



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



## **Hell's Mensans doing good.**

**Members Alison Brown and Jud Horning had their heads shaved at the Indianapolis St. Baldrick's Foundation event in March 2015 and donated the \$320 raised from their fellow Mensans for the cause of childhood cancer research [http: www.stbaldricks.org./](http://www.stbaldricks.org/)**

**Photo: Jan Pfeil-Doyle**

### ***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 98<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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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### **Don't forget our friends who are having RGs!**

**April 24-26 – Southeast Michigan Mensa, SEMMantics**

Contact Registrar Larry Arbanas (323-642-7226) or

[larry@arbanas.org](mailto:larry@arbanas.org) <http://mensadetroit.com/semantics>

## Old Dog/New Tricks

*Teresa Gregory, Editor*

Thanks to everyone who came to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. I met people I've only heard about, and saw some people I haven't seen for a long time. Lots of laughs and hugs and great conversations. It was a lot of fun.

Don't forget to register for the Outdoor Mensa Gathering. Thanks to the two people who informed me that I had published an incorrect date last month. This year's OMG is NOT four days. It is May 15-17.



Also note that we have a new location for our monthly meetings. Starting on **June 12<sup>th</sup>**, our monthly meeting will be at the Quality Inn Castleton on the SW corner of Allisonville Rd and I-465 (8380 Kelly Lane, Indianapolis 46250). If you GoogleMap or use any other online navigation system, you may not find it. This hotel was formerly a Jameson. You might remember that. There will be a map online and in MIND before the first meeting.

Due to the overwhelming amount of election information that has been sent to MIND.editor, I am shortening my column this month. I am going to do my best to get in as much info as possible. The online version may contain more content. There are some hotly contested races this year. There could be some major changes in American Mensa because of it. Be informed and VOTE.



## LocSection

*Jan Pfeil Doyle*

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – We had a wonderful turn out for our anniversary dinner! It was great to see people I hadn't seen in some cases for years! Many thanks to the organizing committee: “The **Karens**” (**Steilberger**, **Wilczewski**, and **Zwick**) and **Teresa Gregory**. Thanks also go to the talented **John Blankenship** who emceed the attendees sharing wonderful remembrances of our group. The decorations were fun—the highlights were the displays of past newspaper articles and pictures from Central Indiana Mensa's history over the past 50 years. The die-hards left the hotel to continue chatting at IHOP until 5:30 am!



**Scholarship Judging** – Thanks to everyone who helped Scholarship Chair  
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**Laurel Richardson** in judging the annual scholarship applications for our group!

**Still Time to Renew** – Dues are due March 31<sup>st</sup>, so if you're reading this before then, you still have time to get them paid in time to vote in the national election.

**Vote** – If you've renewed by March 31<sup>st</sup> or are a life member, please vote in Mensa's national elections. Voting starts April 15<sup>th</sup>. Instructions for voting will be sent by email if you have a valid email address on file with national and by postal mail if you don't. (Now would be a good time to check if the email address you have on file with national is current.) All of the national offices and the Vice Chair for Region 4 have multiple candidates who have statements online. There are also a number of proposed bylaws amendments. The March Bulletin contains all of the proposed amendments plus pro and con statements about them. You can find out more at [www.us.mensa.org/featured-content/before-you-vote/](http://www.us.mensa.org/featured-content/before-you-vote/), in the national forums (<http://community.us.mensa.org/forums/>) and in several Facebook groups. I have some opinions that I'm willing to share one-on-one—please contact me if you're interested.

**We Have a New Monthly Meeting Place!** – Starting on **June 12<sup>th</sup>**, our monthly meeting will be at the Quality Inn Castleton on the SW corner of Allisonville Rd and I-465 (8380 Kelly Lane, Indianapolis 46250). We're planning to try this location at least through the end of 2015. If you have a suggestion for a future meeting place on "your" side of town, let me or someone else on the ExCom know.

