



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Who Is This Motley Crew?

It's a group of past Local Secretaries taken at a party in 2004. We hope to see a few of these faces, and many others, at the 50th Anniversary Party on March 7.

**Back Row: Greg Crawford, Russ Washburne, Russ Grunden.
Front Row: Cyndi Kuyper, John Blankenship, Sue Lasek, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Grace Falvey, Petra Ritchie, Rick Barbrick**

Publishing Statement

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

Contribution Guidelines

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

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MIND Staff

Editor: Teresa Gregory, mind.editor@yahoo.com, (317) 430-1761
6076 Dewey Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Calendar Editor: Karen Wilczewski, biltmore@topdogcom.com

Publisher: Jan Pfeil Doyle

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mind

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Don’t forget our friends who are having RGs!

March 27-30 - Dayton Area Mensa, DAMnation 28

For more information, contact Karren Lehman
(rg.registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org)

April 24-26 – Southeast Michigan Mensa, SEMMantics

Contact Registrar Larry Arbanas (323-642-7226) or
larry@arbanas.org <http://mensadetroit.com/semantics>

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

We haven't cleaned up all the confetti from the last party and we have more on the way. The Regional Gathering was a delight this year. Jan Pfeil Doyle jumped out there and started chatting it up on FaceBook. While I was anticipating around 50 people, we had 85+, some we had never seen before and some we hadn't seen for a long time. My personal thanks go to Jan, of course, because she's always there for whatever is needed; to Karen Steilberger, who took over the registration duties this year and did a wonderful job; to Karen Zwick (elected this year's Party Animal by the Hell's Ms) and her amazing team that once again did an outstanding job with the Saturday lunch; to Virginia Plottel who comes in prepared to save the day, and she often does; and to the wonderful folks who did programs, helped with meals, unpacked, cleaned up, and did all the little jobs that need doing. I had a lot of fun. Let's do it again next year!



We have the 50th anniversary party March 7. If you get this before February 28, you can still make a reservation and come to the party. If it's close, give me a call or drop me an email and we'll see what we can do. This is a sit-down dinner so we must have reservations in to the hotel prior to the party.

Then in two weeks, we are hosting the National Board of Directors' meeting here in Indianapolis. This is a chance for the members to see their elected representatives in action. We are still waiting for final details on the agenda, so watch the website and FaceBook pages for information.

On a different note, we have received news that member Gary Parker has been diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer with metastasis to his liver. He has started chemo treatments and would love to hear from his fellow Mensans during this time. He has a Caring Bridge page: www.caringbridge.org/visit/garyparker17

Several years ago, Gary talked to us at our monthly gathering about his job as an elevator and amusement ride inspector. During jerky rides in the elevator at work, I often tell nervous passengers that we are perfectly safe because I know an expert who said the elevator can't crash and burn like they do in the movies. Thanks, Gary!

Also, at the time of this writing, Joseph Spearing is awaiting heart surgery.

Keep both of these fellow Mensans in your thoughts.

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

50th Anniversary Celebration – I hope you’ve made your reservation to attend Central Indiana Mensa’s celebration on March 7th! We’ll have a nice dinner and a few surprises. The deadline to have your payment in is February 28th. If you’ve missed the deadline, check with **Teresa Gregory** to see if there are still places left.



Renewal Time - It's that time of year: membership renewal time. If you're not a life member, your dues are due March 31st. You should have received a bill recently; you can pay online on the national website or by mail. I hope you'll all be renewing! This is a national election year, so you need to have renewed on time to vote.

CultureQuest – Speaking of March 31st deadlines, that's the deadline for sending in our CultureQuest team or teams. CultureQuest is an international Mensa quiz competition. Questions range from film to politics, from literature to geography, from music to history and farther afield. Teams of up to five people compete at the same time on April 26th. There's also a “Next Generation” quiz for teams whose members were born after April 27, 1997. For the Next Generation team, only the team captain must be a current Mensa member. If you're interested in being on a team, please contact me well before Mar. 31st and be sure you renew by March 31st.

National Board Meeting in Indianapolis March 20-22 – U.S. Mensa’s national board of directors will be meeting in Indianapolis this month. It will be a great chance for local members to see the board in action and to meet the members of the board. There will also an opportunity to socialize with the board, perhaps at dinner on Saturday and/or at a reception at the hotel. Details haven’t been finalized. If you are interested in attending the dinner or reception, please email or call me to get the details. The meeting agenda should be posted on the national website a few days before the meeting: www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/. The meetings will be held at the Airport Radisson, 2500 South High School Rd, Indianapolis 46241.

