



Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



## **Mensa Family Program**

**A group of Young Mensans tackle a Challenge Box  
before the November Monthly Gathering.  
Who can build the tallest tower in the allotted time?  
It takes team work as they all found out.**

**See pages 6&7 for more Mensa Family Events.**

**[Photos courtesy David Bonner]**

## ***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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# mind

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### **Don't Forget –**

**Mensa scholarship applications are due Jan. 15th.  
See [www.mensafoundation.org](http://www.mensafoundation.org) for more info.**

## **Old Dog/New Tricks**

*Teresa Gregory, Editor*

I know I say this every year, but where did the year go?! It can't be December already. So here we are, sliding into the holiday season once again. But what holidays are we celebrating? We can't say. It's not politically correct.

My husband worked at the Roudebush Veterans Hospital in Indianapolis. He was a medical illustrator but he also created business cards, brochures, and various signs and displays. Come "holiday" time, he had to create posters and fliers for the various seasonal events, but he couldn't use anything associated with a religious group's traditions. This eliminated obvious things like nativity scenes and Christmas trees, but also Santa Claus (he's a saint) and reindeer, holly, candles, wreaths, doves, stockings on a fireplace, angels, and carolers. The only non-denominational thing left was snow and snowmen.



So what holiday are we celebrating? It's the "Over" holiday. We over eat and over spend. We over schedule ourselves so that we can see everyone and still get to the overcrowded malls. And you hear people grumble, "I'm so over this!"

So my wish for you is that you may experience peace, hope, and love during this season, and see a future filled with contentment and gratitude.

### **CIM Holiday Party**

We will have our usual celebration at the Quality Inn Hotel. If you are coming a distance, consider reserving a room at the hotel for the night, but don't wait too long. Located near one of the busiest shopping areas in the state, rooms might go quickly.

### **CIM Regional Gathering**

It's never too early or too late to register for CIM's RG, January 29-31 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. Check the website, [IndyMensa.org](http://IndyMensa.org), for information. You can register by mail or online at [Eventbrite.Com](http://Eventbrite.Com).

### **Mensa Testing**

Our next Mensa Test will be given at the RG, January 30 at 10:00am. Any non-member who pays for a full weekend registration may take the test at no additional cost. All others will pay the usual fee. Those who test may stay for lunch and the afternoon programs.

## LocSection

*Jan Pfeil Doyle*

**Holiday Party** – I hope many of you can join us for our annual holiday pitch-in dinner and gift exchange on December 11th in Indianapolis. Meat, bread, beverages and tableware will be provided; please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. The gift exchange after dinner is always a hoot. We call it “Gimmee Grabbee” – when it's your turn, you may choose one that hasn't been selected yet or take one that someone else has already chosen. Presents remain wrapped until everyone has chosen – people choose based on what the package looks like or what they think might be inside. Every year, there are two or three imaginatively-wrapped presents that are the hit of the party! Participation in the gift exchange isn't required, but you'll be missing out on some of the fun if you don't.



**Thank You, Steve Merchant!** – Steve Merchant is retiring at the end of the year as a proctor for CIM. Steve served as a proctor and proctor coordinator for 13 years and received U.S. Mensa's Proctor of the Year award in 2007. Without Steve's dedication in arranging, communicating and administering Mensa tests, I know many of you would not be members today. Thank you for your service, Steve!

**Proctor(s) Needed** – Because of Steve Merchant's retirement, we're looking for people who are interested in being a proctor. Mensa requires that you have a 4-year degree from an accredited college and complete training. Contact Proctor Coordinator Teresa Gregory ([teresa.gregory@yahoo.com](mailto:teresa.gregory@yahoo.com)) if you're interested or have questions.

**Joanne Ortman** – Longtime CIM member Joanne Ortman suffered a very serious brain injury recently while visiting in Flint, MI in October and has been diagnosed with Locked In Syndrome. She has recovered enough to be transferred to a facility closer to her home in Munster, IN. I know she would appreciate receiving cards and even visits, although she cannot receive or answer emails at this point. Please contact me for Joanne's current mailing address. You may also contact her longtime companion, Don Hargraves. His information is in the Mensa online member directory or I can give it to you.