**Southeast Michigan Mensa's RG - SEMMantics - April 24-26** – If you're looking for something to do later in April, you might consider going to SEMMantics in Farmington Hills, MI. In addition to the "normal" RG (speakers, games, hospitality), they have an interesting weekend long kids' track. Leo and I are hoping to go. You can find more info at <http://mensadetroit.com/semmantics/>

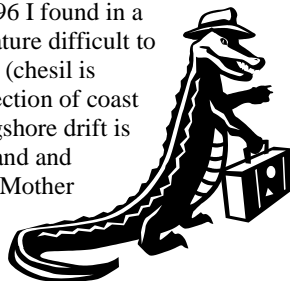


## **Sidebars from *Lonely Planet*:**

### **Chesil Beach**

*Teresa Fisher*

While planning for a car trip in southern England in 1996 I found in a *Lonely Planet* sidebar the description of a geological feature difficult to believe. At least I found it hard to believe. Chesil Beach (chesil is another name for a smooth beach stone) is an 18-mile section of coast along south-central England where a process called longshore drift is quite evident. Longshore drift is the method by which sand and sediment travel along the coastline, but at Chesil Beach Mother Nature adds a strange twist.



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At the west end of Chesil Beach the pebbles are small, getting progressively larger toward the east. As though processed through some kind of cosmic sifting mechanism, the stones wash ashore in their appropriate place on the beach, next to stones of the same size. I've read that Chesil Beach is the only place on earth where this particular mysterious procedure takes place.

We first set foot at the southeastern point of Chesil Beach and attempted to walk around, but the large stones made it a tiring, difficult trek. They were smooth, mostly oblong, and about the size of tennis balls. We drove to the northwestern end, and the pebbles there were identical to the ones farther east except in size. They were somewhat smaller than marbles, and we could walk in them easily. At each location we could see far enough along the beach to determine that the stones were progressively larger or smaller.

No one can explain exactly how or why the stones are so precisely sorted, but it is said that fishermen familiar with the area can come ashore in a fog and determine where they are by the size of the pebbles.



**OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering!**  
**May 15-17, 2015**  
**Versailles State Park, Indiana**

Please join Central Indiana Mensa for a laid-back weekend in the woods. If you're thinking that you aren't the "out-doorsy" type, think again! You get food, lodging, scenery, and more for only **\$50** per person! Saturday only is \$30. Kids up to age 6 are \$20, and ages 6-12 are \$35. There is also a per-car park entry fee.

So grab your sleeping bags and towels, and join us at Versailles State Park.

**Mail registration to:**

Teresa Gregory  
6076 Dewey Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

**Questions: [rg.registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:rg.registrar@yahoo.com)**

**OR...register and pay online at:**  
**<http://cim-og-2015.eventbrite.com>**

# Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

**Title:** *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*

**Author:** Mary Roach

**Year:** 2003



**Book Description:** “Death. It doesn’t have to be boring.” This brief, tongue-in-cheek declaration encapsulates the theme and tone of this diverting tribute to cadaver research. The modest-sized volume contains descriptions – often graphic and always delectably laced with dry humor – of the myriad ways in which corpses are used in scientific research. Some notable – and surprisingly varied - examples are: the perfection of plastic surgery techniques, forensic research on human decay, crash tests, the authentication (or refutation) of the Shroud of Turin, organ transplantation and reanimation, and (ultimately) the assessment of body disposal methods.

**Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?** I’ve always suspected that donating one’s body to science is the cheapest and most humanitarian funerary arrangement, but I hadn’t a clue as to how my deceased body might actually be utilized. This book provided me with the requisite information – as well as an occasional belly laugh – and even contains appended instructions on body donation.

**Who should definitely read this book? Why?** Open-minded and insatiably curious readers will consider this book first-class entertainment, despite its morbid subject matter. A comprehensive scientific background is not necessary; no overly-technical terminology is employed, so even my fellow liberal-arts-leaning readers can easily absorb and enjoy the material presented. One caveat, however: This volume also contains some rather grotesque accounts of animal research that PETA members and sympathizers may find highly offensive.

**How long might it take to read this book?** The “processing” time (pardon the expression) should not exceed a few days.

**Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:** *[From Chapter 5 – Beyond the Black Box: When the bodies of the passengers must tell the story of a crash]* “Could airlines do a better job of making their planes fire-safe? You bet they could. They could install more emergency exits, but they won’t, because that means taking out seats and losing revenue. They could install sprinkler systems or build crash-worthy fuel systems of the type used on military helicopters. But they won’t, because both these options would add too much weight. More weight means higher fuel costs...Who decides when it’s okay to sacrifice human lives to save money? Ostensibly, the Federal Aviation Administration. The problem is that most airline safety improvements are assessed  
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from a cost-benefit viewpoint. To quantify the “benefit” side of the equation, a dollar amount is assigned to each human life. As calculated by the Urban Institute in 1991, you are worth \$2.7 million. ‘That’s the economic value of the cost of somebody dying and the effects it has on society,’ said Van Goudy, the FAA man I spoke with. While this is considerably more than the resale value of the raw materials, the figure in the benefits column is rarely large enough to surpass the airlines’ projected cost...”

**Additional Remarks:** As this book was written and published nearly a dozen years ago, some of the prognostications on funereal customs contained in the final chapters may be outdated. However, I am of the opinion that a book should not be dismissed merely because it’s not one-hundred-percent current; that’s why search engines were invented, folks! Here are three websites that I recommend: (1) [www.biosafelifesciences.com](http://www.biosafelifesciences.com) (formerly WR2, tissue digestion); (2) [www.promessa.se](http://www.promessa.se) (ecological burial); and (3) [isp.plastination.org](http://isp.plastination.org) (plastination). Live long, prosper – and consider recycling yourself.



## **INDIANA RESIDENT JIM CARTWRIGHT CANDIDATE FOR RVC**

*Bob Beatty, Past National Chairman*

Having an RVC from Indiana is a real benefit to all of the state of Indiana.

Jim Cartwright of Fort Wayne Mensa is running for the position of RVC for Region 4, which is composed of six states.

There are two chapters in Indiana - Central Indiana and Fort Wayne. We are sister chapters, though Central Indiana is much larger, Fort Wayne is also an active chapter. It always has several members at the Indianapolis RG. Jim was there this year.

The two Indiana chapters have always supported one another, and Jim is asking that Central Indiana members support his candidacy this year.

Three people are running for office. His opponents are from St. Louis and Chicago, so he will need every vote he can get, particularly from the members from Indiana.

When you receive your Mensa ballot, take a minute to vote for candidates for the various offices, and particularly vote for Jim Cartwright for Vice Chairman of Region 4.



## **RVC4 Campaign Article**

*George Haynes*

Hello. The Mensa elections are upon us. As you are probably aware, this election determines who becomes the regional vice chair of this region (Region 4) on the American Mensa Committee (the national board of American Mensa).

This particular election is exponentially crucial to our organization. The proposed bylaws amendments could be a turning point, for good or ill, within our organization. If you vote for nothing else, PLEASE take the time to understand the bylaws amendments and vote. Vote in a way which ensures that Mensa has a transparent and accountable board. Vote for candidates who are defenders of Mensa MEMBERS more than they defend the Mensa brand. I am a candidate who believes in the principles enumerated above.

Since I am running for RVC4, this brief article will focus on that. You have three excellent choices in a selection for RVC4. Jim and Jon are good and capable candidates and I will sincerely congratulate either of them if they win.

Why should you vote for me, George Haynes? I love Mensans. If I'm your RVC, my primary personal goal will be to enjoy your company and enjoy Mensa to the fullest. My primary professional goal (as a board member) will be to advocate for YOU. I desire to be the person on the AMC who frequently and passionately addresses the needs of chapters and individuals from our region (region 4).

I will not be "a company man" who spews jargon and data unnecessarily. To be sure, data driven decisions are important, but they are not the most important thing. The most important thing is honesty, authenticity and trustworthiness. Thank you in advance for your vote.



## **From the International Perspective**

*Elissa Rudolph*

Running parallel with American Mensa's national election this year is the Mensa International (MIL) election during April and May. American Mensan voters have the option to vote electronically, which makes the process so much simpler than using paper ballots. However, due to the variety of databases in countries around the world, MIL is not quite there yet to do e-voting. The U.S. postal system will handle your international ballot. Bound into your combined issue of the April/May *Bulletin* you will find the MIL election materials—details about the candidates, their bios and campaign statements, the country nominations, the MIL ballot itself, and an envelope in which to mail your ballot to a U.S. address.