CIM RG - If you were at our Regional Gathering in January, you already know what a wonderful time we had! It was great to see old friends and make some new ones. RG Chair **Teresa Gregory** put on a great spread in hospitality, arranged entertaining and interesting programs, and so much more! Our thanks to you once again, **Teresa**! Thanks also go to Registrar **Karen Steilberger**; soup master **Virginia Plottel**; **Karen Zwick** and her Saturday lunch team; speakers **Barbara George**, **Alan Schmidt**, **Nan Harvey**, **Ann Hake**, and **Leo Doyle**; and everyone else who contributed!

CENTRAL INDIANA MENSA PRESENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015

6:00PM- – SOCIAL HOUR

7:00PM----- – DINNER
PARTY UNTIL MIDNIGHT

CLARION AT THE WATERFRONT

2930 WATERFRONT PARKWAY WEST

INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46214

(317) 299-8400

(OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE)

PLATED DINNER WITH CASH BAR

CHOICE OF ROAST BEEF, SPAGHETTI WITH
MARINARA, OVEN FRIED CHICKEN

COST - \$15 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS, MENU SELECTION, AND PAYMENT

**MUST BE IN BY
FEBRUARY 28.**

SEND RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT TO:

TERESA GREGORY

6076 DEWEY AVENUE

INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46219

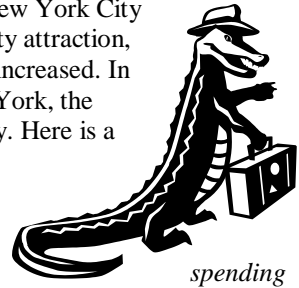
Sidebars from *Lonely Planet*:

Night Court

Teresa Fisher

Lonely Planet's 2000 edition of their guide book to New York City piqued people's interest in a hitherto lightly-visited city attraction, and according to information online, that interest has increased. In 2001, when my daughter Michelle and I visited New York, the attraction hadn't yet garnered the attention it has today. Here is a quote from the sidebar:

"If you find the 'Disneyfied' streets of New York disappointingly clean and safe, why not take an offbeat look at the city's dark underside by a few hours in Night Court? It's already popular with some more adventurous tourists."



It goes on to explain that by state law, anyone arrested in New York must be formally charged with the crime within 24 hours of the arrest, necessitating a night shift at the Criminal Courts Building near Chinatown.

"The evening shift runs from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., with a parade of sad cases passing before a judge in two courtrooms in the fortress-like building. The accused plead guilty or not guilty and usually are set free on bail until the trial begins."

How could I pass that up?

We went to the forbidding structure late at night, well after the presumably boring early-evening miscreants had been sent on their way. Despite the book's assurance that all pretrial hearings must be open to the public, I couldn't escape the feeling that we weren't supposed to be there. I kept expecting someone to ask what our business was, and to kick us out when they discovered it was idle curiosity. Nothing of particular interest or import happened, and it certainly wasn't as much fun as the TV show *Night Court* had been. There weren't any microphones for our convenience, so it was difficult to hear what was going on, and it wasn't long before Michelle wanted to leave. She was in law school and probably figured she would eventually see enough of this kind of entertainment.

[This is a good place to explain that I can't get my kids to do some of the things I want to do when we travel. Four years after the Elian Gonzalez drama Michelle and I went to Miami on vacation. From *Lonely Planet* I learned that his great uncle had turned Elian's former bedroom into a shrine to the boy who captured our hearts. For a modest sum you could see his small bed and his Spiderman pajamas. We drove past the house in Little Havana and saw the yard
Continued on next page

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where Elian had been in the news, riding his pedal car, but I couldn't get Michelle to go in. Can you believe it? We were right there, but she drove on by. When Rhianna grew up she could have told people about visiting this attraction when she was almost two, but no. Opportunity squandered.

A few months later in San Francisco, neither my daughter nor my son would attend services with me at Anton LaVey's Church of Satan. (I was secretly relieved. And I certainly wasn't going alone.) It amused me to see the way the church's Yellow Pages ad (in an actual hard-copy phone book) was illustrated. There was a cartoon wizard, a moon and stars, and another image I've forgotten, all straight out of a clipart book. Wouldn't you think The Church of Satan could afford to hire an artist to draw something with horns and cloven feet? I mean seriously – a wizard?]