**CIM RG Jan. 29-31, 2016** – Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 29-31, 2016! That's the weekend of the Central Indiana Mensa Regional Gathering-our biggest event of the year. Look for more details in the January MIND.

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season!



## Alpaca Adventures

*Diane O'Brien*

Some of you may remember our visit from Diana Walker, who, along with her husband, has an alpaca farm in Noblesville – the Humming Hollow Alpaca Farm. Mensa Youth, along with David Bonner and Diane O'Brien, had a delightful time visiting the farm on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

As you remember if you were at the meeting, Diana has many stories to tell about her farm and the alpacas. We were seated in the barn with the alpacas behind a fence and as Diana spoke, one of them continued to poke his head through the fence, looking for food. She explained that she had not yet fed them that morning. There were two alpacas in an enclosure separated from the rest, and one of them complained so much that she went over to feed them. He evidently thought he was part cat, with territorial behavior of darting back and forth between the two food bowls.

Alpacas are native to the mountains of Peru and don't sweat, so in an Indiana summer, they must be sprayed with water at least twice a day or more in extreme heat. The farm hires shearers from New Zealand and Australia and hires local people to help, usually high school students. Their food is



specially formulated and rather expensive. When vet visits are scheduled, the alpacas try to become invisible. They have free access to two large outdoor enclosures, which are fenced so that coyotes cannot gain access. Diana had names for all of them and introduced us – they practice “trust” farming, which allows them to interact with the alpacas as we do with our dogs and cats.

The highlight of our trip was being allowed to enter the enclosure and feed the alpacas. In groups of four or five, we were given grain into our two cupped hands and had as many as two (sometimes even three) alpacas eating from them. Since they have teeth only in the lower jaw and use the roof of their mouth to chew, there was no danger of being bitten. It was a velvety feeling and caused much laughter. We were also invited to stroke their fur, which is very dense and soft.

If you have not yet visited the farm, you should do so. Hearing about the alpacas is very different from meeting them. You'll be telling everyone you see about them for days afterward.



## Joanne Ortman

*Bryan Lundgren, Western Michigan Mensa*

I met Joanne at a big round conference table in the Indianapolis Clarion hotel on January 20, 2012. At this fun Indy Gathering, we discussed our travels and hit it off conversationally right away. I just liked her from the get-go, even though she rarely makes eye contact, often speaking in a direction away from the listener. Joanne articulates her thoughts rapidly in long paragraphs packed with detailed knowledge. These thoughts come complete with accompanying verbal footnotes about how the information was arrived at. It is best to just keep quiet and wait for her to finish, then she will listen to you.



That first day when I met Joanne I was surprised when she was aided onto the stage at the Saturday night talent show. There she stood, diminutive and bent, looking down at the floor. The microphone was lowered. Joanne immediately launched into her comedy routine. Wow, she was the ultimate straight-woman, telling her own groan-worthy puns interspersed with silly limericks and bad jokes with a rapid fire delivery while rarely looking up. Occasionally Joanne would pause, smile briefly and giggle once . . . more of a gig than a giggle. She would then sneak a brief glimpse of her audience. The more the crowd moaned at bad puns or laughed at the jokes, the more often she peeked with a flash of her sly smile. “How do you feel after hearing a terrible pun?” Joanne would quickly ask. Inserting a beat of time, she would answer: “Pun-ished.”

I saw Joanne after the show and raved about her performance. Soon we were talking about the origami books she authored. I bought a couple for my artistic daughter. After the event, we became email pen-pals, sharing our love of travel, Swedish heritage, latest writing efforts, ham radio, the Japanese tea ceremony, Arctic exploration, spelunking . . . well, you get the idea.

