



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



OMG! 2019

What was inspiring enough to fill several of the front pews of this church with Mensans? We're too tired to tell you right now, but check out next month's issue!

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 Vonda Heverly, 250 Anniston Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46227. 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 submitted no later than the Friday before *MIND*bending (usually the second Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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MIND Staff

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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

loose (/looos/): v. 1. set free, release. 2. Relax



Spring seemed slow to come, but it sprang up under a full moon last weekend at OMG!, our outdoor gathering at Versailles State Park. The gathering was well-attended and featured its usual hikes to see early morning bubbles at the dam and fossils in the afternoon. We toured a local church with an unusual architecture and history. It cooled off enough to make the campfire pleasant. My favorite part is probably the homemade ice cream. I was glad to see its return this year! We are all still recovering from the fun and food, so look for reports on our activities in July's issue.

This week marks the end of school for my family. It's hard to picture summer camp, swimming, and gardening right now, as it is only 47 degrees out. Ah well, we'll have the heat to complain about soon enough. Be patient, my fellow Hoosiers.

Cheers!



Mariah, Mindy, and Dani prepare to make us ice cream. What their secret ingredient? N_2 , of course!

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

I am a little bleary today. I am writing this the day after the Outdoor Mensa Gathering (OMG!), a great weekend of friends, food, and fun. (Please note, the word “sleep” was not included in that statement.) After the doldrums of winter, going to the park in mid-May is so refreshing. Everywhere I looked, I saw beautiful bright greens, the hues that children paint grass. It’s a sensory delight.



Because it was just yesterday, we haven’t closed the book on it yet, so there will be more information and pictures in the July MIND.

In my last column, I mentioned long-time member Karen Wilczewski who has had some severe health issues the past few months. She resigned from her position on our Executive Committee for this reason. There was a vote of the remaining ExCom, and at their request, Vicki Adang has joined to fill the vacant seat. Vicki and her husband took the qualifying tests and joined Mensa last July at the Annual Gathering. We are sorry to see Karen leave the ExCom, and we are grateful to Vicki for taking on this role. She has hit the ground running. (See her article about a visit to the C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Museum in August.)

After MIND had gone to press last month, the ExCom decided to run a special promotion for the May Monthly Gathering. We don’t have a New York Times best-selling author visit regularly. To encourage members to come and bring a non-member guest, the door fee was reduced. If you didn’t know about this, it’s because you don’t check the website calendar (www.IndyMensa.org) or Meet Up (<http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>). We also have two Facebook pages. After MIND goes out, these are our only ways of updating information.

Housekeeping notes:

Were you around in 1986? Our June Monthly Gathering speaker will be telling us what life was like for her that year while living in Chernobyl.

After a long, long time, the Lunch Bunch in Indy is moving to Shapiro’s. Dates and times remain the same.

At the June meeting the Book Group is going to select their titles for the coming year. If you would like some input, be sure to be there.

Happy Summer!



“There is a time for many words, and there is also a time for sleep.”

—Homer, *The Odyssey*

Mensa Foodie Tour: Saffron Café, April 6th

Derek Crager



We had a lovely dinner at the Saffron Cafe this fine Saturday afternoon. We had to move back our regular 2 p.m. start time as the Saffron is closed midday and re-opens for dinner at 4 p.m.

The award for the longest distance traveled to get to our luncheon goes to Allen Schmidt's wife Ruth who traveled from Washington D.C. the previous week, and it was wonderful to spend time with her as she contributed greatly to our conversation.

The inside was quaint, very clean, and the wait staff provided old school service, meaning he was always there with what we needed and was a perfectionist in his service.

Allen had a fish kebab, Derek a meatball kebab, Bianca a lamb kebab, Janette went with alfredo, and Ruth had saffron rice with her delicious entrée, served in a ceramic teepee style dinner plate.

As is customary with our foodie Janette, we shared a variety of appetizers to start our dinner. Two of us tried the Moroccan sweet tea which proved delicious. After dinner the Schmidts shared some baklava while Derek ate the very moist vanilla cake with strawberries.