According to online magazine articles posted in the past couple of years, even as more tourists read the *Lonely Planet* guide book and visit Night Court, the once-raucous court becomes tamer as crime goes down and criminals become less interesting. I would go back to Night Court again, but next time I'd sit closer to the front.



OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering!
May 15-18, 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

Theatrical Event: *Ghost Story*

Margy Lancet Fletcher

My next onstage romp will take place in a different venue: Oaklandon Civic Theatre, on the northeast side of Indianapolis. I will be in the cast of *Ghost Story*, a delightful, locally-written mystery farce (the playwright, Marsha Grant, is also directing this production). The play features a mother and daughter who are obliged to occupy a derelict mansion as part of a witness protection program, and are the unwitting housemates of the ghosts of four infamous crime figures from the past: Edward Teach (aka Blackbeard the Pirate), Bonnie Parker, Clyde Barrow, and Ma Barker (my character). Mischief and mayhem inevitably ensue, as the past collides with the present, but also a surprise resolution to the two mortals' criminal justice dilemma. The cast also includes Flo, the nosy neighbor, and two local police officers. It's guaranteed laughter and good spirits as resourceful individuals triumph over crooked corporate "fat cats."

INFORMATION ON THE SHOW

Production Dates: Friday through Sunday, March 13-15, 2015
Friday through Sunday, March 20-22, 2015

Curtain Times: 8:00 PM Friday and Saturday, 2:00 PM Sunday

Ticket Prices: All tickets \$12.00. Tickets can be ordered via the reservation line, 317-823-4761, or online at oaklandoncivictheatre.org.

Venue Location: Oaklandon Civic Theatre is located in the historic Oaklandon Unitarian Universalist Church at 6450 Oaklandon Road, Indianapolis, Indiana. It is about 1 mile northeast of 56th Street off of Pendleton Pike. Turn left on Oaklandon Road from Pendleton Pike, proceed a few blocks, turn left on Church Street, and park in the parking lot behind the church.

Additional Notes: The house opens 30 minutes prior to the show. Payment for tickets takes place at the door via cash or personal check (no credit or debit cards can be accepted). Seating capacity is limited and the seats are not numbered, so you will want to arrive as soon as possible after the house opens.

I thank you in advance for your support, and hope to see you there!

[Editor's note: Break a leg, Margy!]

Books On the Runway will return next month.

Welcome New and Returning Members!

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|----|
| Move In | William T Devries | Indianapolis | IN |
| Move In | Nicholas Scherrer | Bloomington | IN |
| Move In | Leigh Lindsey | Indianapolis | IN |
| Move In | Brian Hill | Newburgh | IN |
| Move In | Dr Marci K Davis | Princeton | KY |
| New | Laurie Bowles | Fishers | IN |
| New | Vicki Long | Connersville | IN |
| New | Joseph E Boling | Indianapolis | IN |
| New | David Mehling | Anderson | IN |
| Reinstating | Scott S Goodwin | Indianapolis | IN |
| Reinstating | Louetta Dishman | Mount Summit | IN |
| Reinstating | Hank Wegener | Indianapolis | IN |
| Reinstating | Dan Strunk | Greenwood | IN |
| Reinstating | Steven R Kern | Noblesville | IN |



Do You Have Smart Friends Who Are Also Cheap Smart Shoppers?

They could qualify for Mensa with the scores from intelligence tests they may have already taken, then you could see their names as new members.

From Feb.1 through March 31, American Mensa invites them to submit their scores and we will review them for **free**. Submit the application, qualifying test scores and include the code **FPEFM2015** to redeem this offer. Find out more at <http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testscores/print-an-application/>



Editor's Note: What would you call a gathering of LocSecs as seen on the cover? Please send me your suggestions to use on the next LocSec picture.

March 2015 Events

Bridge Club – 1st Sunday of every month, 2 p.m., Contact:

Bob Van Buskirk, 317-359-6907 or rvanbuskirk@netdirect.net. Location will change each month.

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

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

Muncie Area Group Meeting – 1st 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

Central Indiana Mensa 50th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday, March 7 at the Clarion Waterfront Hotel & Conference Center, 2930 Waterfront Parkway West Drive, Indianapolis. 6:00 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. dinner. (See Page 6.)