Returning to the present; imagine my shock when her dearest friend Don explained that Joanne suffered a brain stem bleed and is in critical condition. On November 1, 2015, I visited Joanne who is paralyzed with Locked-In Syndrome. I talked about many of the things above and she kept sending left eye winks my way to let me know she was still there. I told her that only two of the 500 attending the Chicago Mensa Halloween party, WEEM, didn't love Joanne and that was because they hadn't met her yet. Wink, wink, wink, wink, wink . . .

Joanne is still laughing at bad jokes. As always, I was lifted by Joanne's presence and warmed by her tender spirit.

*[Ed Note: See LocSec column for update on Joanne's condition.]*



## **Stephen Merchant**

*Teresa Gregory, Proctor Coordinator*

When I decided to take the Mensa admission test, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know anyone who was in Mensa. They were probably all college professors and doctors, and why did I think I would qualify for that group? But I decided to take the test just for the fun of it. As I've told many times, I started out quite relaxed, but after getting lost, stopping for directions, and missing a turn that caused me to end up in Brownsburg, I was fairly stressed when I finally found the testing site, a mortuary on the west side of Indy. What made me think I could qualify for Mensa when I couldn't even find my way across town? My introduction to Mensa was walking in and being warmly greeted by the proctor, Steve Merchant.

Two years later, when I became LocSec, I realized what a gift Central Indiana Mensa had in Steve. He was so dedicated and focused on proctoring. He scheduled his tests at the beginning of January for the entire year, usually every-other month. After each session, he sent me an email telling me how many candidates he tested that day. He sent his materials to the National Office immediately. I never had to remind him of anything. He was always ahead of the game.

He was a one-man-show who needed some back-up, so he mentored me through the process and helped me become a proctor. At that time, I had to attend four testing sessions. I've sat with Steve since then during testing. He did the test along with the candidates. There are a couple of questions we always debated what the correct answer was. Proctors are not given an answer key.

Steve has also fielded countless questions from people interested in knowing more about Mensa and the admission process.

After 13 years of service to Central Indiana Mensa, American Mensa's 2007 Proctor of the Year, Stephen Merchant, is retiring. On behalf of CIM, thank you, Steve. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

*[Steve's retirement leaves a big hole in our test scheduling. If we have several people who would like to become proctors, they would only need to do it a couple of times a year. Often times, as in my case, the proctor is the first Mensan prospects meet.*

*Qualifications are a minimum four-year degree from an accredited college or university and a desire to serve Mensa in one of its most important roles. If you are interested in more information, contact me, Teresa Gregory.]*

## Welcome New and Returning Members!

Move In	Robert E Anderson	Fishers	IN
New	Benjamin Goldberg	Carmel	IN
New	Sharon Merriman	Indianapolis	IN
New	Kimberly Stout	Muncie	IN
New	Blake M Steel	Carmel	IN
New	Aaron J Cunningham	West Lafayette	IN
New	Kevin M Steel	Carmel	IN
Reinstating	Jeremy McDaniel	Evansville	IN
Renewing	Oesten E Nelson	West Lafayette	IN
Renewing	Matthew Scarpino	Fishers	IN
Renewing	Victor Deutchman	Franklin	IN



## Petra's Punny Page

*Petra Ritchie*

***Thank you to Karen Steilberger, this month's punster!***

Stealing someone's coffee is called mugging.

The other day, I held the door open for a clown. It was a nice jester.

Pasteurize: too far to see.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

Whoever invented "Knock-knock" jokes should get a No-Bell Prize!.

Energizer Bunny Arrested: Charged With Battery.

I put grandma on speed dial. I call that Instagram.

*Have a really clever pun to contribute? Email: [petraritchie@msn.com](mailto:petraritchie@msn.com)*

## December 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 9:45 a.m. - 12 noon. NEW LOCATION: Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Meridian & 116<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org).

**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. NOTE THE NEW LOCATION: Quality Inn Castleton on the SW corner of Allisonville Road and I-465 (8380 Kelly Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46250). See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free. **12/11:** Holiday Party, complete with Gimme Grabby Gift Exchange. (See LocSec column.) Pitch-in dinner party. CIM supplies meat, bread, beverages, and table setting. Please bring a dish to share. DINNER WILL START AT 7:30, SO PLEASE BRING YOUR FOOD ITEMS TO THE DESIGNATED AREA. Look for signs.

