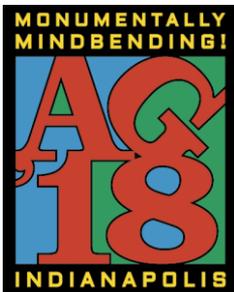
The following Monday, on the return trip, we left from the Fort Lauderdale airport. This time I did check my suitcase but was carrying the backpack and a tote bag with a basket in it. (That’s another story.) I looked at my ticket and Southwest had generously designated me as Pre-Checked. Oh, no! That never goes well. When I got to the head of the line, and I saw a metal detector, I told the woman that I had a knee replacement. She called a man over and he took me to the head of the regular line where they had a scanner like in Indy. I did not have to take off my shoes, and no one frisked my ankles. (I was wearing the same pants.) I did have a woman pat down my chest under my collar bone. I have no idea why. I wasn’t wearing a necklace. But then there was a problem with my backpack. If you are Pre-Checked, you do not have to remove your computer. The guy who moved me told them I was Pre-Checked, but they held up my bag and had to hand search it. The woman who did the search told me that I always had to remove the computer when I was in that line. I said someone else put it on the belt because I was Pre-Checked. [sigh] I realized it was easier just to act contrite than to make a point when I knew I wasn’t going to win.

Otherwise, it was a great AG, but it’s so good to be home.

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Annual Gathering 2017 – The Mensa AG (i.e., national convention) in Hollywood, FL in early July was a lot of fun. The newly renovated Diplomat resort on the Atlantic beach was beautiful! We had several members of CIM who attended the AG. Two highlights for me were seeing Penn Jillette’s performance at the gala banquet (he’s the half of the Penn and Teller magic act who talks on stage) and seeing and hearing Ben Ferencz, the totally inspiring 98-year-old lawyer who successfully prosecuted one of the Nuremberg trials. He’s devoted his life to trying to prevent crimes against humanity. You can see Mr. Ferencz on YouTube. Teresa and I learned a lot about how annual gatherings work and gathered lots of suggestions for the AG here in Indy next July.



Annual Gathering 2018 – I’ve mentioned before that Teresa Gregory and I are co-chairing the Monumentally Mindbending! AG in Indy next year. She and I have been meeting almost every week since we were appointed last July, working on the budget, getting the logo chosen and designed, developing the ad campaign for the national *Bulletin* and our presentation to promote the 2018 AG at this year’s AG, etc., etc. Be sure to check out the ads on the back of the *Bulletin*, starting with the July ’17 issue. We’re doing a David

Letterman-style top 10 countdown of reasons to come to the AG in Indy. Reason #10: Monuments. Indianapolis has a lot of monumental things to see and do. We are second only to Washington, DC in the number of memorials and monuments . . . Reason #9: The Nightlife. With over 200 restaurants and 20 microbreweries downtown (Stay tuned for the rest).

Our next big task is getting the AG committee finalized. We’ve made some appointments already and will be filling out the committee in the next few weeks. If you’d like to help with the AG or have any suggestions for it, please let one of us know.



Sapphire Award – Once again, Central Indiana Mensa earned a Sapphire Award, announced at the AG in Hollywood. These annual awards are based on more than 25 local group criteria. All CIM members who serve on the ExCom, who help organize and put on events, and all those who attend those events can share the credit for our earning this award - congratulations to us all!

Mensa 8th Annual Summer Blast
July 28-29, 2017



The Central Indiana Mensa
Family Program Presents

THE 8TH ANNUAL SUMMER BLAST!

July 28-29, 2017
Only \$20/person

Relax with us on a private beach in Plymouth, IN as we enjoy the last days of summer before school starts. Activities include sailing lessons, canoeing, rowboat, swimming, fishing, nature hikes, games, and hanging out with fun, smart people. Friday dinner, Friday night s'mores, Saturday breakfast & lunch provided. Arrive as early as 4pm on Friday and stay until Saturday afternoon.