Monthly Gathering – 2nd Friday at 7:00 p.m., All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th 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.

3/13: March Speaker: Our speaker for March will be Dr. Jon Eller, Chancellor's Professor of English at Indiana University and Director of the Center for Ray Bradbury Studies. Many may remember the interesting talk that he gave at the RG last year; he reports that there have been many interesting developments at the Center since then! In addition, the IU Cinema in Bloomington will be hosting a Ray Bradbury Film series March 24-28, 2015; Dr. Eller, who will be co-curating the event, can offer us an historical overview and other "sneak peeks" into the event.

For more information on the Center: <http://iat.iupui.edu/bradburycenter/>

For more information on the Film series:

<http://iat.iupui.edu/bradburycenter/news/indiana-university-cinema-presents-ray-bradbury-film-series-march-24-28>

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

March 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|--|--------|--|--------------------------------|
| 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 American Mensa Board Meeting Book Group | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | April 1 Indy Lunch Bunch |
| 5 Bridge Club | 6 | 7 | 8 |

March 2015 (cont.)

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------|--|---|
| 5 | 6 MIND deadline | 7 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Mtg.; Calendar Deadline CIM 50 th Anniv. |
| 12 | 13 Monthly Gathering | 14 Culture Vulture Event |
| 19 | 20 American Mensa Board Meeting | 21 American Mensa Board Meeting |
| 26 | 27 Cinder | 28 |
| 2 | 3 MIND deadline | 4 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Mtg.; Calendar Deadline |
| 9 | 10 Monthly Gathering | 11 |

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

March 2015 Events (cont.)

Culture Vulture – 8 p.m., Saturday, March 14, *Ghost Story* at the Oaklandon Civic Theatre, 6450 Oaklandon Road, Indianapolis 46236

Tickets are \$12 each. Reservations can be made by visiting the website at oaklandoncivictheatre.org, or by calling 317-823-4761, ext. 4.

Contact Alison Brown SIGHT@indymensa.org. (See Page 9)

Mensans Dining Out – 6 p.m., Sunday, March 15, Amber Indian Restaurant, 12510 North Meridian Street, Carmel, IN 46032.

Paducah Area Group Meeting – 3rd 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

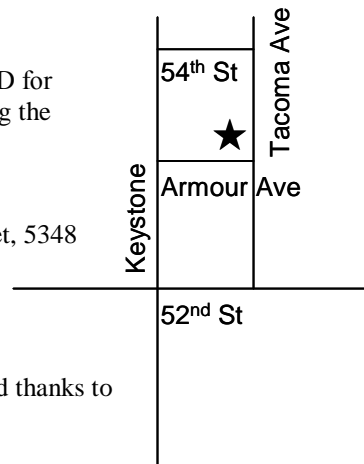
MINDBending/ExCom – 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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

3/17, 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 52nd St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.



A Big Thank You to all the February MINDbenders and thanks to Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, March 22. We will discuss *The Social Conquest by Edward O Wilson*. We will be meeting at Rich and Jackie Gibson's

house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at

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

Cinder – 4th Friday at 7 p.m. 721 E. 55th St., Indianapolis. A

SIG for the Gen X and Gen Y crowd. Contact Ethan Blocker-Smith

at MensaCinder@gmail.com.

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

April MIND calendar items due 3/7/15 to: biltmore@topdogcom.com.

Voting Is a Privilege and a Responsibility

Ellen Voie, RVC 4

If you read your Bulletin regularly, you will have seen pages devoted to bylaw changes and amendments. While they appear quite lengthy, they are very important items which must be approved by you, as a member of Mensa.

Also in a recent Bulletin, the candidates for National Office positions are included with their biographies.



For those of you in Region Four, there are a number of great candidates who would like to represent you. Read the question and answer section and make your decision, but please don't neglect this very important process. Your vote counts and each candidate deserves your consideration of his or her background and reasons for running for the Regional Vice Chair position.

These people are all volunteers, so please keep that in mind. Mensa is truly a volunteer organization and those who seek an office are doing it for altruistic reasons. They care about Mensa and want it to be the best experience for our members.

If you read all of the bylaw amendments, then kudos to you for investigating and caring about the reasons behind the changes.

As an example, do you have an opinion regarding the number of Board Directors who attend meetings and vote? Then pay special attention to Article III, section (2) subsection (b) that removes the two most recent chairmen as elective officers.