**Mensans Dining Out** – 6 p.m., December 20, Castleton Grill, 6010 East 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

**Paducah Area Group Meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:rawlings@siu.edu)

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## December 2015

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 Mensans Dining Out; Book Club*	21	22	23
27	28	29	30

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 <i>MIND</i> deadline	5 Ham 'n' Eggs (NOTE NEW LOCATION); Cal. Deadline
10	11 Monthly Gathering Holiday Party	12
17	18	19
24	25 Merry Christmas	26
31		

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

## December 2015 Events (cont.)

**MINDBending/ExCom** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

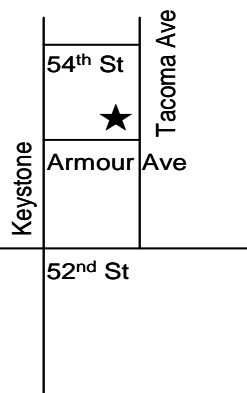
*MINDBending* is the preparation of next month's *MIND* for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the *MINDs*.

**12/15, 5:30 p.m.** Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500.

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 November *MIND*benders and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.



**\*Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, 12/20 (Date moved up one week due to the holidays).** We will discuss *Blue Jeans in High Places: The Coming Makeover of American Politics* by Mike McCabe. 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.

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

January 2016 *MIND* calendar items due 12/4/15 to: [biltmore@topdogcom.com](mailto:biltmore@topdogcom.com).

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

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

Register and pay online at: <http://cim-rg-2016.eventbrite.com>

Or... mail a completed form and your check to the Registrar.

See [Indymensa.org](http://Indymensa.org) for more information.

## Four To The Fore

George Haynes, RVC4

From childhood, we have been told that we should pursue our dreams. This pursuit of one's passions usually has the implied subtext that said passions should translate into one's employment/method of income. In other words, find a way to make money at doing what you love so that you don't have to "work" a day in your life. I understand the thinking behind this. The idea is that if my employment is something that inspires and motivates me, it won't feel like work....it will feel like I'm being paid to do something I love. Regardless of your politics, be glad you live in a country where we still (mostly) have the ability to think like that and turn that thinking into a workable reality. It is a very American mode of thinking to believe that it's perfectly natural to pursue one's dreams as a source of employment. But I digress...my main point is what follows.



I indeed believe the ideas above regarding pursuing my passions. I also believe that it is good to be employed doing something one truly loves. The tweak I would like to add to this line of thought is this: "Make money doing the thing that is your SECOND highest passion. Leave your primary passion as a thing that is unsullied from the curse of being paid to meet others' expectations and/or the inevitable drudgery that comes from the monotony of the day to day."

*Make your highest passion your avocation. Make your second highest passion your vocation.*

If you are like me, you are above average at many things and are interested in many things (I think that's a common Mensa trait). There isn't a wide chasm between how much I love one thing versus another. But they are distinct. I have found that if keep the thing I love doing the most cloistered away from the realm of employment, I not only enjoy it more, I appreciate it more.



