



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



2018 Annual Gathering registration and hotel reservation blocks open November 1. Here is Jan Pfeil Doyle standing in front of Marriott Place where you can reserve a room in any of the four hotels shown here.

Publishing Statement

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

Contribution Guidelines

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

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Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

I didn't realize until I took a picture that I went on two trips this year and both were to Hollywood. Of course, I went to the Hollywood, Florida, AG in July. In September, I went to visit my son in Los Angeles and took a picture of the Hollywood sign. Those two cities are about as far apart as the two Portlands (Maine and Oregon). Perhaps that would make some interesting tour packages: two cities, one name. Those certainly aren't the only ones.



I wrote my column last month the day I left for Indy by train. We misjudged the time and the distance to the station and got there about 15 minutes before departure. Unlike air travel, my son and his gal came on-board with me and saw my small roomette. There are no baggage scans, no TSA. When Jack got off the train, the attendant who had carried my bag onboard told him that he would take good care of me.

When I arrived in Normal, IL, on Wednesday afternoon, I feared that they would need an animal tranquilizer to remove me because I wanted to stay on board. It was so relaxing. Everyone was friendly, the food was excellent and abundant, the scenery was beautiful. The train goes through areas that are otherwise untouched by man. I am already yearning for my next trip, but it will probably have to wait until after the AG next year. I did find a terrific sale and have purchased plane tickets to go back to LA in January for a couple of days for my birthday.

Now that I'm back, I am busy volunteering for the Heartland Film Festival. I have my usual gig meeting people at the airport. I greet them as they are getting off their plane, help them get their checked luggage, then put them in a car to go to the hotel. I am that one freaky person who enjoys the airport and seeing all the people coming and going. My heavy days are coming up later this week. It's intense but it's only about ten days.

If you are looking for something to do in November, it's National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). The goal is to write a 50,000-word novel in one month. One of these days I will finish one but it won't be this year.

I have lived most of my life less than a mile from a train track. I often hear it at night. I think I will take a short break now and just sit back and listen to the whistle in the distance...and dream...

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Mensa Voucher Program – You should have received a voucher by email early in October. Please think of a friend or relative you'd like to have as a fellow Mensa member and offer your voucher to them to use for taking the Mensa test or to have prior evidence evaluated. More info can be found at www.us.mensa.org/featured-content/introducing-the-mensa-voucher-program/.



Holiday Party – I hope some of you who don't live so close to Indianapolis will be able to attend our annual holiday party on December 8th - we'd love to meet you. You could come for the party and stay over to do some shopping the next day. The event is a pitch-in dinner followed by our "Gimmee Grabbee" gift exchange (more details in the December *MIND*).



Annual Gathering 2018 Update – Continuing the countdown of "Top Ten Reasons to Come to the AG in Indy" - Reason #6: The Hotel! The awards the JW Marriott hotel has won are monumentally mindbending, including one of the top 25 hotels in the world! The JW offers spectacular views in all directions. But wait! There's more! The JW is one part of Marriott Place, a group of four hotels in the Marriott family plus the attached conference center. **Registration (\$199) and hotel reservations (\$134 to \$154+tax) open Nov. 1 at ag.us.mensa.org or call the national office at 1-800-66-MENSA.**

Mensa Scholarships – Mensa scholarship applications are due Jan. 15th. Applicants don't need to be Mensa members. Applications are online only at www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/. If you would like to help judge the applications for CIM, please contact our Scholarship Chair, **Laurel Richardson**, Lhabitat@aol.com.

Cincinnati Regional Gathering – Round-up at the Cincy Corral, Dec. 1-3 – It's their 35th RG! More info at www.cincymensa.org

Save on Office Supplies and Printing – Mensa has partnered Office Depot. Mensans receive a 10-percent discount on purchases and can save up to 25 percent on printing (with a few exceptions): www.us.mensa.org/shop/benefits-and-services/office-depot/

ROUND-UP AT THE CINCY CORRAL

**Cincinnati Area Mensa's 35th Regional Gathering
December 1-3, 2017**

Doubletree Suites by Hilton, 6300 E. Kemper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241
Call for Hotel Reservations at (513) 489-3636 or (800) 222-TREE or go to
[http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CVGKRDT-](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CVGKRDT-MSA-20171130/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)
[MSA-20171130/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CVGKRDT-MSA-20171130/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)
RG Room Rate \$99 please mention Mensa (Block Open until 11/16/17)

Saddle up your Horses and Shine your Boots! Settle in at the Bunk House, Join the Shindig, Dance the Fandango and Track Down a Speaker or Tournament Player. The Registration Rate includes fixins at the Chuck Wagon of 2 breakfasts, lunch, 2 filling buffet dinners and all ya can eat snacks!