Please vote in the international election this year! You may not know the candidates personally, but you do know me, and I am one of the candidates for Mensa  
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International Chair. There are four elected, executive committee positions, three of which are contested in 2015. I would be happy to discuss the MIL election and candidates with you so that you can be better informed. Contact me by email or phone ([elissa12@bellsouth.net](mailto:elissa12@bellsouth.net), 561-703-9898).

And yes it does matter that you vote in the international election! The International Board of Directors including the executive committee sets policies for Mensa throughout the world, develops new Mensa groups, trains global leaders, and for nearly 70 years has sustained Mensa as the foremost IQ society in the world.



## **Welcome Returning Members!**

Reinstating	Steve Chambers	Carmel	IN
Reinstating	Thomas DeWitt	Noblesville	IN
Reinstating	John Reed	Kokomo	IN
Reinstating	Leonard A Bland	Logansport	IN



## **Lori Norris – Candidate for AML Secretary**

If I am successful in my quest to be elected Secretary of the American Mensa Committee (AMC), I have several goals I hope to work towards. I would like to see increased transparency with detailed minutes and fewer (and shorter) closed sessions. I am hopeful that a new AMC can find a way to utilize more of our members' expertise before seeking outside contractors. I have been a Mensan volunteer for over 20 years and strongly believe that Mensa's strength lies with our volunteers.

For information on my opinions on the proposed Bylaws Amendments and other issues facing Mensa, please read my website ([LoriNorrisForSecretary.wordpress.com](http://LoriNorrisForSecretary.wordpress.com)), see the Lori Norris for Secretary Facebook page, or e-mail me at [SecretaryLoriNorris@gmail.com](mailto:SecretaryLoriNorris@gmail.com).

## April 2015 Events

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

**Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)** – 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org).

**Muncie Area Group Meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 2:00 p.m.  
The MTCup, 1610 W. University Ave. in Muncie. For those familiar with the Ball State area, it's in the Village.  
Contact: Jason Smith, [munciemensa@gmail.com](mailto:munciemensa@gmail.com)

**Bridge Club** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, 2 p.m., Contact:  
Bob Van Buskirk, 317-359-6907 or [rvanbuskirk@netdirect.net](mailto:rvanbuskirk@netdirect.net). Location will change each month.

**Monthly Gathering** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 7:00 p.m., All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St. See last page of MIND for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free.

**4/10: April Speaker:** Our speaker for April's Monthly Gathering is Fred H. Cate, the founding Director (2003-2014) and current Senior Fellow of the IU Center for Applied Cybersecurity Research, and Distinguished Professor and C. Ben Dutton Professor of Law at Indiana University's Maurer School of Law. Professor Cate is a specialist in information privacy and security law issues, and has advised everyone from Microsoft to the US Department of Defense to the Kinsey Institute. He will share his thoughts on these issues with us (passphrase required.)

<http://info.law.indiana.edu/faculty-research/faculty-staff/profiles/faculty/cate-fred-h.shtml>

In appreciation to All Souls Unitarian Church for not only letting us use their facilities for three years at a very reasonable price, but for making an exception in letting us stay until eleven o'clock (the usual deadline is 9 p.m.) I would like it very much if we members, especially the "regulars" would support their upcoming fundraiser. It's their annual rummage sale, April 17th and 18th, from 9 till 3. **Please bring any donations of garage-sale-type items to the meeting on Friday, April 10th.** If there is nothing you can bring yourself to part with, please come and shop on the 17th and/or the 18th. The prices are low and the selection is great.

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

## April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Indy Lunch Bunch
5 Bridge Club	6	7	8
12	13	14	15 Indy Lunch Bunch
19 Mensans Dining Out	20	21 MINDbending/ ExCom Paducah Area Group Meeting	22
26 Book Group	27	28	29
3 Bridge Club	4	5	6

## April 2015 (cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Newsletter Deadline	4 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Mtg.; Calendar Deadline
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11 Mensa Test
16	17	18
23	24 Cinder	25
30	May 1 MIND deadline	2 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Mtg.; Calendar Deadline
7	8 Monthly Gathering	9

If you lose your MIND (oh, my!) or want additional information, check [www.indymensa.org](http://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.

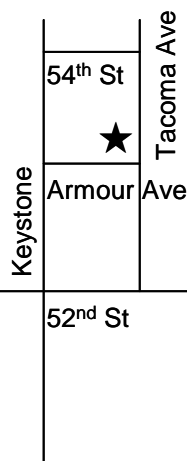
## April 2015 Events (cont.)