Are you unhappy with the methods of the nominating committee and wish to change the process? Do you feel the candidates should have more than 250 signatures - or 100 for Regional Vice Chairs? Do you think audio recordings of the meetings should be allowed?

There has been a lot of discussion about the Ombudsman's role at the national level. Do you want this position to be more or less involved in the board's discussion? Check out Article VIII, section 1 and vote on the proposed changes.

If you don't feel strongly about any of the amendments, at least vote for Amendment 1, which is recommended by the American Mensa Committee and replaces the current by-laws with updated ones.

You will be able to vote on these electronically if you have a valid email address on file with American Mensa and you have not specifically requested a paper ballot.

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Voting for the International officers is by a paper ballot only. You will find it in the April-May Bulletin. Please read the biographies and make your decision and send in the paper ballot. For some reason, those of us in the United States, the largest Mensa group, fall short of the percentage of votes in some of our sister countries. Are we that US-centric that we don't support our International officers?

Our own former AML Chair, Elissa Rudolph, is running for re-election as International Chair, and this time she has opponents. Elissa would very much appreciate your vote for her second term in this position.

I challenge you to send in those ballots and I am going to see if Region Four surpasses the other regions in choosing our International officers. Your American Mensa Board has approved some of the candidates, but you should consider all of those running to make your own determination.

Voting is a privilege, but it is also a responsibility. If you decide not to vote, then don't complain, especially about the outcome of the bylaw amendments. It's your choice. Take advantage of that and help guide American Mensa into the future.



2015 Mensa National Elections – A Closer Look

by Shayna Mali, French Broad Mensa

In the 2015 Mensa national elections next April, there will be no fewer than thirteen (13) different bylaws amendments for members to evaluate and vote on. There will also be multiple candidates for several of the national offices. This level of interest and participation on the national level has not been seen for quite some time – and it has gotten my attention. Having done a fair amount of research and then reviewed all 13 of the proposed bylaws amendments, I find myself unable to support anything substantive put forward by the current American Mensa Committee (AMC). Nor will I be supporting any of the incumbents on the AMC ExComm. Discussions continue on Facebook, yahoo groups and the Mensa Online Community, as well as in person across the country. I invite you to join the conversation.

A significant issue is the pattern of continuing dues increases, outpacing the inflation rate. The current AMC has approved these dues hikes but, until now,

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they have resisted repeated attempts by the current Treasurer, Nick Sanford – now running for Chairman – to institute automatic annual dues increases. We will have other choices for both Treasurer and Chairman this year; it behooves us to consider how our dues money is spent and whether we are getting additional value for higher annual dues. Several members have pointed to the ongoing expansion of the National Office without an accompanying growth in membership numbers. Others have called for a different approach to the budget process and an accompanying rollback of dues; to achieve this, we would need quite a different AMC and ExComm.

A careful reading of the proposed bylaws amendments, along with a review of this year's AMC meetings agendas and minutes, reveals quite a lot about the thinking of the incumbents who participated in the creation of AMC-approved amendments and who would be operating under the revised rules if those amendments were to pass. A recent RVC column by Julia Ashley (Region 3) and the subsequent response from Dayton Area Mensa's Ombudsman Pat Reising elucidate some of the issues relative to the position and role of the National Ombudsman. The links below lead to an exchange regarding two of the proposed bylaws amendments: #1, Replacement of the text of Bylaws of American Mensa in entirety, and #12, Restore and Protect Powers of the National Ombudsman. An associated proposal, #11, Duties and Responsibilities of the National Ombudsman, is referred to indirectly in the writings and should be considered as part of the same discussion. Among these three amendments, I support #12 and plan to vote against #1 and #11.

Regional Vice-Chairman Julia Ashley's December Region 3 Report (MPULSE, Dec 2014):

<http://www.us.mensa.org/AML/?LinkServID=ECB6C2BD-E35E-D520-7FF5145152348936&type=lgnl&name=450/MPULSE%5F201412%2Epdf>

“Response to December's RVC3 Column,” by Pat Reising (MPULSE, Jan 2015):

<http://www.us.mensa.org/AML/?LinkServID=ECB6C2BD-E35E-D520-7FF5145152348936&type=lgnl&name=450/MPULSE%5F201501%2Epdf>



AML Election Issues: By-Laws

Alison Brown

During the upcoming American Mensa Ltd. (AML) elections some 13 amendments are being offered to the By-laws. For your information and convenience they were printed in a 24 page insert in the middle of the January Bulletin, so everyone had a chance to look at them.