Registration Rates are as Follows:

Full Weekend Day Rates

\$70 Until 4/15/17 Friday Only \$30

\$75 Until 8/15/17 Saturday Only \$60

\$80 Until 11/15/17 Saturday After 5:00 pm \$30

\$85 After 11/15/17 Kids Ages 6-11 \$15 per Day

Attendees Ages 12-20 Half of Adult Rate

Attendees Ages 12-20 Half of Adult Rate

\$30 Kids Ages 6-11

Kids under 6 Free

See our Facebook Event Page for current information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1868123660131912/>

Make checks payable to Cincinnati Area Mensa RG. Paypal is accepted at
www.cincymensa.org/registration

Don't Dilly-Dally – sign up today!

Please note all refunds may have a \$5 service fee.

Name: _____

Name for Badge: _____

Address: _____



New Members and Move-Ins

Bo Fu	West Lafayette, IN	Joined
Justin Schwemmer	Bloomington, IN	MoveIn



Petra's Funny Page

Petra Ritchie

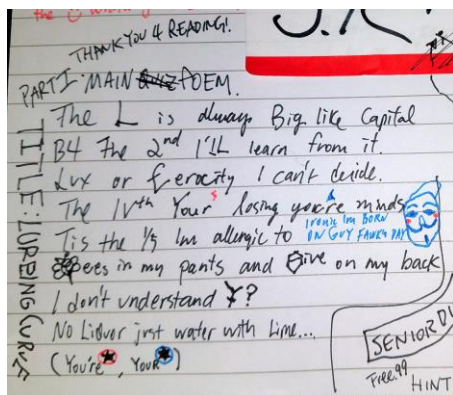
From my 97-year-old stepfather, Francis Reynolds, in Washington State, who enjoys my "funnies" in MIND, which I send to him every month:

1. The fat lady at the circus got that way by eating too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

Have some clever puns to contribute? Email: petraritchie@msn.com

Lureing Curve

J. Kim



After the October Monthly Gathering, J. Kim wrote this poem and thought you would enjoy it. That is the corner of his name tag on the upper right.

Lonesome No More

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum Library brings important discussions about loneliness and mental health issues to our 2018 programming.



Kurt and Family (photo courtesy Vonnegut Family Archives)

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library plans to focus on mental health for all of its 2018 events and programming.

We can't stop mental suffering, but the people who suffer don't have to fight it by themselves.

Support our Kickstarter

Learn more about the project and donate here: <http://kck.st/2xsdMlc>



November 2017 Events

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

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

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

Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, 6:00 p.m. – 12 Midnight. **All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226.** See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free.

Easy Gesturing With the Deaf:

This program is designed to show how easy it is to gesture words visually. Ever wished you knew how to sign? Or make bedtime stories more interesting for your children? "My First Book of Sign" by Pamela J. will be used to guide the instruction.

Lisa F. Wilson currently serves on the board for Indiana Association of the Deaf. When Lisa worked at the Indiana Deaf School as a houseparent for 4th & 5th grade students, she was assigned to tell stories at bedtime. She kept students and staff enthralled for 20-40 minutes 5 nights a week & regaled them with stories from classics such as Prince & the Pauper, Black Beauty, and the then-popular Goosebumps series.
lisa90lisa@gmail.com

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Indy Lunch Bunch
5 Bridge Club	6	7	8
12	13	14	15 Indy Lunch Bunch
19 Book Club; Mensans' Dining Out	20	21 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom; Paducah Area Group Meeting	22
26	27	28	29

November 2017

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Ham 'n' Eggs, Cal. Deadline
9	10 Monthly Gathering <i>MIND</i> deadline	11
16	17	18
23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24 Cinder	25
30		

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

November 2017 Events (cont.)

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., **11/19**, Amber Indian Restaurant, 12510 N. Meridian St., Carmel, IN 46032. Please note Carmel location, NOT Castleton. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

Paucah Area Group Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.
Anyone in the area is welcome to join fellow Mensans for dinner. For location and more information on this group, contact Charles Rawlings, rawlings@siu.edu

MINDBending/ExCom – 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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

11/21, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-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 northeast side of Indianapolis.