Visit kids.indymensa.org to learn more and sign up

Mensa Youth See Where Colts Play

Diane O'Brien

On June 23, thanks to the generosity of a friend, two Mensa Youth families were given a tour of Lucas Oil Stadium, free of charge. Since I had never seen the inside of the stadium myself, it was quite an experience.

The first thing we noticed was how much larger it seems from the inside. With a maximum seating capacity of 70,000, the stadium is used for many events, including Bands of America, Drum/Bugle Corps World Championships and Monster Jam. It was fascinating to hear about the changes which have to be made in order for Monster Jam to occur. The stadium, completed in 2008, cost \$720 million to build and is often referred to as “The House That Manning Built”.

We were treated to a beautiful view of downtown Indianapolis on the north side of the stadium. Our tour guide told us that the architects constructed the stadium at an angle which would provide this spectacular view. In addition, the center window opens to provide an even better view.

There are 137 luxury suites and we were privileged to tour the Quarterback Suite, used by season ticket holders and which takes up the entire south end of one level of the stadium. The two high definition scoreboards, on opposite ends of the stadium, measure 97' by 37'. Standing next to one of them gives you an idea of how huge they are.

The tour concluded with an opportunity to walk on the football field. The turf feels much softer underfoot that I expected and the boys, although cautioned not to run, had fun imagining what it would be like to play football there.



Petra's Funny Page

Petra Ritchie

- 1 – Firefly meal: light supper
- 2 - Is a pachyderm that does not matter irrelephant?
- 3 – Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?
- 4 – Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
- 5 – I used to think I was indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

If you want to be spared these groaners, email: petraritchie@msn.com



New Members and Move-Ins

Joined	Josh Leney	Bloomington	IN
MoveIn	Elizabeth Hill	Hopkinsville	KY



Late Lunch in Evansville

Sunday, 8/20, 1:00pm (Central Time) at the Olive Garden restaurant near the Eastland Mall, 1100 N. Green River Road, Evansville, IN 47715. Please join us for a late Mensa lunch. We'll meet in the bar from 1-1:30 p.m. and then head into the dining area. Ask for the Mensa group or simply look for the table with an owl on it. Guests are welcome.

If you haven't attended a Mensa event lately, they can be a lot of fun. Our Regional Vice Chair, your representative on American Mensa's Board of Directors, will be attending, if you have any questions or suggestions about National issues. We'd be delighted to meet you.

Reservations aren't required, but it would be helpful to have an idea how many people might be coming. If you intend to join us, please RSVP via Meetup or email. Questions? Simply call/text Jon Gruebele, American Mensa Regional Vice Chair 4 Elect, at 309-693-1359, email: jongruebele@gmail.com, or find him on Facebook.

August 2017 Events

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

Ham ‘n’ Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday from 9:45 a.m. - 12 noon. Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Meridian & 116th St., Carmel, IN, located at IU Health North). Located just off the atrium on the first floor on the left as you enter the building from the north entrance. Breakfast served till 10 a.m., then lunch starts at 11 a.m. Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

Bridge Club – 1st Sunday, 2 p.m. Join Bob Van Buskirk for casual, friendly bridge. Contact Bob at 317-359-6907 or vnbuskirk@yahoo.com. Location will change each month. Call ahead.

Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226. See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free. Doors open at 7:00pm; announcements begin at 7:45pm followed by the program. After the program will be “Ten Minutes of Math and Science” with George Dunn.

8/11 - Our speaker will be Ann Hedderick, the Volunteer Coordinator for the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in Center Point, Indiana. Although Ann is originally from South Florida, she is a Hoosier by choice and has lived here in the Central Indiana area for many years. She had a 30-year career in computers but has always had a love of animals; she previously volunteered at and served on the Board of Directors for Noblesville’s Low Cost Spay/Neuter clinic, and has volunteered for the EFRC since 2004 and currently serves on its BoD. The Exotic Feline Rescue Center was founded in 1991 with 3 exotic felines; it now serves as home to approximately 200 big cats from 9 different species on a 108 acre haven. [If you simply can't wait until her presentation and would like to know more about the Center beforehand, visit the EFRC website (www.exoticfeline rescuecenter.org), or view a brief YouTube clip about the Center (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCLv-nY8i5Y>).]

