

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



A dozen Mensans (and a bunch of other people) went on five buses to Princeton, Kentucky, to see The Great American Eclipse on August 21. We were accompanied by news reporter, Raphael Sanchez, and a Channel 6 cameraman. If you would like to read Mensans' impressions of the Total Eclipse, see pages 6-8.

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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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Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

Greetings from Los Angeles! I flew out on Wednesday and will board the train home Sunday night. Yes, this is the trip I was supposed to take in May but canceled due to strep throat.

I told my son, Jack, that I didn't want him to plan a bunch of touristy trips. I mostly wanted to see him and just relax. I did ask to see two things, though: the Hollywood Police Station and some thrift stores. I read a lot of mysteries,



and one of my favorite authors, Michael Connelly, uses the Hollywood Station in his books. The other? I just like thrift stores.

The weather has been perfect (it was over 100 degrees just a few weeks ago) We dined several times around his neighborhood. Saturday night we went to a birthday party for one of his friends. I enjoyed meeting people I had only seen in Facebook pictures. I also met his "gal-pal" (his words).

Sunday night, the train leaves Union Station at 10:00pm. I am scheduled to arrive home around 7:35pm Wednesday. I'll let you know how that goes.

Friday and Saturday, September 8 and 9, Jan Pfeil Doyle and I met with five others from out of town to do a site visit to the 2018 AG hotel downtown. We inspected the meeting rooms and one of the suits. We had numerous lengthy discussions with the group itself and with some of the individuals separately. We are fired up and ready to move forward. Registrations open November 1. More on that next month.

Don't forget: half-price testing in October. You know you have friends who should be members. Now is the time!

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Introducing the Mensa Voucher Program -

If you know someone you think might be interested in joining Mensa, here's an opportunity to help them find out if they qualify for free. Each member will receive, via email, a discount code to be given to a non-member who may, at no cost, either submit prior evidence or sit for a supervised test. (We have tests scheduled on Oct. 7th, Oct. 21st, and Nov. 12 in the greater Indianapolis area. Contact Testing Coordinator Karen Zwick for testing in other areas.)



The program runs from Oct. 1, 2017 until March 31, 2018. The discount code must be entered/provided by the non-member at the time of purchase to receive the discount. A contest, running from Oct. 1 through Jan. 31, 2018, will give members and local groups an incentive to redeem their discount codes. Each time a discount code is redeemed, that local group will receive an entry into a drawing. At the end of January, there will be a drawing and \$500 will be added to the funding of the winning local group. More info can be found at www.us.mensa.org/featured-content/introducing-the-mensa-voucher-program/

Half Price Mensa Testing in October – If you've already given your voucher away, let others know that the price of taking the Mensa test in October will be just \$30. We have tests scheduled on Oct. 7th and 21st in the Indianapolis area. See the calendar or our website www.indymensa.org for details.



Annual Gathering 2018 Update – Continuing the countdown of "Top Ten Reasons to Come to the AG in Indy" - Reason #7: Indy's Easy! Getting to Indy is easy. We're the Crossroads of America with great Interstate highway connections and Megabus service. Once you're here, getting around Indy is easy, too, with \$5 downtown taxis, and on-the-street bike and electric car rentals. Downtown Indy is also very

walkable—there's so much to see and do right outside the hotel door. Registration and hotel reservations open Nov. 1 at ag.us.mensa.org

HalloweeM – Chicago Area Mensa's Regional Gathering is coming up October 26-29. You can find more details or register at www.chicago.us.mensa.org/weem/

Get Compensated for Your Opinions – Rated M is the Mensa Marketing Research Panel, where you choose how you participate in select surveys and can be paid to do so: www.us.mensa.org/shop/benefits-and-services/rated-m/

A Total Eclipse of Mensans



On August 21, twelve Mensans traveled by bus to Princeton, Kentucky, to view The Great American Eclipse. This trip was arranged through the Link Observatory. Here is a picture and some comments:

From Nan Harvey:

The sky appeared grayed out instead of the black I had expected. It made an interesting backdrop for the corona. I was so focused on the visual that I forgot to pay attention to the sounds. In fact I forgot to breathe for several seconds. I guess I should describe it as literally breathtaking.