**Mensa Test** - Saturday, April 11., Wayne Library, 198 South Girls School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana. Registration 10 a.m., Test 11a.m.,  
Contact: Steve Merchant at [editor32@outlook.com](mailto:editor32@outlook.com) or 317-431- 8645

**Mensans Dining Out – 6 p.m., Sunday, April 19,** Havana Café, 3839 Moller Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46254

**Paducah Area Group Meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7:00 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](mailto:rawlings@siu.edu)

**MINDBending/ExCom** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
MINDBending is the preparation of next month's MIND for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the MINDs.  
**4/21, 5:30 p.m.** Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 431-3500.  
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 52<sup>nd</sup> St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.



A Big Thank You to all the March MINDBenders and thanks to Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

**Book Group** – 2 p.m., Sunday, April 26. We will discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande. 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](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

**Cinder** – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 7 p.m. 721 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis. A SIG for the Gen X and Gen Y crowd. Contact Ethan Blocker-Smith at [MensaCinder@gmail.com](mailto: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>

## Have you ever ironed your pillows?

*Ellen Voie, RVC 4*

I recently decided to wash two pillows. Before I threw them into the washing machine I checked the label. I was surprised to read a warning to NOT iron the pillows. Iron? Really? It never occurred to me that I would want or need to iron my pillows.

I started checking other labels for strange warnings. I looked around my office and opened the instructions for a phone backup battery that cautioned me to “not use while bathing or in the shower.” Hmm...I’ll have to remember not to charge my phone while I’m soaping up.



Irons must be pretty dangerous appliances, as one iron carries the caution to “never iron clothes on the body.” Darn, does that mean OTHER people’s bodies or just my own?

Have you ever held two remote control units at once? My television instruction book warns the user, “Do not use this remote control unit while simultaneously operating the remote control unit of any other equipment.” Further research did not immediately yield the purpose behind this one, but just to be safe...better not!

My headset instructions caution me to “be careful not to get your hair caught in the movable part.” Ouch!

The ceramic heater company needs a lesson in political correctness. The warning states, “Extreme caution is necessary when any heater is used by or near children or invalids.” Well, what about adults?

A friend of mine is the mother of five children. After purchasing a playpen she read the warning label. “Do not leave child unattended.” That’s what she bought the darn thing for, to protect her child while inside the playpen so she could get some work done in the same area. Who would leave a child unattended – playpen or not – anyway?

I did a quick search for stupid label warnings and found some that were pretty funny. On a bottle of fancy body lotion for sleeping was the warning, “for adult external use only.” Don’t let your children drink that stuff!

On a container of cat litter there was a notice that it was “safe to use around pets.” Whew, what else was I going to use in the litter box?

An airline package of peanuts told the passenger to, “open packet, eat nuts.” I wonder what they put on the pretzel bag?

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With a little bit of time and some product manuals at hand, I'm sure you could find more humorous warnings that makes one scratch their head and wonder – 'do people really do this?'

I checked the warning label on my iron and found, "Use iron only for its intended use." Apparently this excludes pillows.

But, on the serious side, most warnings have a purpose, considering the human aspect of 'not using your head' in an absentminded moment. So, please think before you call in a gas leak with your cell or cordless phone.



## **Deb Stone – Candidate for AML Chairman**

I am a 31 year Mensan and an active volunteer for 28 of those years. I have held almost every local position, been an RVC and helped run 3 AGs. I have seen the ways Mensa has changed over the years, and the ways it has not.

Mensa IS its members to me. I believe we need an 'agonizing reappraisal' of how AML is run. This includes recognizing and utilizing members' volunteer spirit and expertise, providing more transparency, looking closely at money we spend, and collecting/analyzing data that will help us grow and thrive. Ultimately, we need strong AMC leadership; we don't have enough of it right now.

For more on my views on AML or the bylaws amendments, visit my website ([DebStoneforChair.wordpress.com](http://DebStoneforChair.wordpress.com)), my Facebook group (Deb Stone for Chairman) or email me at [debforchair@gmail.com](mailto:debforchair@gmail.com).



## **Dan Burg for Chairman of American Mensa**

I've been Chairman of American Mensa for almost two years, and seek your vote for a final term.