**Don't Forget –**

**Mensa scholarship applications are due Jan. 15th.**

**See [www.mensafoundation.org](http://www.mensafoundation.org) for more info.**



## Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

*Title: Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*

*Author: James L. Swanson*

*Year: 2006*



*Book Description:* As the sesquicentennial of the conclusion of the American Civil War draws to a close, I feel compelled to offer one last tribute to the Union's most ardent advocate, who sacrificed his life for his nation's political vitality – Abraham Lincoln. *Manhunt*, an evocative and exquisitely detailed chronicle of the twelve-day pursuit of Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, is the quintessential suspense saga – and entirely true. The author has deftly culled facts and figures from the vast array of surviving written records of the era and fashioned an exhilarating action adventure. The chronological sequence of events begins with Abraham Lincoln's inauguration in March of 1865, followed shortly thereafter by the final major defeat of the Confederacy at Richmond. The focus then shifts to Booth, the embittered, impassioned Southern actor, and his personal mission to revive the South: the formation of his band of co-conspirators; his abortive plot to kidnap Lincoln; the subsequent scheme to murder the President, General Ulysses Grant, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William Seward; his assassination of Lincoln (the lone success of the poorly-planned venture); his famously ill-fated leap from the balcony to the stage of Ford's Theatre ("Sic semper tyrannis!"), and his flight on horseback from the theater. Booth's cohorts' failed attempts to assassinate Johnson and Seward are briefly recounted, after which the emphasis alternates between the escape routes of the hunted (Booth and his remaining accomplice) and the predatory progress of the hunters (Secretary of War Stanton's troops of cavalrymen). The story climaxes with Booth's entrapment and melodramatic demise, then devolves into a farce, as greed takes center stage in the form of hordes of reward seekers each claiming a piece of Stanton's \$100,000 bounty. The subsequent fates of the various surviving participants in this violent episode – some as tragic as that of the fallen President – are summarized in the book's epilogue.

*Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself?* I'm always on the lookout for literature that humanizes historical events, and provides a "you are there" immediacy that cannot be achieved in the average school history course. This affecting, atmospheric account fulfills this promise and more: it offers a running commentary on personal strengths and weaknesses. Reading this book enabled me to better understand fellow actor Booth's descent into madness as the line between reality and delusion became blurred. A first-rate education, indeed.

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* Thanks to the widespread mid-Continued on next page

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nineteenth-century practice of composing letters and journals (Booth did both), and the author's skillful use of these invaluable resources, *Manhunt* can offer social scientists astute character analyses and authentic historical and cultural perspectives. As for us mystery aficionados – well, we may already know whodunit, but in any worthwhile tale of intrigue, the thrill is in the chase. This is a terrific story.

*How long might it take to read this book?* *Manhunt* is truly a page-turner, and thus should be completed in a week or less.

*Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: [This passage encapsulates the final scene of the actor / assassin's personal drama.]* “Booth had died onstage dozens of times in *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, and Shakespeare's other great tragedies, but tonight he was not playacting. He wanted to go down fighting, not hang like a petty thief. “I have too great a soul to die like a criminal,” he wrote in his diary a few nights before. “Oh may he, may he spare me that and let me die bravely.” For Booth, this was his final and greatest performance, not just for the small audience of soldiers at the improvised theatre of Garrett's farm, but also for history... He had already perpetrated the most flamboyant public murder in American history. Indeed, Booth had not only committed murder, he had performed it, fully staged before a packed house. At Ford's Theatre, Booth broke the fourth wall between artist and audience by creating a new, dark art – performance assassination. Tonight he would script his own end with a performance that equaled his triumph at Ford's Theatre.”

*Additional Remarks:* Many of us still mourn the horrific untimely death of Abraham Lincoln, even after a full century-and-a-half. The eternal question remains: How would Reconstruction have played out if Booth's attempted murder had failed? Given the unreliability of weapons during that era, this could easily have been the case had Lincoln not been so cavalier about his own security. No doubt, the ex-slaves would have fared much better under Lincoln's leadership than was their reality under his racist successor, who figuratively threw them under the carriage; and perhaps the road to equality for African Americans would not have been as long and arduous. Such speculation will continue to occupy active minds, but in the meantime, the actual events can be relived with gusto in this extraordinary book.



## Cornered into Perdition

[Fiction – Inspired by actual events]

*Dom Jervis*

### CHAPTER ONE OF THREE – CONSPIRACY

“Nick, why don’t you ask Robin out?”

Whoa, that came from the warning track in left field...or more like a treetop in Southeast Asia. Okay, think quickly. Come up with a witty, deeply philosophical retort.

“What?” So much for that. She’s not talking...second chance...

“She’s such a stunningly beautiful woman! Petite, long blond hair, big, beautiful blue eyes...doesn’t she have a boyfriend?”