Late Lunch in Evansville — Sunday, 8/20, 1:00pm (Central Time) at the Olive Garden restaurant near the Eastland Mall, 1100 N. Green River Road, Evansville, IN 47715. [See Page 8 for details]

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2 Indy Lunch Bunch
6 Bridge Club	7	8	9
13	14	15 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom; Paducah Area Group Meeting	16 Indy Lunch Bunch
20 Late Lunch in Evansville; Mensans Dining Out	21	22	
27 Book Club	28	29	30

August 2017 (Cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5 Ham 'n' Eggs; Cal. Deadline
10	11 Monthly Gathering	12
17	18	19
24	25 Cinder	26
31		

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'll get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

August 2017 Events (cont.)

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., 8/20, Al-Rayan, 4857 W. 38th St., Indianapolis, IN 46254 (in Georgetown Plaza). For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 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

***MINDB*Bending/ExCom – 3rd Tuesday of the month.** *MINDB*Bending is the preparation of next month’s *MIND* for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the *MIND*s.
8/15, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500. Pizza and soft drinks provided.
*MINDB*Bending is held at the offices of Midwest Internet, 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 *MINDB*benders and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, 8/27. We will discuss *The Edge of the World* by Michael Pye. We will be meeting at Rich and Jackie Gibson’s house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

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

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

September 2017 *MIND* calendar items due 8/5/17 to: biltmore@topdogcom.com.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

By Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Hello everyone! If you've been a member for a while, you've probably received a Mensa survey. The latest member survey was conducted earlier this year by Membership Officer Stephanie Thornton. It had just 17 questions; 1,592 members responded. If you've wondered about the results, here's a summary.

80% of members report being proud to be Mensa members, down 4% from 2015. Only 5% disagree with this statement.



We also asked: "What are the first three words that come to mind when you think of Mensa?" "Smart" and "intelligence" were of course the top two. While words such as "eccentric" and "argumentative" got a few mentions, the much more common answers included "friends", "fun", "interesting", "games", "gatherings", and "conversation".

Many members are at least partially in the closet about Mensa. While 89% of members have told their family, only 59% have told friends and 34% have told coworkers. 51% said they'd list Mensa on their résumé. There's plenty of debate over this issue. I've seen several articles that suggest it might be counterproductive. I generally recommend people include it if their volunteer work for the organization (e.g. as LocSec) might be relevant to the job, but otherwise suggest they think twice.

Over half of our members report having volunteered for Mensa in some way. That included submitting content for publications, serving as a local group officer, organizing local events, or volunteering at an RG or AG.

One key metric we follow is a "net promoter score" (NPS). We ask the question: "How likely is it that you would recommend Mensa to a friend who you suspected would qualify?" The scale ranges from 0 (definitely not) to 10 (absolutely yes). If you answer 9 or 10, you are considered a promoter. 7 or 8 is considered neutral; 0 to 6 are considered detractors. The NPS is calculated by % promoters minus % detractors. A positive score is considered healthy.

Our latest NPS score is +23%, up from +19% in 2016 and +16% in 2015. Interestingly, the score is higher for older members than younger members. While 22 to 45-year-old members had an overall +4% NPS, those that age who were single without kids had the lowest NPS at -4%. We should consider ways to better serve these members.

Overall these are positive results, although there's always plenty of room to improve. Additional details are available on-line in the Sharehouse, <http://community.us.mensa.org/media/>. Sign in and search for "2017 membership survey". *Continued on next page*

Continued from previous page

Finally, I hope to see you at one of these upcoming regional events:

RG-Lite, October 14, West Allis, WI. <http://wi.us.mensa.org/rg.htm>

HalloweeM, October 26 – 29, Wheeling, IL, the largest Regional Gathering in the U.S. <http://chicago.us.mensa.org/weem/index.php>

Thoughts? E-mail me at rvc4@us.mensa.org or call/text me at +1 309 693 1359.