This term has been "interesting." Several employees left the national office. An outside review found our use of technology to be lacking in a number of ways. At times it's felt like being Chairman of a strong windstorm.

But we've dealt with everything head-on and have emerged stronger. At this writing, American Mensa's membership numbers are ahead of a year ago -- and have been for months. If that trend holds up until the end of the membership year, it will  
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be the first time that's happened in five years.

Now the office staff is smaller, working together better, and getting more done. A new technology plan is being implemented. And the dues that members pay have not been raised this entire term, despite our dues to Mensa International having been raised substantially.

What has my role been in this? Juggling a lot of balls at once. Leading stronger and more effective oversight of the office. Being a member of all national committees (except Nominating and Elections) and active in most of them. Using my broad-based experience to help me understand issues and contribute to solutions across the spectrum of American Mensa.

I hope you will let me juggle the balls next term as well. I would be honored to receive your vote to continue as Chairman.



## **AML Election Issues: Personnel**

*Alison Brown*

A large number of candidates who were not selected by the Nominating Committee decided to run because of issues surrounding the massive personnel shake-up in the National Office. Some eight employees with whom Mensa volunteer leaders had collaborated well either resigned because of the work climate or were abruptly fired.

While the departure of Mary Spencer on July 1<sup>st</sup> last year raised eyebrows in inner circles, the elimination of Director of Operations, Howard Prince, by CEO Pam Donahoo raised hackles. Howard Prince had been a much appreciated staff member (read the many recommendations on his LinkedIn page) whose 10 year work anniversary elicited pages of compliments on the AML on-line community forum ("Howard Rocks").

Nevertheless, on August 15<sup>th</sup> of last year, CEO Donahoo, with the blessings of four out of five ExComm members, suddenly fired him. The reasons remain shrouded in mystery. The mystery deepened when shocked AMC members (for example the RVCs from Regions 3 and 5) proclaimed there would be a special virtual meeting to discuss the issue, but after the conference call, word was put out that the issue would be discussed in a closed AMC meeting in September, after



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which it was announced that the issue of the Prince termination was not discussed at all! Repercussions of this firing included (besides an avalanche of petition candidates) the resignation of many volunteers who had worked closely with Prince on various projects. The most prominent among them was life member Robin Crawford<sup>ii</sup>, who laid down her volunteer position as editor of the Mensa Research Journal. “I’ve given my notice as Chair of the MIL Name & Logo Committee. I will be asking my local proctor coordinator where I should send my testing supplies since I can no longer bring myself to encourage new members to join.”

The departure of Prince made way for a carousel of new faces in positions in the National Office.

Mary Wolfe, a prominent volunteer in general and National Scholarship Co-Chair, noted in the on-line community: “People aren’t remaining to train their replacements. There is no long term knowledge passed on.”

CEO Pam Donahoo reported the 2014 facts: “I have five new employees since the beginning of the year. We have a total a total of 20 full time staff positions (including vacancies), one part time position and two contractors. Our turnover rate takes into account temps during renewal season as well as Paige going from employee to contractor which creates an inflated number percentage wise so the real numbers are more valuable.” As CEO she has the sole power to hire and fire in the National Office. Everyone there serves at her pleasure.

A 25% turnover in the course of 8 months seems very high to me, considering we have had great longevity on the staff I had been involved with. While the new employees may all be good people, as a user of the on-line community, I have seen problems arise and continue for days, even weeks, that would have been remedied within hours in the days when Prince was keeping an eye on things.

Because personnel issues fall under data protection, we will never know why Prince was given the boot. One thing we know for certain – it was not for “acts inimical to Mensa”. Otherwise he would not have been accepted as an official Mensa member upon termination of his employment. Some have called for the CEO to be fired by the current ExComm (4 out of 5 of whom approved the CEO’s action, remember) and replace her with the beloved Howard.

That is not happening with this ExComm, but a completely new directorate might look at these personnel issues differently. As Howard Prince<sup>iii</sup> has not made any public comment on the situation, but has rather only commented privately to members with whom he has worked closely that he still loves AML, it would not be appropriate to base votes for chair, treasurer, etc. on this issue alone. The current office holders seem to be completely in the CEO’s hands in her wholesale

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“housecleaning”, rather than the other way around. This is the way it is currently set up, but it need not remain so.