Amendment 1, submitted by the American Mensa Committee (AMC), proposes a complete rewrite of the by-laws. The ExComm and AMC are writing the road map for the future of AML. As they considered the new by-laws, they probably thought the electorate would not be reading the lengthy text and considering all the implications. As AML voting history shows, incumbents usually gain re-election (either in their current positions or in the next one they run for), in part due to Mensa voter apathy, so these by-laws submitted by the AMC are tailored to give the current ExComm the structure they desire to steer the course they have embarked upon over the past period(s).



However, an awakened electorate, which studies the by-laws, considers the changes from past practice and the future of the organization under them, will approve or reject them based on how the ordinary Mensan (an oxymoron – all Mensans are, by definition, extraordinary) wishes to experience her or his club.

I have gone through the by-laws quickly and I am not likely to agree to Amendment #1. I think an Ombudsman, to be effective, needs to have access to all information in a case, and not just what some folks want to give him or her. This would be a reason for me to vote for Amendment # 12. Furthermore, I am bothered that the American Mensa Committee as a body would be eliminated and replaced by a “Board” as if Mensa were any garden variety corporation. I think the Amendments #2 and #3 taking voting rights from AMC members who were not elected, but rather appointed, or who had once been elected, but now are merely emeritus members an excellent idea and supported by my sense of direct democracy. Indeed, I see no reason whatsoever to have a past and a past past Chair still on the AMC. If current AMC members want their advice, they can contact them directly on an issue – practically everyone has a cellphone (with loudspeaker capabilities) these days. I very much like Amendment 10 which would open meetings to the entire membership, rather than just those who happen to be physically present, via Audio and Video recordings. I am not sure how I will vote on the Amendment #5 to eliminate the Nominating Committee altogether, although I have heard people who have served on it in the past speak in favor of its elimination. As you can see, I have only skimmed the surface of the proposed Amendments, more work needs to be done by the voting public.

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It would be advantageous if all candidates – current ExComm and AMC members as well as the numerous challengers – would declare their opinions on the proposed sweeping by-law changes.¹ Do the changes increase or decrease

democracy in the organization? Do they streamline cumbersome practices or do they eliminate valuable checks on ExComm or National Office power?

As the activities of AML move away from volunteer run to the paid employee at the national office, voters should be asking themselves, is our organisation a business like any other or (still) what the membership makes of it.

¹ As a good example, Lorris Norris, candidate for Secretary, has a FB group for discussing the issues. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1516133288638199/1533705746880953/> and has also posted her opinions at <http://community.us.mensa.org/forums/t/30297.aspx>



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 12/16/14

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

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, Karen Wilczewski, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick. Absent: Ethan Blocher-Smith. Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jud Horning, Petra Ritchie.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the November 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, and pointed out revenue increases from RG registrations and Buzz Fund donations in exchange for shirts. She received the wording for the commemorative brick donated in memory of Jean Rodgers and sent the donation. She added the extra money from donations for Jean to the scholarship fund. Ann Hake made a motion to accept the report as presented, Diane O'Brien seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report was not available at the time of the meeting.

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Old Business

2015 Regional Gathering: Jan Pfeil Doyle asked Teresa Gregory what is needed for the RG. Karen Steilberger offered to help with beverages. Bob Zdanky will inventory the beverages on hand and communicate that information. Karen Zwick will take care of the lunch on Saturday so Teresa can serve as proctor for the admissions test. Ann Hake will put the flyer and map on the Web site, and Bob will put the information on the Meetup site.

Policy: Regarding event attendance by non-members, Jan Pfeil Doyle reported that she had spoken with one of the two about which there was a concern; she will try to reach the other.

New Business

Membership: Jan Pfeil Doyle learned through postcard returns that Ken Kleist of Kokomo passed away. She will send a donation to the scholarship fund in his memory.

Outdoor Gathering 2015: Karen Zwick said that some at the Cincinnati RG asked about the upcoming OG because there is no information online. Ann Hake will put a flyer on the Web site and will see if she can create separate tabs to organize the events there.