“She’s joined us for pizza and beer every Friday night for months, ever since I made her wake up and get rid of her abusive leech of a boyfriend. She’s been afraid to get involved with anyone else since.”

“So why me?”

“I see how you look at her, and how she looks at you. You know I swore off men after my third divorce, and the rest of our group is couples. You two are the only singles.”

“What makes you think she’d even date me?”

“She and I have been close friends since junior high school. I know her better than anyone, even her family.”

They’ve discussed this. Why do I feel like a man being led to the gallows?!

“Terri, this is such a shock. I need to think!”

“Oh? If you weren’t interested, you’d have said so by now. If you were on the fence, you’d say ‘Gee, I don’t know Terri.’ You know you want to. I know she wants to. What’s the worst that can happen?”

She doesn’t want to know my answer to that.

“What if we date and then break up? Wouldn’t that ruin our friendship?”

“Nick, you’re running out of straws to grasp. Now come on. Do it.”

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“Okay, I need to talk to the bartender. Then I promise to come back to the table and ask her.”

“About what?”

“That’s between me and him. I’ll be right there.”

I wasn’t lying. What had started out as a routine trip to the men’s room became a hard shove to the edge of the Rubicon. I asked the bartender for a double shot of Bacardi 151, the most potent liquid courage I could think of. Maybe on my way back to the table I’ll pass out and hit the floor. That would give me a stay of execution.

When I returned to the table, Terri had taken my safe seat at the other end. The only available one was next to Robin, where Terri had been. Maybe 9/11 WAS at the hands of Angry Muslims and NOT the US Gummint. But this looks and quacks like a REAL conspiracy! As I sat down next to Robin, she looked at me and smiled, but said nothing. She then turned away to hear the conversation.

At some moment I must have asked her, because the next morning I saw that she’d written her number and email address on my hand in ballpoint pen. The latter was smudged. Had to use the phone...argh...

After a few shots of whatever high-octane booze I had in the house, I managed to force the words out with the same effort as if I were walking through knee-deep soft cheese, “Robin, may I please have the pleasure of your company for dinner and a movie next Thursday?”

“Wednesday works better for me, Nick. Is that okay?”

This is really going to happen! Showing up at her place gassed up would be bad form. Maybe I had some Valium lying around the house.

“Wednesday’s fine. Is 7:00 okay?”

“Perfect, can’t wait, Nick!”

Approximately 8:30 Wednesday, Terri’s phone rang, Robin’s ring.

“Hey girl!”

She barely managed to force out “Terri!” through her sobs.

“Robin! WHY ARE YOU CRYING?!”

***Next month: The Aftermath***

## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 9/15/15**

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. Members present were: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Jon Applegate, Ann Hake, Diane O'Brien, Karen Steilberger, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick.

Absent: Ethan Blocher-Smith and Karen Wilczewski.

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jud Horning, and Petra Ritchie.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the August ExCom meeting. Ann Hake moved that the minutes be accepted as amended, Jon Applegate 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 amended. Diane O'Brien seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 1 new, 1 reinstating, and 2 renewing members; 2 offers of membership; and 22 prospects.

### **Old Business**

Bequest: Jan Pfeil Doyle said she received 10-12 ideas at the monthly gathering for former member Dom Jervis. She will forward them to him in response to his offer to entertain ideas for ways for the group to spend the bequest he plans to leave in his will.

Monthly meeting place: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that Marion Harcourt reported that Marquette does not want to be in the business of renting a room monthly. The committee discussed the location for the holiday party. At the Quality Inn there is a logistics issue in having two rooms. Karen Zwick said she can track attendees through nametags. She made a motion to have the holiday party at the Quality Inn. Ann Hake seconded the motion, and it was carried. The committee also discussed options for future monthly meetings. Teresa Gregory will contact the Clarion Waterfront. Jan Pfeil Doyle will check on renting a second room at the Quality Inn for our October and November monthly gatherings.

Admission testing: Bob Zdanky asked about the status of sending postcards to prospects. Teresa Gregory is doing this and will ask the committee for help if necessary.