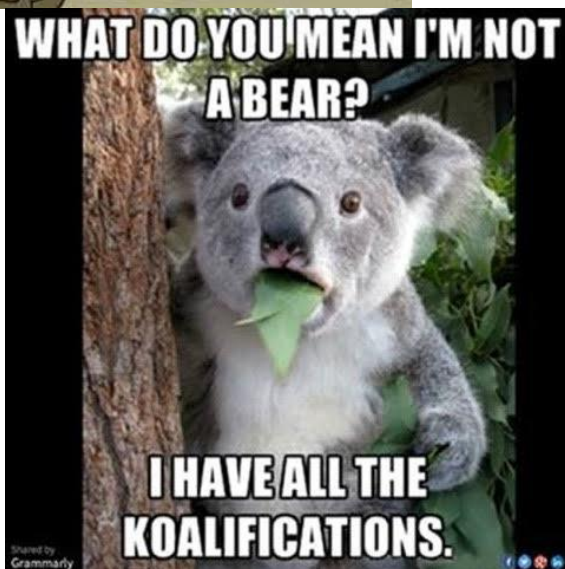


The overall dinner averaged four out of five stars. We enjoyed the location, the service, and the interior as much or more as we did the food itself. The only downside to the Saffron Cafe was parking. It turns out that the parking lot where their building sits belongs to a nearby apartment and restaurant customers must park on the street. However, that is common to many restaurants in downtown Indy.

If you missed this session be sure to watch out a [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) for the announcement of our next location for June.

Petra's Pet Puns

Petra Ritchie



Reminder: Register for CANDLES Holocaust Museum Outing

Vicki Adang

Mensans and their families are invited to visit the CANDLES Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute on Saturday, August 3. We will hear Holocaust survivor Eva Moses Kor speak about her time in Auschwitz and her life after she was liberated.

We will meet that morning around 9 a.m. and carpool to Terre Haute with arrival at the museum around noon. Eva will do her presentation at 1 p.m. We will have time to look at exhibits and explore the museum before and after Eva's presentation, which will take at least 90 minutes. Carpool meeting locations will be determined in late July. Return to Indianapolis will be by 8 p.m.

Admission to the museum is \$5. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Vicki Adang at vickiadang@yahoo.com by Sunday, July 21.

For more information about Eva and the CANDLES Holocaust Museum, visit <https://candleholocaustmuseum.org>.



New Members

Joey Colson	Pendleton	IN	Move In
John Hunckler	Bloomington	IN	Joined



2019 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Here is the list of books to read for the CIM Book Group. It meets on Sunday afternoons once a month. Check the calendar for exact dates. Call or email Rich Gibson if you have any question or for directions.

June 2: Bring a book or two to help build the reading list for 2019-20!

June 2019 Events

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.

Indy Lunch Bunch [NOTE: Shapiro's Delicatessen, 808 S. Meridian St.] The dates (1st and 3rd Wednesday) and time (11:30 a.m.) are not changing. Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net.

Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, **7 p.m. – 11 p.m.** All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226. See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$7.00, Non-Members: \$10.00; Children 6-18: \$5.00, under 6: free.

6/14 – Announcements at 7:45; program at 8:00. June's speaker will be Anya Aslanova, a former resident of Chernobyl who will describe her first-hand experiences of living in the city at the time of the disaster that occurred there 33 years ago.

STEM Time with George Dunn following the speaker.

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., **6/16** - Watami Sushi All You Can Eat, 10625 Pendleton Pike · Indianapolis, IN
For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

Book Group - **6/2**, 2pm at the Gibsons'. "There are hundreds of books out there for us to read. Read one (or two) you think we all should discuss and bring it as a suggestion for our list for the rest of 2019 and part of 2020. Remember, if the book you suggest is on our reading list, you are committing to being there for the discussion!"

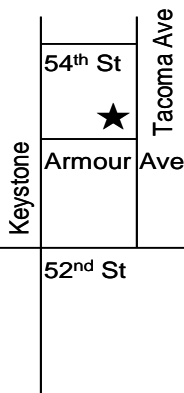
MINDBending/ExCom – 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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

6/18, 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 52nd St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

A Big Thank You to all the April *MIND*benders and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.



June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Book Group	3	4	5 Lunch Bunch (New Location)
9	10	11	12
16 Mensans Dining Out	17	18 MINDbending/ ExCom	19 Lunch Bunch (New Location)
23	24	25	26

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ham 'n' Eggs
6	7	8
13	14 Monthly Gathering	15
20	21	22 Admission Testing
27	28	29

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.

June 2019 Events (cont.)

Mensa Admissions Test — Saturday, 6/22, 1:00pm with registration before. Please arrive a few minutes early. Testing will be conducted on Indy's South side. Contact Alison Brown .SIGHT@IndyMensa.org to reserve a spot. The exact location will be provided when a candidate reserves a space.