A Big Thank You to all the October *MINDbenders* and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, **11/19**. We will discuss *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. We will be meeting at Rich and Jackie Gibson's house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

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

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

December 2017 *MIND* calendar items due 11/3/17 to: biltmore@topdogcom.com.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

By Jon Gruebele, RVC4

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

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



- 12% of lapsed members said they planned to renew; 40% had not yet decided. A sizeable minority (43%) of the undecided members had only been members 1-3 years. Outreach to lapsed members might encourage renewals.
- About half of lapsed members reported they had lapsed before, so many may rejoin later.
- Lapsed members are less involved with Mensa across the board. Only 54% read the Bulletin versus 95% of current members. Only half participated in any activities at all.
- About half reported something about Mensa did not meet their expectations. Reasons cited included dues too high for the value received (64%), unappealing local group activities (51%), lack of local group activities (48%), local group activities too far away (39%), and negative experiences with other Mensans (19% in person and 13% on-line). Newer members also mentioned not having anyone their own age, local events limited to dinners out, not being contacted by the local group, and not being welcomed by other members. Others reported challenges such as changes in their financial situation.
- When asked “What is one thing Mensa could do that might encourage you to renew in the future?”, respondents suggested holding a wider variety of activities including those that help cultivate our minds. They also recommended getting better at welcoming new members, lower dues / better value, and somehow addressing negative member interactions.

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

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Additional survey details are available on-line in the Sharehouse, <http://community.us.mensa.org/media/>. Sign in and search for “lapsed member”. Please join us at one of these upcoming regional events:

- Wisconsin’s RG-Lite, October 14, West Allis, WI.

<http://wi.us.mensa.org/rg.htm>

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

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



Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Title: The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate

Author: Peter Wohlleben

Year: 2015

Book Description: During a New England winter in 1913, Joyce Kilmer produced his famous poetic paean to trees, declaring that he had never seen anything lovelier. If Kilmer had been able to fast-forward through more than a century of scientific progress, he would have acknowledged that his “fool’s poem” does not begin to cover the grandeur and boundless complexity of these majestic plants that have effectively covered us for many millenia. A much worthier and more lyrical tribute is embodied in *The Hidden Life of Trees*, in which German ecologist Peter Wohlleben explores all facets of the growth and development of trees, unearthing a wealth of little-known wonders. The following are just a small portion of the intriguing arboreal truths revealed therein: (1) Trees are communal entities that share resources and information via an underground connection (“wood wide web”). See the excerpt below for an explanation of this tendency in terms of species survival. (2) Trees communicate with each other through the use of scent, color, electrical signals, and sound. (3) Trees budget their energy carefully to meet all of their needs (e.g., growth, defense against predators, propagation). (4) Trees are capable of creating their own ideal habitat, regulating carbon dioxide in their environment, and efficiently



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collecting and distributing rainwater. Wohlleben, a former commercial forester whose own attitude towards trees has evolved from exploitative to reverent, concludes his captivating woodland excursion with the assertion that, while wood is needed for human survival, we should simultaneously ensure that “trees are allowed to live in a way that is appropriate to their species.” He adds that trees should be equally appreciated for their life-giving qualities and the infinite mysteries they contain. With all due respect, Mr. Kilmer - that is true poetry.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? Watching a recent youth production of the Stephen Sondheim musical, *Into the Woods*, reminded me of the mixed emotions of awe and dread that our cultural folk tales have conditioned us to feel toward vast, old-growth forests. Note the contrasting lyrics within the same song: “Into the woods, and who can tell what’s waiting on the journey?” versus “Into the woods, who knows what may be lurking on the journey?” Hiking woodland trails has been one of my favorite activities for as long as I can remember, the most fearsome aspect being poison ivy, which I learned to recognize and avoid early on. *The Hidden Life of Trees* feeds my (healthy) lifelong obsession, and presents a convincing case of the inestimable value of the old to the new (a gratifying notion for this senior citizen).

Who should definitely read this book? Why? This book is a must-read for anyone with at least a casual interest in nature and ecology. Some readers may be disappointed by the lack of vivid color photographs that usually accompany books on plant life, but I think this omission serves to encourage learning through live encounters with the subject matter - by actually taking a walk in the woods and witnessing its marvels firsthand.

How long might it take to read this book? The factual fruit in this opulent literary orchard is flavorful and devoid of indigestible technical jargon. Thus, it can be partaken - and savored - in just a day or two.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: “But why are trees such social beings? Why do they share food with their own species and even go so far as to nourish their competitors? The reasons are the same as for human communities: there are advantages to working together. A tree is not a forest. On its own, a tree cannot establish a consistent local climate. It is at the mercy of wind and weather. But together, many trees create an ecosystem that moderates extremes of heat and cold, stores a great deal of water, and generates a great deal of humidity. And in this protected environment, trees can live to be very old. To get to this point, the community

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must remain intact no matter what. If every tree were looking out only for itself, then quite a few of them would never reach old age. Regular fatalities would result in many large gaps in the tree canopy, which would make it easier for storms to get inside the forest and uproot more trees. The heat of summer would reach the forest floor and dry it out. Every tree would suffer... Every tree, therefore, is valuable to the community and worth keeping around for as long as possible. And that is why even sick individuals are supported and nourished until they recover. Next time, perhaps it will be the other way around, and the supporting tree might be the one in need of assistance. When thick, silver-grey beeches behave like this, they remind me of a herd of elephants. Like the herd, they, too, look after their own, and they help their sick and weak back up on to their feet. They are even reluctant to abandon their dead.”