It remains to be seen what the candidate statements of the challengers to the incumbents hold regarding the issue of the elected board vis-à-vis the organizations' employees, especially those who do the day to day work for the “rank and file” members across the country. As a collective employer, we are all responsible for a healthy and productive work climate for our employees through the agency of the AMC and ExComm. We need to choose carefully. In my next and last article I will take a look at some of the candidates available.

iIn her open letter of resignation she said, inter alia, “And overall, I have been proud of the job I do and proud to say I work for American Mensa. ¶However, within the past few years, the working environment created and supported by the Executive Director has become increasingly more toxic. Hard-working employees are verbally excoriated at high decibels; valuable employees are driven off and replaced with novices; workloads are habitually increased with no commensurate increase in pay. “

ii <http://forestandmaves.blogspot.com>

iiiHoward Prince has since found a new field of endeavor for his many talents. Lucky **American Heart Association | American Stroke Association**



## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 1/20/15**

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:56 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.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the December ExCom meeting. Ann Hake moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Jon Applegate seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Karen Zwick presented the Treasurer's report. Diane O'Brien made a motion to accept the report as presented, Ann Hake seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

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The membership report for November (unavailable at the December meeting) showed 7 new and 6 renewing members, 5 offers of membership, and 15 prospects. The membership report for December showed 1 new, 1 move-in, and 4 reinstating members, and 12 prospects.

### **Old Business**

Policy: Regarding event attendance by non-members, Jan Pfeil Doyle reported that she had spoken with the second of the two about which there was a concern. She noted that American Mensa is offering free prior evidence evaluation in February and March.

2015 Regional Gathering: Jan Pfeil Doyle got the approval of the ExCom to invite Carl Levinson to the RG in appreciation for his donation of shirts to Central Indiana Mensa.

Rules and By-Laws: Ethan Blocher-Smith asked if there had been any progress in the review/revision of our rules and by-laws. There is no progress to report yet. Jon Applegate reported that Marcele Everest has confirmed she is willing to serve on the subcommittee.

AMC meeting: Jan Pfeil Doyle said the American Mensa Committee is meeting in Indianapolis on the 3rd full weekend in March. The committee will be at one of the hotels at the old airport location. There will probably be a gathering in which we can participate on Friday or Saturday night.

Meeting location: Jan Pfeil Doyle has been gathering ideas on a new meeting location. She solicited help from the ExCom. Bob Zdanky offered to help, and Ethan Blocher-Smith said he would check with his church.

50th Anniversary Celebration: Teresa Gregory has set the reservation deadline for the dinner at Feb. 28, which is one week in advance of the dinner. The hotel needs a head count 72 hours in advance. Jan Pfeil Doyle asked whether past members were to be invited. The ExCom said they were, and discussed whether the Buzz Fund subsidy would be available to non-members. The consensus was that it will be, because the price for the dinner has already been published.

### **New Business**

New member dinner: Bob Zdanky said the upcoming new member dinners in January, May, and September will be at GT South's.

There being no other business, Karen Zwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Steilberger