Additional Information: The \$60 testing fee is payable by cash, check, or any major credit card. You can purchase a voucher for the fee ahead of time at www.mensa.org/join/testing/testingvoucher/. Candidates between 14 and 17 years of age are required to have one of their parents also sign the registration form in the presence of the testing coordinator at the testing site. We are not permitted to test candidates under age 14. Candidates under 14 will need to apply to the American Mensa Ltd. national office in Arlington, Texas, using approved prior testing evidence. A partial list of accepted tests and scores is available at: www.u.s.mensa.org/join/testscores/qualifyingscores/. For further questions about prior evidence admission to Mensa, call Mensa's national office at 817-607-0060.

No smoking, calculators, or scratch paper are allowed. Candidates are permitted to take each of the two tests comprising the Mensa Admissions Test battery only once in their lives. Candidates who qualify on either test will be invited to become a member. Please bring photo ID and one or two #2 pencils.

Summer Blast is coming July 19-20, 2019

CANDLES Museum visit is coming August 3, 2019.

Please send Calendar Items to MIND.editor@yahoo.com

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

Why Do People Complain About Mensa?

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

I once worked with a vice president at a Fortune 500 company. He was an interesting guy, having worked his way up from an hourly job. This gave him perspective, a good deal of common sense, and a salty vocabulary. Once we surveyed everyone in the company about a program in his organization's area of responsibility. While people had some positive things to say, a lot of it was pretty darn negative. I presented the unvarnished findings to him and his leadership team.

Many leaders would have simply shot the messenger. Instead, he took an unexpected approach. He smiled, thanked me for the input, and explained that he welcomed negative feedback. He noted that complaints come from people who care. They want something to change, to be better. People who have checked out may whine to themselves or their colleagues, but they've given up on leadership ever doing anything to improve.

He went on to talk about his visits to various facilities. Before he arrived, management would clean up the premises and do their best to hide any issues. Nobody wants to look bad in front of the big boss. They'd then proudly show him their latest pet project. He would of course suggest improvements. This made nobody happy. He was criticizing their best work! He also couldn't help them fix anything, since they were doing their best to hide their problems. He flipped the script. He told his facilities that he didn't want to see their best projects when he visited; instead, he wanted to see their biggest "pile of crap". This assured him the facility leadership recognized they had issues. He could help them solve their challenges with his experience, policy changes, or additional resources. This approach was way more productive.

I learned a lot from him. Among other things, his approach helps me appreciate Mensa. If you're at all active on social media, it seems there isn't anything anyone can do that doesn't attract criticism. All that, however, comes from people who still care about Mensa – often very deeply – and want us to be better. I may not always agree on either the problem or the suggested solution, but I can learn from everyone's viewpoints.

So, if you've complained lately, thank you. I appreciate your thoughts. Feel free to point out our biggest "pile of crap". It's even better if you can suggest a practical way to fix it. As an RVC, I'm not a "big boss"; I'm just one of 15 votes on the Board of Directors (AMC). I can't make things happen as quickly as I'd like. I can, however, champion good ideas and work to make them reality. Why do people complain about Mensa? Because they care. Keep those ideas coming – please!

Feedback? Please contact me at rvc4@us.mensa.org, via phone or text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4's Facebook group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.



Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Matt Simon

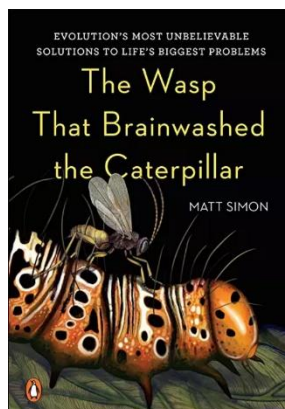
Title: *The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar: Evolution's Most Unbelievable Solutions to Life's Biggest Problems*

Publisher: Penguin Books

Year: 2016

Book Description: Author J. K. Rowling's phenomenal movie franchise poses this intriguing question: Where can one find fantastic beasts? Well, the answer can easily be plumbed from the imaginative alternate worlds created by Rowling and other brilliant tale-spinners such as Tolkien, Sendak, Dr. Seuss, and the multi-national originators of folklore and mythology. That is, unless you concur with Mark Twain in the assertion that "truth is stranger than fiction," in which case, as science writer Matt Simon testifies in *The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar*, one needs to look no further than our own planet. And the fertile minds of our finest storytellers pale in comparison to the inventive force of evolution in fashioning bizarre creatures, all in the cause of improving survival skills - being the "best of show" in one's species.