Additional Remarks: In addition to heralding the beginning of our Holiday Season, November signifies a long winter’s break for many species of animals, as well as for deciduous trees. As we give thanks for our bounty at our annual late-November family gathering, let us also raise our glasses to our largest perennials, without which the bounty would not be possible. And how about spending Black Friday rambling through a nearby park, toting Peter Wohlleben’s little guidebook and discovering the hidden life of trees? Into the woods!



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 8/15/17

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, August 15, 2017.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Members present were Jon Applegate, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Ann Hake, Karen Wilczewski, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick.

Members absent: Ethan Blocher-Smith, Diane O’Brien, and Kurt Williams

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Petra Ritchie, and Alan Schmidt

The committee reviewed the minutes of the July ExCom meeting. Karen Zwick moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Ann Hake seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer’s report. Ann Hake moved that the Treasurer’s report be accepted as presented. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

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A membership report was compiled by Jan Pfeil Doyle based upon the information available as of 7/31/2017 from American Mensa: 502 members, 1 new, 2 move-ins, 2 rejoins, and 5 prospects.

Old Business

2018 Annual Gathering: Planning continues steadily.

Jan will work with Kurt regarding organizing the publicity / public relations / social media / outreach committee.

New Business

October is National Testing Month. We will add two extra dates for testing then (October 7 and 21).

Our FaceBook page is currently closed (private); Jan raised the question as to whether the group should be changed to open (public). It was decided that the publicity / public relations / social media / outreach committee should consider this.

The Website has improved significantly in functionality after a great deal of work by Pat Milligan and Mike Cowper. It now has a working Calendar function again and needs to have someone who will make sure that events are kept up to date on a regular basis.

Ann Hake requested to confirm the ASIE that allows the provision of audiovisual equipment at the Monthly Gathering to substitute for paying the entrance fee. Karen Zwick moved to approve and Bob Zdanky seconded, and the motion was approved.

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 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Hake, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 09/18/2017)

Bank Accounts	08/14/2017	09/18/2017
Checking – Regular	\$4,314.91	\$5,067.00
Checking – Scholarship	386.50	386.50
Checking – Youth Membership	69.34	69.34
Checking – RG/OG Fund	9,575.23	9,575.23
Checking – Youth Activity Fund	489.40	489.40
Total Assets	\$14,835.38	\$15,587.47

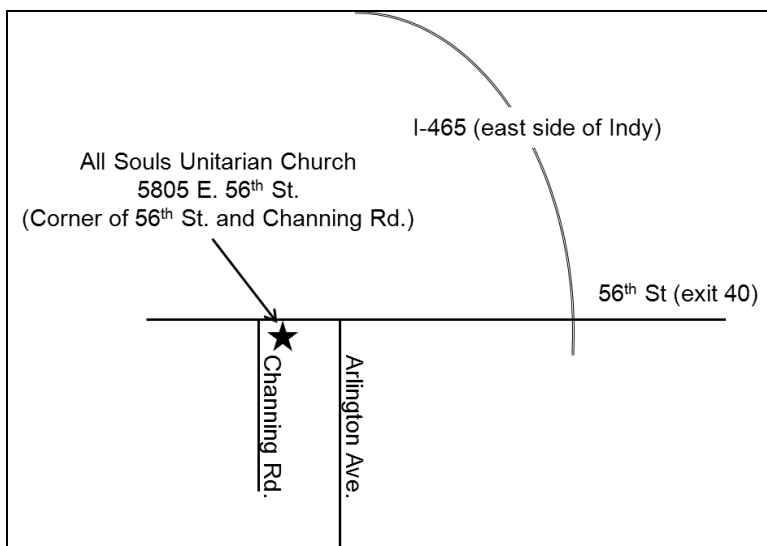
Profit & Loss Statement (08/15/2017 – 09/18/2017)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	158.00
	402 – National Mensa (Aug & Sep)	973.25
	Total Income	\$1,131.25
Expense		
	501.1– MG Hospitality	27.37
	505 – Food for ExCom/MIND Bending	16.69
	505.1 – MIND Printing	301.65
	520 – Miscellaneous Expenses (Badges for monthly gatherings))	13.46
	521 – Banking Charges or Fees (Check printing)	19.99
	Total Expenses	\$379.16

Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

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

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



Region 4 RVC

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

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Jan Pfeil Doyle, jan@mw.net , (317) 431-3500
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Jon Applegate, jkapplegate@bluemarble.net , (517) 896-5022 (812) 825-2080 (answering machine)
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Kokomo	Vacant
Lafayette	Vacant
Muncie	Vacant

Other Volunteers

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