Books On The Runway

Alison Brown

Title: The Design of Everyday Things

Author: Donald A. Norman

Year: 1988, rev. 2002 – there is also a 2013 revision which I have not seen



Book Description: When you find something whose use is so difficult, whose instructions are so opaque, do you think you need a retest? You should not. According to Donald Norman, the fault does not lie with your density, but rather with faulty design. He discusses design flaws that lead to people using less than the optimal functions of their devices and others that have fatal consequences. Indeed, he believes that most accidents that are attributable to “human error” should not be referring to an error by the end user, but rather by the designer whose aesthetic sense has trumped his common sense, making eventual errors inevitable. The book is rich with examples of all kinds of unfortunate designs with illustrations, and has copious end notes. Norman describes the methods we use to approach a “modern convenience”, talking about knowledge in the head, i.e. our concept of how the device should operate, and knowledge in the world, e.g. labels on the knobs and switches, or, failing those, user manuals. He also goes into seven stages of action, mapping, affordances, execution, and evaluation. He has a wonderful section on human memory and cognition. He puts in a good word for standardization as an aid to the general public. Finally, he throws down the gauntlet to designers to make things work for the end users by making them intuitive, comprehensible, and less error-prone by using visual and acoustic signals and helpful constraints.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? I definitely look at every appliance and gadget in my house differently. His example with the knobs on a stove hits home because, after over 50 years with my stove, I still turn on the back burner when I want the front one!

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Who should definitely read this book? Why? Anyone who has struggled with the perversity of inanimate objects, who thinks they are “out to get them”. Anyone who thinks they are just too “dumb” to use the latest electronic device.

How long might it take to read this book? Since I struggled with Norman’s use of language (for example, affordance, which I still have not fully grasped) it took me about a week. The first part seemed somewhat repetitive, but once he got going on implementing user-centered design, it went much more quickly.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring

quote: p. 117: “Thoughts are represented by stable patterns of activity. New thoughts are triggered whenever there is some change in the system, oftentimes because some new information arrives at the senses and changes the pattern

activation and inhibition. We can think of the interactions as the computational part of thought: when one set of units sends signals activating another, this can be interpreted as offering support for a cooperative interpretation of events; when one set of units sends signals suppressing another, it is because the two usually offer competing interpretations. This approach suggests that much of thought results from a kind of pattern matching system, one that forces its solution to be analogous to past experiences a, and one that does not necessarily follow the formal rules of logical inference.

The result of all this support and competition is a compromise: not a correct interpretation, simply one that is as consistent as possible with all the possibilities under active consideration. The relaxation of interacting connectionist structures into patterns happens relatively quickly and automatically, below the surface of consciousness. We are conscious only of the end states, not of the means for getting there. As a result, in this view of the mind, our explanations of our own behavior are always suspect, for they amount to stories made up after the fact to explain the thoughts that we already have. Much of our knowledge is hidden beneath the surface of our minds, inaccessible to conscious inspection. We discover our own knowledge primarily through our actions.”

Additional Remarks: The book was originally written before smart phones, ubiquitous internet, etc., so it is amusing to read his descriptions of technology he would like to see made available, and recognize them as things that are in use every day in 2017.



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 5/16/17

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:46 pm. Members present were Jon Applegate, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Ann Hake (via FaceTime), Diane O'Brien, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick.

Member absent: Ethan Blocher-Smith

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Petra Ritchie

The committee reviewed the minutes of the March ExCom meeting. Karen Zwick moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report. Ann Hake moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Kurt Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Jan Pfeil Doyle based upon the information available as of 4/30/2017 on the American Mensa computer: 473 members, 2 new, 2 move-ins, 9 rejoins, and 6 prospects.

