

August 2020
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mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Adaptation in the Age of Corona

Cover photo by CIM Basil Vareldzis, more info on page 3

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FROM THE COVER: With the decline in honeybees around the World, other insects have had to step in to pollinate our flowers. Without their help, we wouldn't be able to produce many of the food crops that we rely on to survive. Here we have an example of a common housefly pollinating a flower.

How are you adapting to face the changes in your life in this new Age of Corona?

Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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

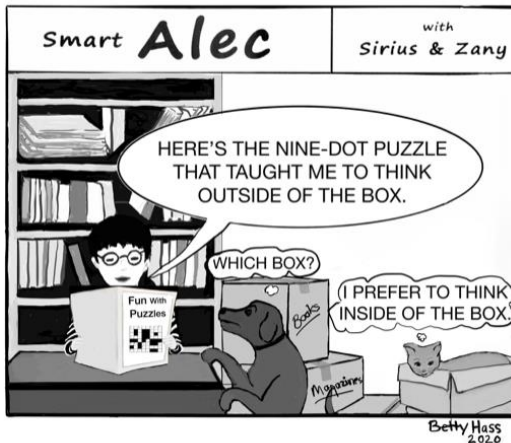


It's back to school time here. My daughter was due to start back July 29th, but on the 23rd we received news that it would be pushed back a week. Families could choose in person or distance learning. It has now been decided that in-person education will take place two days per week, with computer lessons the other days. As the cover photo caption states: Adaptation!

You will find this issue packed with information on the candidates for next term's Executive Committee. The ballot will run next month. It is great to see so many people interested in taking part. Our organization runs on volunteers!

Whatever you are finding to fill your time, do it safely.

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

We are carefully stepping through the summer. In a time of social distancing and the suggestion of meeting outdoors, the heat has created yet another new challenge chasing people like me back inside.

I did go visit my daughter and her family last night. It's the first time I have seen them since February. I got to meet my grand-hamster for the first time. We talked and laughed and talked some more. It was good. Very good. All of the current events are making me appreciate the little things even more.



I talked to my sister a few weeks ago. (Quick back story: she is 15 years older than I am. There are no other siblings and we did have the same parents. Healthwise, she can run circles around me.) She said she decided to document her experiences in writing during this time. I asked if she was a regular journalist and she said, "No, but wouldn't you love to read someone's thoughts written during the Spanish Flu epidemic?" At 83, she has decided to leave her own record.

I belong to a couple of craft groups on Facebook and I see people posting their latest creations as quarantine projects. I think my favorite was a woman who watched You Tube videos and learned to knit with chop sticks. I can see in the future people proudly displaying a quilt or a painting or a journal that "my grandparent made during COVID-19." Have any of the people who learned to bake bread started a family tradition? ("This is my family's special COVID-19 recipe.") Are any of you doing something that will be a reminder of this time? Please let me know.

Calendar – The ExCom agreed to continue virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. This is a topic that will be revisited monthly.

Election – This is an election year for CIM. In this issue you will find the campaign statements and photos of those running for Executive Committee. Because we are going to continue holding our monthly ExCom meetings on Zoom, we have candidates who do not live in Indianapolis. Many thanks to Nominating Committee chair Karen Guse and her teammates John Blankenship and Jon Applegate for putting together this stellar line-up of nominees. Your ballot will be in the September issue of MIND. Election Committee chair Diane O'Brien and her teammates Karen Steilberger and Karen Guse will be counting those mail-in ballots. Many, many thanks to these folks for stepping up and taking on this responsibility. Like all things in Mensa, we can't do it without volunteers.

Stay safe.

Meet the ExCom 2020 Candidates

Ann Hake



I joined Mensa as a teenager, but only truly became a member about 11 years ago when I discovered the Central Indiana Mensa group, which has become my Mensa home.

For my “day” job, I am a Neurologist who works for Lilly in Digital Health, doing research on how wearable sensors could help make clinical trials and disease detection, diagnosis, and treatment more effective. I can also be found doing martial arts, reading murder mysteries, going down various internet rabbit holes, or

knitting.