Each segment of this delectable little volume is devoted to a particular problem all terrestrial living beings face throughout their lives, and presents a few highly unusual solutions to each problem that the force of natural selection has designed in certain organisms. Simon's categories of survival challenges, in order of appearance, are as follows (in the author's colorful vernacular): You Absolutely Must Get Laid (passing one's genes to the next generation as efficiently as possible); You Can't Find a Babysitter (caring for and protecting one's offspring); You Need a Place to Crash (finding an ideal location for raising one's offspring); You Live in a Crummy Neighborhood (improving one's living conditions); Turns Out Getting Eaten Is Bad for Survival (evading predators), Turns Out Not Eating Is Also Bad for Survival (ensuring a plentiful and steady food supply); and You Can't Let Them Get Away That Easily, Can You? (pursuing and holding onto one's prey). Two examples that are typical of Matt Simon's menagerie of oddities are the pearlfish, which makes its home inside a sea cucumber's anus in order to hide from its enemies and to enjoy a constant supply of water and nutrients; and the titular *glyptapanteles* wasp, which uses living caterpillars as a shelter, source of food, and mind-controlled nanny and bodyguard for its larvae. As an added bonus, this brief, unorthodox exploration of the natural world includes character sketches of such noted scientists as Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace, John McCosker, and Maria Sibylla Merian, as well as numerous fascinating sidebars on such subjects as how marsupials, worms, and toads are defined, when necrophilia is "socially acceptable" among frogs, and examples of convergent evolution. The exquisite illustrations by Vladimir Stankovich are the icing on this flavorful confection of faunal facts.



Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? As far back as I can remember, I have been a keen observer of animal behavior, and have found Matt Simon's "critter compendium" an unqualified delight. I was a bit surprised to learn that Simon is a regular contributor to the technical journal *Wired*, until I realized that we are all basically machinery, and that evolution is as much a technological phenomenon as the invention of a computer or robot. We all constantly adapt and improve by whatever means we know or discover.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? This breezy, irreverent, and enlightening paean to weird science should have broad appeal - particularly to engineers, biological and behavioral scientists, artists, and fans of horror stories, as this book reveals the natural world to be both brutal and beautiful.

How long might it take to read this book? At 242 highly entertaining pages (not including the bibliography), the rich material contained in this book can be consumed and digested quickly (burp) - in one day or less.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:

Earth has never seen a force like humanity. We pull down mountains and gouge great holes in the earth. We've transformed our climate and polluted the bejesus out of the seas. We've driven countless species to extinction as others struggle to hold on. Humanity is earth's biggest problem, and it'll be the species that stumble upon solutions to us that will make it. Individuals that can better withstand warming and acidifying seas, for instance, will survive to pass down their genes for this resilience.

Not since the pioneering days of Maria Sibylla Merian and Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace has the work of the natural historian been more critical. Saving the species we're imperiling requires understanding them. And so, Brian Fisher, iPad in hand, slogs through the jungle in search of the hero ant. Tierney Thys wrangles the ocean sunfish, the biggest bony fish in the world, tagging them so she can study their movements in rapidly changing oceans. And Mariella Superina, after all these years, still scours the deserts of Argentina in search of the mysterious pink fairy armadillo. They're just three explorers among the multitudes of scientists trying to make sense of this mad planet of ours.

Who knows - maybe we'll end up solving the problem that is us. And I don't mean extinctions ourselves. Evolution gave us these great big brains, after all. Perhaps we can figure out how to live on this planet without destroying it. Because if we don't, the only other option is space.

Additional Remarks: It turns out that life on earth is infinitely more complex than is indicated even in this book, as revealed by one candidate for the upcoming Central Indiana Mensa Book Club list: *I Contain Multitudes*, by Ed Yong, which delves into our invisible, ubiquitous, and extraordinarily numerous population of microbial species. If Yong's amazing oeuvre is approved for discussion, a review will appear in an upcoming MIND publication, so please stay tuned. In the meantime, indulge yourself in Matt Simon's wacky, wonderful world of weird wildlife. Wow!

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 3/19/2019

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Members present were Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky.

Absent: Karen Wilczewski.