From Kurt Williams

What I remember was looking at totality and being amazed at how beautiful the corona was, the huge prominence that could be seen with the naked eye, the sunlight hitting the fields on the horizon outside the shadow, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury being visible in the daytime sky, and the surreal environment created by the dance of the cosmos.

From Teresa Fisher

i shoykd habe wirn thoze spevial gjass3s wyen i looled af thw exli[se.

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From Larry Marcus

In totality, the corona is awesome. One of the rarest sights you will see in your life! My thought afterwards was to name it in honor of a great scientist and call that phenomenon "Einstein's Hair." I should explain that the connection of Einstein to an eclipse was my thinking of Eddington's first test of general relativity during a total eclipse

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tests_of_general_relativity). It showed that Einstein's prediction of the deflection of light by the sun was predicted correctly by his theory of general relativity of 1915.

We have Baily's Beads, why not Einstein's hair for the corona?

From Patricia Graft

When I learned about the bus trip that Link was planning, I asked my husband, Charlie Graft, if he would like the trip as his 74th birthday present. He loved the idea. Always a challenge to find a unique gift, and a trip to see a total eclipse was perfect.

After we experienced viewing the total eclipse with all the others that had travelled with Link Observatory, I inquired what Charlie thought of his birthday gift? "It was spectacular. I had seen a partial eclipse before. Seeing a total is like comparing hand held sparklers to a big Four of July fireworks display" He was grinning from ear to ear. We are thankful to Link for hosting this trip, made a great gift and wonderful memories.

From Charles Graft

Eclipse day was an interesting day. As it was also my birthday, (any astrologers see any significance to that?) it worked out that Patricia offered the trip as my birthday present.

The total eclipse was awesome!!! The difference between the partial and the total was the difference between lightning and a lightning bug. Awesome!!

From Alison Brown

Totality is indeed wonderful. The waning light leading up to the eclipse is very interesting. The holes in my straw hat served as pinhole cameras projecting on my belly when I looked down. No shadow bands, no birds to stop singing, although a few did fly around in confusion. The crickets did sing loudly in the trees around our parking lot. The sky was not dark, a thin cover of cirrus clouds diffused light (the official explanation was diffusion from the much darker tree leaves), so only two planets were visible. When I finally got to cast a glance through the solar telescope after totality, I even saw a solar flare or prominence!

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From Jan Pfeil Doyle

Impressions of the solar eclipse – (1) It was a truly amazing event that I'll remember forever. I'm so glad **Kurt Williams** organized the trip and that I got to experience it with fellow Mensans. (2) It didn't get as dark as I thought it would, both leading up to and during totality. Even when the sun was almost completely (95% or more) covered by the moon, things seemed as bright as a normal sunny day. The quality of the light was different in a way that's hard to describe, but it was still bright. I guess that shows the unbelievable power we get from the sun every day. During totality, it did get quite dark, but it was still light enough to see around easily. I would say it was brighter than a full moon. Totality was eerie, in a way that's also hard to describe. (4) Looking at the sun with bare eyes for the 2 minutes and 30 seconds of totality and seeing the corona was incredible. (5) I can't wait until 2024 when the path of totality goes through Indianapolis!

From Karen Zwick

I'm so grateful that the Link Observatory provided this opportunity to experience the total eclipse. It was an excellent adventure. Thanks to the Link Observatory team.

Friends and family have asked about my eclipse experience. When I attempt to explain what I experienced and how I felt, my words feel totally inadequate.

There is no comparison between a partial eclipse and totality. The totality experience was thrilling, beautiful, awe-inspiring, and emotionally overwhelming. I encourage everyone who did not experience totality to set aside April 8, 2024, the date of our next total solar eclipse.