It has been my privilege to serve on the CIM ExCom to help provide and promote the welcoming and mind-nourishing environment that I found 11 years ago. I would be honored to be able to continue to serve.

Nan Harvey



I joined Mensa in 1987 while living in the Evansville area. It didn't take me long to discover Regional Gatherings and make plans to attend my first one in Indianapolis. There are several current CIM members I remember meeting that first weekend. I cherish the friendships I've made and would like everyone to have that opportunity.

My goal as an ExCom member would be to encourage activities (virtual or real-life) that make that possible. My hope is that all new members would feel as welcomed as I did. Currently, I'm the Bloomington Area Coordinator. I've been on the CIM ExCom in the past and was on the AG committee. My superpower would have to be finding elusive ancestors.

Bob Zdanky



Have been the membership chair for a while and want to continue for another two years. This job requires a thick skin. I am the first contact for many new members and in this era of hypersensitivity need to avoid any off comments. Want to be the friendly and helpful face of Central Indiana Mensa. One inappropriate comment could turn off a new member forever.

The position also requires the nitty gritty work of sending out letters to prospects and new members. Want to continue operating this way for the next two years.

Teresa Fisher



In 1981 at age 32 I joined Mensa, and it changed my life. I had found my tribe. I became a life member in 1992.

I have been in three Mensa local groups and spent a couple of years as editor in each one. I started my Mensa membership in Central Indiana Mensa, and that’s where I will finish it.

I don’t have any particular goals for CIM, except to keep it viable as we negotiate the new world we find ourselves in. Let’s tread water for a little while. Yes, I do have a superpower, but it’s nothing that will help me succeed on the Ex-com.

Kurt Williams



For the past 6 years I have been honored to serve on Central Indiana Mensa’s Executive Committee. As a newer member to Mensa, it has been a wonderful experience to learn about Mensa and meet the amazing people of our local group. During this time, I have participated on the planning committee for the 2018 AG, served as Vice LocSec, Public Relations, and Treasurer.

We all know this past year has forced changes on us in ways we never anticipated. This has presented challenges for the ExCom on how best to serve our members, and it has been my pleasure to work with the amazing group of ExCom members to help us navigate through these unprecedented times. The programs we put into effect resulted in us seeing participation in our virtual events from members that we hadn’t seen at in-person events.

The ExCom has worked hard to provide a member experience that appeals to all the members and I would be honored to be elected to continue to serve on the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom for another term to continue developing opportunities for you to enjoy your Mensa. I would appreciate your vote.

Laurel Richardson



My husband, Lew, and I have been a part of CIM since 1982. During that time, as a former gifted children’s coordinator and many years as local scholarship chair, I have really appreciated all the help, support, and camaraderie from the group.

Know that if I am elected, I will do my best to help in any way I am able to insure that CIM continues to be the welcoming, supportive, fun group that it is. Especially during these uncertain times, flexibility, cooperation, and “thinking outside the box” is important.

Continued on page 13

Petra's Punny Page (GROANERS)

Petra Ritchie

Q - Who worries that his uniform makes him look fat?

A - An insecurity guard.

Q - What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter?

A - Irrelevant.

Q - What do you call a fake noodle?

A - An impasta.

Q - What's red and smells like blue paint?

A - Red paint.

A duck walks into a drugstore and tells the pharmacist, "Give me a Chapstick and put it on my bill."



Puzzle Column

Written by Alan Stillson of Greater Los Angeles Mensa and reprinted with permission of the author (<http://stillsonworks.com>)

AUG UST Words

Find words with either **aug** or **ust** embedded in them, based on the clues and letter counts. All answers have one or more letters before either **aug** or **ust** and one or more letters after it.

Example: With strong winds (8 letters)

Solution: bl **ust** ery

1. Extremely upset (10 letters)
2. Unskilled or casual laborer (10 letters)
3. Move quickly (6 letters)
4. A word in a *South Pacific* song title (6 letters)
5. January 20th event (12 letters)
6. Pledge of Allegiance word (7 letters)
7. Sport with tilts (8 letters)
8. Sometimes called the best medicine
9. A crab, for one (10 letters)
10. A large Old-World bird (7 letters)

See answers on page 16.