Lapsed members: Regarding members who lapse for financial reasons, Jon Applegate said his former chapter provided confidential dues help to members with financial problems and asked if CIM would want to consider doing something similar. The committee discussed issues of screening, maintaining confidentiality, and showing preference to members who participate in CIM activities. Karen Zwick suggested building up the scholarship fund by soliciting

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donations at the holiday party. She would like to see guidelines on assisting members financially. Jan Pfeil Doyle will ask other Loc Secs what criteria they have used. The question was tabled pending more research.

### **New Business**

Shirt supply: Petra Ritchie said the All Souls Unitarian Church jewelry sale in December will be expanded to include other booths, and she suggested this event as a possible outlet for our remaining stock of shirts . She will check on the dates and the cost for booth rentals.

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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Steilberger

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Karen Zwick, Treasurer*

### **Balance Sheet (as of 10/19/2015)**

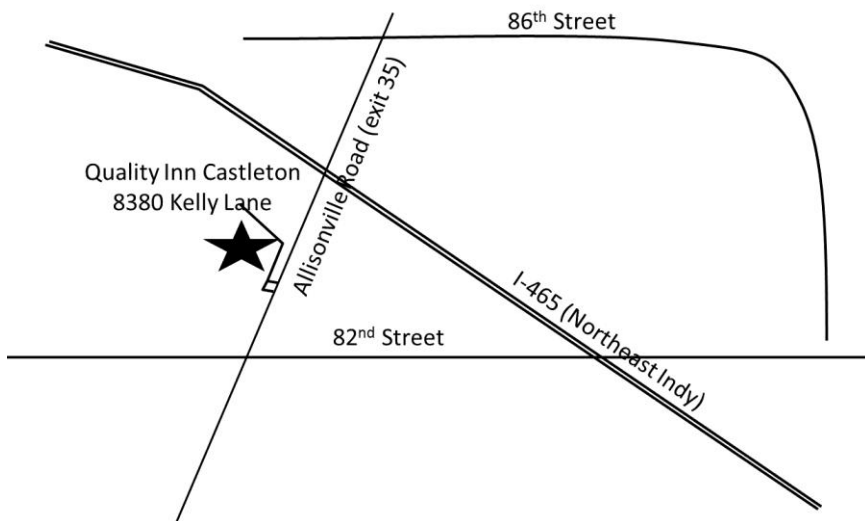
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	<b>09/14/2015</b>	<b>10/19/2015</b>
Checking – Regular	\$10,044.90	\$10,016.98
Checking – Scholarship	\$297.53	\$304.53
Checking – Youth Membership	\$427.34	\$427.34
Checking – RG/OG Fund	\$8,447.84	\$8,447.84
Checking – Youth Activity Fund	-	480.40
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$19,217.61</b>	<b>\$19,677.09</b>

### **Profit & Loss Statement (09/15/2015 – 10/19/2015)**

<b>Income</b>		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering	134.00
	402 – National Mensa Inc (Sept and Oct)	937.92
	403 – Donations for Scholarship Fund	7.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,078.92</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
	501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	151.35
	505 – Food for ExCom/MINDBending (Sept and Oct)	136.32
	505.1 – MIND Printing	312.17
	515.2 – Mensa Youth Activities	19.60
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$619.44</b>

## NEW MEETING LOCATION

Quality Inn Castleton  
8380 Kelly Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46250



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

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

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

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

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

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



## Region 4 RVC

George Haynes [RVC4@us.mensa.org](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>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jon Applegate, <a href="mailto:jkapplegate@bluemarble.net">jkapplegate@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@outlook.com">kzwick@outlook.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
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Lafayette	Joe Stamper, <a href="mailto:joestamper@comcast.net">joestamper@comcast.net</a> , (765) 474-4759
Muncie	Jason Smith, <a href="mailto:munciemensa@gmail.com">munciemensa@gmail.com</a>

### Other Volunteers

Cinder SIG	Ethan Blocher-Smith, <a href="mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com">MensaCinder@gmail.com</a>
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