From Teresa Gregory

This was an experience like none. I had seen partial eclipses as a child looking through stacks of old photo negatives. I've seen the many photos throughout my life of the sun during totality. None of that prepared me for what I saw. Looking through my special NASA-approved glasses, I watched the sun disappear. Then there was nothing. As I removed my glasses, I heard a collective gasp from my fellow eclipse viewers. I was not prepared for the most beautiful pale cornflower blue color in the sky. With the wispy clouds around the sun, it had a lovely watercolor effect. The corona, also very pale, surrounded a dense black disc. The contrast was extreme and breathtaking. I was there with some of my favorite people which made the whole event even more special.

Ham 'n' Eggers Party After the Party

Alison Brown



We had so much fun at Ham'n Eggs on Saturday that we decided to extend the event to Monday afternoon at Alison's. Left to right, Matt Brennan, Alison Brown, Dave Appel, Bob Zdanky and Larry Marcus. Alison's friend, Ann Gardiner took the photograph. Everyone contributed to the feast. Alison provided baked potatoes, tossed salad, wine and fruit juices, Matt came with corn and multitudinous desserts, Dave grilled homemade sourdough flatbread, Bob came with flowers and potato salad, Ann added corn chips to nibble beforehand and eggnog ice cream to close the meal, and Larry spoiled us with ribeye steak. The party broke up after 4.5 hours, mostly because Alison had to go to work (this being *Labor* Day).



New Members and Move-Ins

Nicholas Elam	Fishers	IN	MoveIn
Julie Matsen	Muncie	IN	Joined
Kevin Purrone	Yorktown	IN	MoveIn
V Rhoades	Indianapolis	IN	MoveIn
Walter Rice	Ferdinand	IN	Joined
Dana Vick	Newburgh	IN	MoveIn



Petra's Funny Page

Petra Ritchie

- 1 The earth is bi-polar.
- 2 -Is life worth living? It depends on the liver.
- 3 If you try to fail and succeed, which did you do?
- 4 Ever wonder what the letters "CVS" stand for? I did.
- 5 Do you know the definition of "paraprosdokians"? (No fair looking it up before you answer!)

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

October 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, steilbr@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, 6:00 p.m. – 12 Midnight. 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.

Mensan Matt Brennan will tell us about his experiences in Viet Nam.

Mensa Admissions Tests — Take advantage of half-price testing during the month of October. Test fee is \$30.

10/7 - 12 noon - 3 p.m. The testing location is near the intersection of County Line Road and Emerson Avenue. Space for 6 candidates. (Registrants will receive exact location information). Contact: Karen Zwick, karen.zwick@outlook.com

10/21 - 1-4 p.m. Testing location in McCordsville, IN. Space for 12 candidates. (Registrants will receive exact location information). Contact: Karen Zwick, karen.zwick@outlook.com

Additional Information: Be sure to bring #2 pencils with erasers, a photo ID, and your testing fee in the form of a voucher, check, credit/debit card, or cash.

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., 10/15, Watami All You Can Eat Sushi, 10625 Pendleton Pike, Indianapolis, IN 46236. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd ay
1 Bridge Club	2	3	4 Indy Lunch Bunch
8	9	10	11
15 Mensans Dining Out	16	17 MINDbending/ ExCom; Paducah Area Group Meeting	18 Indy Lunch Bunch
22 Book Club	23	24	25
29 Chicago Area Mensa HalloweeM 42	30	31	

October 2017 (cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 Ham 'n' Eggs; Cal. Deadline; Mensa Admission Test
12	13 Monthly Gathering	14
19	20	21 Mensa Admission Test
26 Chicago Area Mensa HalloweeM 42	27 Cinder; Chicago Area Mensa HalloweeM 42	28 Chicago Area Mensa HalloweeM 42

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.

October 2017 Events (cont.)

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 MINDfor mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the MINDs. 10/17, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500. Keystone Pizza and soft drinks provided. MINDBending 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 52nd St northeast side of Indianapolis. A Big Thank You to all the September MINDbenders and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, 10/22. We will discuss *The Red Web* by Irina Borogan and Andrei Soldatov. 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.

Chicago Area Mensa HalloweeM-Oct. 26-29.