# Treasurer's Report

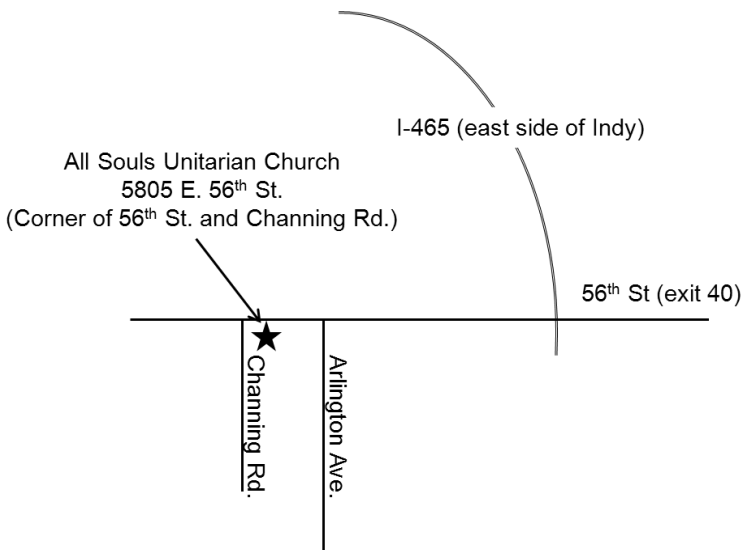
Karen Zwick, Treasurer

## Balance Sheet (as of 02/16/2015)

Bank Accounts	02/16/2015	01/19/2015
Checking – Regular	\$14,699.24	\$16,307.47
Checking – Scholarship	531.53	463.53
Checking – Youth Mbrship	849.00	849.00
Checking – Buzz Fund	1,237.00	801.00
Vanguard Account	\$3,740.18	3,740.18
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$21,056.95</b>	<b>\$22,161.18</b>

## Profit & Loss Statement (01/20/2015 – 02/16/2015)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly gathering income	170.00
	401.2 – RG income from registrations	2,955.00
	401.3 – OG income from registrations	450.00
	403 – Donations – raffle for one future RG/OG registration	68.00
	406 – Donations in exchange for shirts for Buzz Fund - \$121, 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration dinner reservations - \$315	436.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$4,079.00</b>
Expense		
	501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	80.07
	502 – RG Expenses	
	502.1 – RG Hospitality	1,822.46
	502.2 – RG Facility	1,304.04
	502.3 – RG Presenters	750.00
	502.4 – RG Program Printing	113.07
	502.5 – RG Equipment	331.88
	505 – Food for ExCom/MIND	71.93
	505.1 – MIND Printing	322.58
	505.2 – MIND Postage (6 rolls of stamps)	294.00
	510.1 – New Member Dinners	40.00
	510.2 – New Member Mailings Postage	28.00
	521 – Banking Fees – check printing	25.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$5,183.23</b>



## **Mensa Monthly Gathering Location**

### **All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room, 5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis**

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56<sup>th</sup> 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

Ellen Voie [RVC4@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC4@us.mensa.org),

### Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Jan Pfeil Doyle, <a href="mailto:jan@mw.net">jan@mw.net</a> , (317) 431-3500
Parliamentarian	Ethan Blocher-Smith, <a href="mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com">MensaCinder@gmail.com</a> , (260) 413-0093
Secretary	Karen Steilberger, <a href="mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net">steilkr@sbcglobal.net</a>
Sargent-at-Arms	Jon Applegate, <a href="mailto:ikapplegate@bluemarble.net">ikapplegate@bluemarble.net</a> , (517) 896-5022 (812) 825-2080 (answering machine)
Ass't Gifted Children	Diane O'Brien, <a href="mailto:robrien25@comcast.net">robrien25@comcast.net</a> , (317) 753-4371
Program Chair	Ann Hake, <a href="mailto:amhake@yahoo.com">amhake@yahoo.com</a>
Vice-LocSec & Membership	Bob Zdanky, <a href="mailto:zdanky@gmail.com">zdanky@gmail.com</a> , (317) 219-3773 Karen Zwick, <a href="mailto:kzwick@1stclass.com">kzwick@1stclass.com</a> , (317) 626-3789
Treasurer	
Calendar Editor	Karen Wilczewski, <a href="mailto:biltmore@topdogcom.com">biltmore@topdogcom.com</a> , (317) 849-9022

### Area Coordinators

Bloomington	Nan Harvey, <a href="mailto:NanHarvey@gmail.com">NanHarvey@gmail.com</a> , (812) 345-9608
Evansville	Dr. Louis Cady, <a href="mailto:lcadymd@mac.com">lcadymd@mac.com</a> , (812) 429-0772
Kokomo	Vacant
Lafayette	Joe Stamper, <a href="mailto:jo_e_stamper@comcast.net">jo_e_stamper@comcast.net</a> , (765) 474-4759
Muncie	Jason Smith, <a href="mailto:munciemensa@gmail.com">munciemensa@gmail.com</a>

### Other Volunteers

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Ass't Gifted Children	Laurel Richardson, <a href="mailto:Lhabitat@aol.com">Lhabitat@aol.com</a> , (317) 244-0000
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Proctor Coordinator	Steve Merchant, <a href="mailto:editor32@outlook.com">editor32@outlook.com</a> , (317) 431-8645
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