Guests: Petra Ritchie.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the February 2019 ExCom meeting. Jan Pfeil Doyle moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for February 2019. Jan Pfeil Doyle moved that this report be accepted as presented. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 2/28/2019 from American Mensa: 522 members, 2 new, 2 moveins, 4 rejoins, and 10 prospects.

Old Business

2019 Outdoor Gathering (OG): Will take place May 17-19, 2019 at Versailles State Park in Versailles, IN. Planning continues. The information has now been posted on the National website, and it will be included in the next Mensa Bulletin. The Eventbrite registration page and a CIM OG Facebook Event page are available online.

The Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the Old National Bank Greenwood East and Carmel Banking Center branches for donating the use of their community rooms for admissions testing.

New Business

Because of ongoing barriers to attendance at Mensa activities including ExCom meetings, Karen Wilczewski has offered to submit her resignation from the ExCom. Her many years of service to the ExCom and to CIM are greatly appreciated, and her resignation was accepted with heavy hearts. A replacement on the ExCom was discussed in accordance with the Bylaws.

The official date set for MensaCares! week is April 7-13, which coincides with National Volunteer Week. However, a project can be done at any time. Possible projects were discussed. Additional discussion took place around recognizing our volunteers more.

Additional discussion also took place around additional methods for communication of events and formulating a more comprehensive communication and social media policy.

There being no other business, Bob Zdanky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Milligan, CIM Treasurer

The local administration of the Mensa test is still covering for the recent loss of members to the Middle Tennessee chapter. You might thank our proctors for their contribution.

Assets

	02/28/2019	03/31/2019
Regular Checking	5,048.29	5,242.41
Scholarship Checking	35.00	0.00
Events Checking	9,346.55	9,346.55
MG Cash	20.00	23.00
Other Assets	1,400.00	1,300.00
Total Assets	15,849.84	15,911.96

Income for March 2019

National Support	448.85
Testing Support	130.00
MG Income	145.00
Total Revenue	723.85
New Members' Dinner	20.00
Member Death	85.00
MG Hospitality	23.04
MIND Postage	100.00
MIND Printing	330.74
MIND Hospitality	52.39
Supplies	44.16
Testing	4.65
Total Expenses	659.98
Net income for Period	63.87

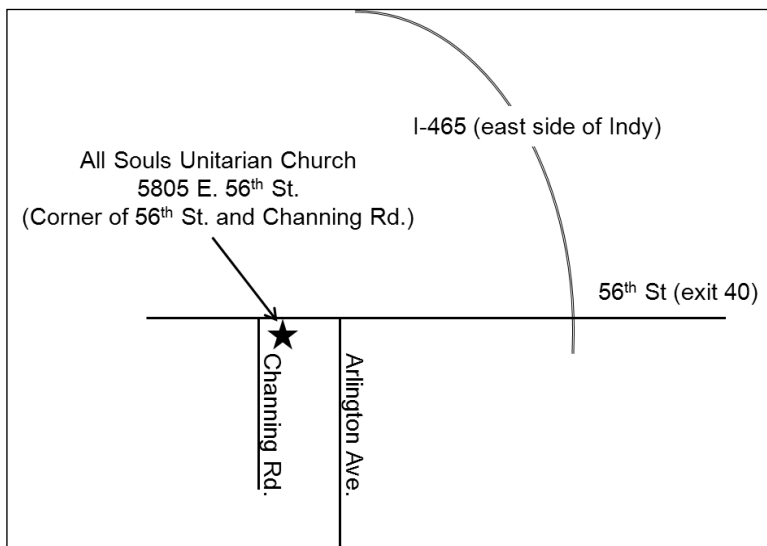


“Money often costs too much.” --Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

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

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



Region 4 RVC

Jon Gruebele RVC4@us.mensa.org,

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

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Treasurer, Webmaster	Pat Milligan, pat.no.plait@indy.rr.com
Scribe, Program Chair	Ann Hake, amhake@yahoo.com
Membership, Volunteers	Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com , (317) 219-3773
At Large	Karen Wilczewski, biltmore@topdogcom.com , (317) 849-9022

Area Coordinators

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Muncie	Kevin Nemyer , knemyer@aol.com , (765)744-6532

Other Volunteers

Ham 'n Eggs	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org
Gifted Children	David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org , (317) 973-0258
SIGHT Coordinator, Testing Coordinator Ombudsman	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net , (317) 695-5741we33
RG/OG Chair	Teresa Gregory, AG18TG@yahoo.com , (317) 430-1761

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Stamp