Cinder– **4**th **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

COMING IN NOVEMBER for Mensa Families:

Did you know that there are catacombs under Indianapolis? Join us for a private tour on November 4th at 10:00am to discover the mysteries of the City Market Catacombs. Contact David Bonner for more info. gyc@kids.indymensa.org

Jon's Journal - News for Region 4

By Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Two months ago, my column discussed surveys of current Mensa members. I was asked: "Do we also survey lapsed members about why they don't renew?" Indeed we do, and the results can help guide our efforts to deliver a better member experience.

The 2016 lapsed member survey got about a 10% response rate. Done in mid-May, it asked 15 questions and took about 6 minutes. The respondents' answers were quite similar to the 2015 survey. Here are some of the findings:



12% of lapsed members said they planned to renew; 40% had not yet decided. A sizeable minority (43%) of the undecided members had only been members 1-3 years. Outreach to lapsed members might encourage renewals.

About half of lapsed members reported they had lapsed before, so many may rejoin later.

Lapsed members are less involved with Mensa across the board. Only 54% read the Bulletin versus 95% of current members. Only half participated in any activities at all.

About half reported something about Mensa did not meet their expectations. Reasons cited included dues too high for the value received (64%), unappealing local group activities (51%), lack of local group activities (48%), local group activities too far away (39%), and negative experiences with other Mensans (19% in person and 13% on-line). Newer members also mentioned not having anyone their own age, local events limited to dinners out, not being contacted by the local group, and not being welcomed by other members. Others reported challenges such as changes in their financial situation.

When asked "What is one thing Mensa could do that might encourage you to renew in the future?", respondents suggested holding a wider variety of activities including those that help cultivate our minds. They also recommended getting better at welcoming new members, lower dues / better value, and somehow addressing negative member interactions.

At every level, we should continue to improve our member experience. As a board (AMC) member, I will champion fiscal discipline to keep dues from increasing as long as possible. At the local group level, we can all get better at welcoming new members. If you go to a meeting and find someone sitting alone, chat with them for a few minutes. Anyone can host an activity, from a trip to a museum, a dinner theater, a minor league baseball game, or a walk in the woods. Let's get creative!

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Additional survey details are available on-line in the Sharehouse, http://community.us.mensa.org/media/. Sign in and search for "lapsed member".

Please join us at one of these upcoming regional events:

Wisconsin's RG-Lite, October 14, West Allis, WI. http://wi.us.mensa.org/rg.htm

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

Thoughts? Please e-mail me at <u>rvc4@us.mensa.org</u> or call/text me at +1 309 693 1359. For news and conversation around Region 4, join our Facebook group at <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858</u>.



Books On the Runway An Open Invitation to All MIND Readers

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Folks:

I am currently in a residential transitional stage. My husband and I are currently working with a realtor to sell our condominium in Noblesville as soon as possible; thus, my permanent move to our residence in Tipton, Indiana, should occur in the near future. Consequently, due to the complex property transferal and documentation processes involved, the time available to write and submit monthly articles will be limited for the next few months.



Therefore, I am soliciting assistance from other MIND readers (with or without extrasensory perception - chuckle) who love books as much as I do. Is there an impressive book that you've read recently or a favorite volume from your past experience that you would like to recommend to other Mensans? It can represent any genre, fiction or factual, as long as you feel that it meets the high literary standards of Mensa. Also, you are not required to adhere to my usual Books on the Runway format or expound for two full pages; a short and to-the-point paragraph or two will suffice. Indeed, a group of brief reading suggestions could be compiled into a Reader's Forum, in lieu of or in addition to Books on the Runway. I will continue to submit my articles as my schedule permits, as I find this task fulfilling, but I feel that we would all benefit if other bibliophilic voices are heard.

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I thank you very much for your continual support, and hope that some of you are willing and able to share some quality literature with the rest of us. I'll be back very soon.

Sincerely, Margy

[Ed. Note: Margy does an amazing job putting together thoughtful and interesting reviews, but I'm sure that she isn't the only Mensan who reads. Anyone can submit a review The form she uses is not necessary unless you choose to use it. (In other words, don't let that prevent you from submitting something.) Let's see what other people are reading. Send a review to MIND.editor@yahoo.com. Any subject or length will do.]