Meeting host/location: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that Petra Ritchie wrote a letter expressing her desire to retire, in a reasonable timeframe, as hostess for the monthly meeting. The committee discussed some ideas and alternatives. Possibly the same location could be used with a different host, but the church is also installing a new security system that could affect our access as we are accustomed to it. More information on that will be forthcoming later.

Buzz Fund dinner: Teresa Gregory said the hotel management said we can decorate the day before. We need to provide a head count 2 weeks in advance. We will not be allowed to bring in alcohol. They can set up a cash bar, or people can bring in drinks from the bar in the hotel. The committee discussed methods to get the reservations made in time. Karen Zwick offered to be the registrar. Teresa asked Ann Hake to put the information on the Web site.

New member dinner: Bob Zdanky said the next new member dinner will be on January 18.

There being no other business, Karen Zwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Steilberger

Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 01/19/2015)

| Bank Accounts | 01/19/2015 | 12/15/2014 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Checking – Regular | \$16,307.47 | \$15,128.11 |
| Checking – Scholarship | 463.53 | 513.53 |
| Checking – Youth Mbrship | 849.00 | 849.00 |
| Checking – Buzz Fund | 801.00 | 801.00 |
| Vanguard Account | 3,740.18 | \$3,740.09 |
| Total Assets | \$22,161.18 | \$21,031.73 |

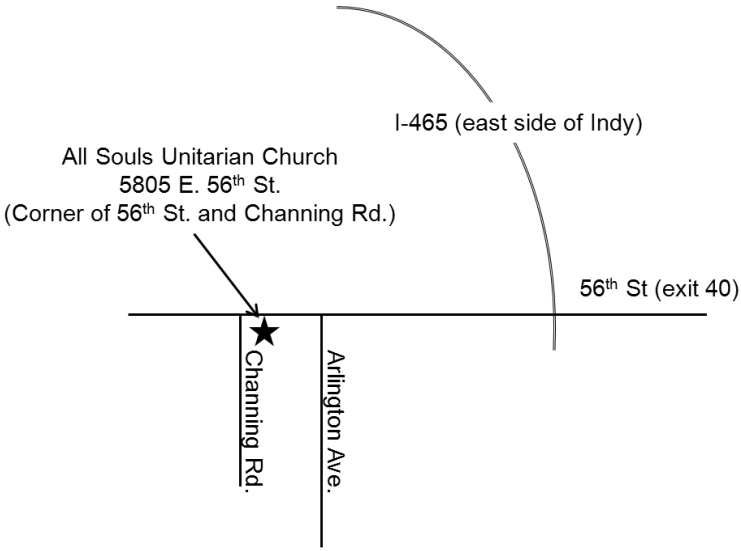
Profit & Loss Statement (12/16/2014 – 01/19/2015)

| Income | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| | 401.1 – Monthly gathering income (01/09/2015) | 62.00 |
| | 401.2 – RG income from registrations | 780.00 |
| | 402 – National Mensa Inc (December and January) | 1115.58 |
| | 404 – Interest income on Vanguard Account | 0.09 |
| | Total Income | 1,957.67 |
| Expense | | |
| | 501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality | 52.59 |
| | 501.2 – Monthly Gathering Room Rental (Jan – Mar) | 105.00 |
| | 505 – Food for ExCom/MIND | 87.62 |
| | 505.1 – MIND Printing | 314.01 |
| | 505.2 – MIND Postage | 147.00 |
| | 507 – Promotional Expenses (six months of Meetup) | 72.00 |
| | 520 – Miscellaneous Expenses (\$50 donations to MERF in memory of Kenneth Kleist) | 50.00 |
| | Total Expenses | \$828.22 |

This most intriguing subject line this month in the MIND spam folder:

Do you have worms or parasites in you





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

Ellen Voie RVC4@us.mensa.org,

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

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

Area Coordinators

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

Other Volunteers

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Cinder SIG | Ethan Blocher-Smith, MensaCinder@gmail.com |
| Ham 'n Eggs | Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org |
| Gifted Children | David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org , (317) 973-0258 |
| Ass't Gifted Children | Laurel Richardson, Lhabitat@aol.com , (317) 244-0000 |
| SIGHT Coordinator | Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org |
| Proctor Coordinator | Steve Merchant, editor32@outlook.com , (317) 431-8645 |
| Ombudsman | Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net , (317) 695-5741we33 |
| RG/OG Chair | Teresa Gregory, teresa.gregory@yahoo.com , (317) 430-1761 |