Old Business: Outdoor Gathering: Planning for the OG in Versailles State Park, May 19-21, is nearly complete.

2018 Annual Gathering: Planning continues steadily. The name/theme has been approved: Monumentally Mindbending!

Two CIM teams participated in CultureQuest® on Sunday, April 30, 2017. Results will be announced at the AG.

The *MensaCares!* day of service at Link Observatory on April 29, 2017 was a big success. Approximately 16 Mensa members and guests spent the day cleaning the Observatory, followed by a collegial feast at the Gray Brothers Cafeteria in Mooresville.

Pat Milligan has been working on the website identifying sources of previous incursions / hacks in preparation for implementation of the calendar. He has made a great deal of progress on this working with Mike Cowper at Midwest Internet.

New Business: A request for financial support for a gap year between high school and college in Uganda was received from one of the Young M's. It was decided to invite them to the monthly gathering to speak during the announcements.

There being no other business, Karen Wilczewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Zwick seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hake, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 05/15/2017)

Bank Accounts	04/17/2017	05/15/2017
Checking – Regular	\$6,372.04	\$4,729.10
Checking – Scholarship	906.50	906.50
Checking – Youth Membership	69.34	69.34
Checking – RG/OG Fund	9,434.47	9,434.47
Checking – Youth Activity Fund	489.40	489.40
Total Assets	\$17,271.75	\$15,628.81

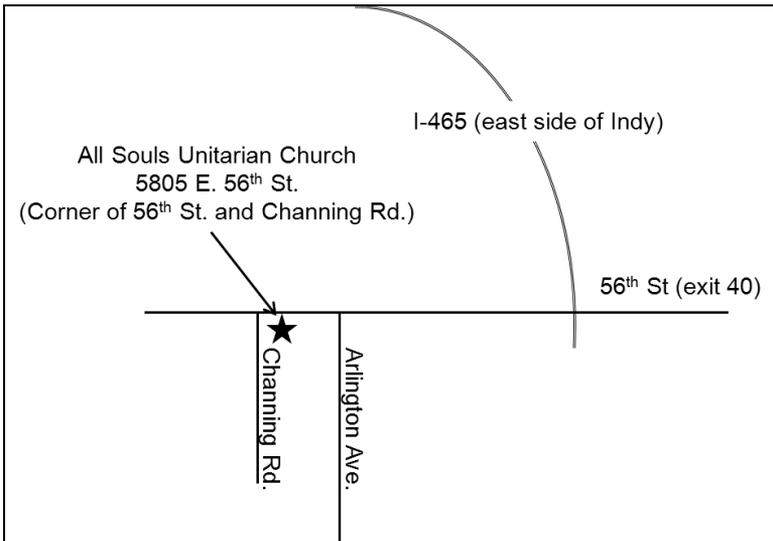
Profit & Loss Statement (04/18/2017 – 05/15/2017)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gather Income (April & May)	244.00
	402 – National Mensa	545.10
	Total Income	\$789.10
Expense		
	501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	86.09
	501.2 – Monthly Gathering Facility (room rent for 1 year)	1,653.00
	505 – Food for ExCom/MIND Bending (Feb and Mar)	83.85
	505.1 – MIND Printing	307.45
	505.2 – MIND Postage	245.00
	520 – Miscellaneous (CultureQuest team, postage for mailing tests)	56.65
	Total Expenses	\$2,432.04

Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room, 5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56th St exit west (exit 40).
- Turn left on Channing Rd (1.2 miles from the I-465 exit).
- The church parking lot is on your left.
- Go to the Beattie Room.



Region 4 RVC

Jon Gruebele RVC4@us.mensa.org,
(309) 693-1359

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

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Ass't Gifted Children	Diane O'Brien, robrien25@comcast.net , (317) 753-4371
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Secretary	
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Kokomo	Vacant
Lafayette	Vacant
Muncie	Vacant

Other Volunteers

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