७~%

8th Annual Summer Blast

Summer Blast was enjoyed by young Mensans and parents alike Camping, boating, swimming, and food in beautiful Northern Indiana on Pretty Lake (yes, that's a real name) near Plymouth. David Bonner, our GYC, graciously opens his family's home for this annual event. Here are some pictures for those of you who didn't go.



.Swimming, kayaking, and sunbathing at Pretty Lake.

More from Summer Blast



Two Blasters meet one of the "locals."

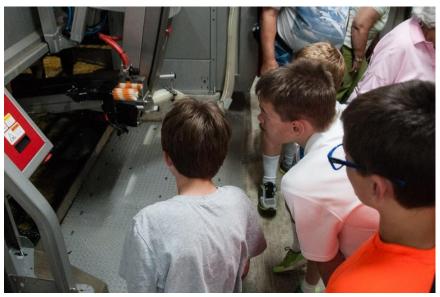


Safety First! Everyone wears a life jacket on the water.

More From Summer Blast



This year, some of the Blasters visited a local dairy farm.



This farm has 2,000 cows milked entirely by robots. Here some Blasters check the equipment.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 7/18/17

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Members present include: Teresa Gregory, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick

Absent: Jon Applegate, Ethan Blocher-Smith, Ann Hake, and Diane O'Brien. Guest: Petra Ritchie.

The minutes of the June 2017 ExCom meeting were reviewed. Karen Zwick moved to approve the minutes as written; Kurt Williams seconded. The motion was carried.

The ExCom reviewed the Treasurer's report, which showed total assets of \$15,734.41 and total expenses of \$741.91 as of July 17. Karen Zwick will send a check for \$550 to MERF for the Scholarship Fund, in response to an inquiry made by Teresa Gregory. The RG and OG funds will be carried forward to 2019, because CIM is hosting the 2018 AG. Kurt Williams moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Bob Zdanky seconded. The motion was carried.

The membership report showed 499 members, including 1 new member, 1 move-in, and 7 rejoins.

Old Business

Teresa and Jan continue to work on hosting the 2018 AG in Indianapolis.

In addition to the routine Mensa testing session scheduled for July 9, there will be an

extra session that Alison Brown will be conducting on July 22.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. with a motion made by Karen Zwick that was seconded by Karen Wilczewski.

Respectfully submitted, Karen E. Wilczewski

Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 08/14/2017)

Bank Accounts	07/17/2017	08/14/2017
Checking – Regular	\$4,663.94	\$4,314.91
Checking – Scholarship	936.50	386.50
Checking – Youth Membership	69.34	69.34
Checking – RG/OG Fund	9,575.23	9,575.23
Checking – Youth Activity Fund	489.40	489.40
Total Assets	\$15,734.41	\$14,835.38

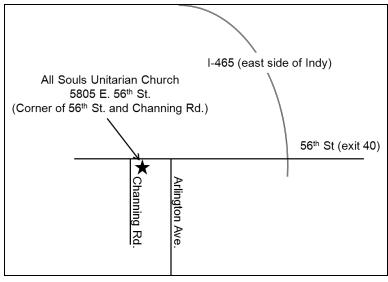
Profit & Loss Statement (07/18/2017 – 08/14/2017)

Income	
402 – National Mensa (July)	431.30
Total Income	\$431.30
Expense	
501.1– MG Hospitality	93.85
505 – Food for ExCom/MIND Bending	62.47
505.1 – MIND Printing	289.07
505.2 – MIND Postage	245.00
507 – Promotional Expenses (Meetup)	89.94
520 – Miscellaneous Expenses (Check to MERF to replenish scholarship fund)	550.00
Total Expenses	\$1,330.33

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,

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

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Sergeant-at-Arms Jon Applegate, <u>ikapplegate@bluemarble.net</u>, (517) 896-5022

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Kokomo Vacant

Lafayette Vacant

Muncie Vacant

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