August 2020 Events

Please note that ALL regularly scheduled events are online. During this time of social isolation, Central Indiana Mensa wants to reach out to our members. We are hosting online virtual events and we'd love to see you. We chose to use Zoom videoconferencing software because it is very user friendly and it's free. You may connect via computer, tablet, or smart phone. Zoom meeting links will be sent weekly on Monday to all current members of CIM who have an email address on file with the national office. The subject line will contain "CIM Meeting ReMINDER." If you do not get the email, and you would like to join a meeting, contact the organizer who is listed prior to the meeting.

If you need help with Zoom, please contact Teresa at ag18tg@yahoo.com. We are still learning. We appreciate your patience and support.

VIRTUAL Ham'n Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) –1st Saturday from **9:45 a.m. - 12 noon.** Drop in any time for casual conversation and lively discussion. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

VIRTUAL Indy Lunch Bunch - 1st and 3rd Wednesday at **11:30a.m.** Bring your own lunch! Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net.

VIRTUAL Sunday Social – Every Sunday from **7:00p.m. –8:30p.m.** Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com.

VIRTUAL Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, **7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.** Our usual format of announcements at 7:45p.m., a short program, then conversation. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

8/14 - Jeannie Regan-Dinius will speak on the Underground Railroad in Indiana. Ms. Regan-Dinius is the Director of Special Initiatives at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and a popular and sought-after speaker for our group! Her research includes verifying locations throughout the state that were once Underground Railroad stops. Zoom on in for this very special program. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

VIRTUAL ExCom– 3rd Tuesday of the month. **7:00 p.m.** All active members are welcome to see your board in action. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

VIRTUAL Book Group – 3rd Sunday at **2:00p.m.**

8/16 - *The Meaning of Human Existence* by E. O. Wilson. Our books tend to be non-fiction and do not exceed about 300 pages in length. Contact Rich: hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details or to RSVP

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

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Sunday Social	3	4	5 Indy Lunch Bunch
9 Sunday Social	10	11	12
16 Book Group; Sunday Social	17	18 ExCom	19 Indy Lunch Bunch
23 Sunday Social	24	25	26
30 Sunday Social	31		

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ham'n Eggs
6	7	8
13	14 Monthly Gathering	15
20	21	22
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.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4 Rights, Opinions, and Facebook—What To Do? *Jon Gruebele, RVC4*

As I write this at the end of June, hundreds of social media posts and e-mails have reached the national office and Board of Directors (AMC). These relate to both the AMC's statement on racism and motions for our [July 11 AMC meeting](#).

In 1986 and again in 1998, the AMC affirmed, "bigotry and prejudice are antithetical to the nature of American Mensa". In response to George Floyd's homicide, the AMC reinforced this with a [message](#) to our members. Some complained the statement violated our constitution's prohibition against Mensa expressing opinions or having any "ideological, philosophical, political, or religious affiliations."

This reminded me of the uproar after Chicago's Rainbow SIG marched in the 2015 Chicago Pride Parade. This put Mensa's name in front of around one million attendees, and I proudly marched with them. While the event had been planned for months, it was held just two days after the Supreme Court decided the 14th Amendment allowed same-sex couples to marry. Despite the ensuing complaints about Mensa "expressing opinions", it was determined the SIG did nothing wrong, and they've marched in every parade since.

It is relatively rare for the AMC to get compliments. Yet after our statement on racism, we got lots of compliments – perhaps as many people were supportive as those sending complaints. Many felt racism isn't an "opinion"; it's a violation of fundamental human rights.

I personally supported sending a statement, although I can't claim credit for writing it. I recommended we include some concrete actions to back up our words. Let's face it: our organization lacks diversity. We need to improve. Unfortunately, improvements are still very much "TBD".

The July 11th AMC meeting agenda has motions to remove the "American Mensa" name from our Facebook Firehouse and Hospitality groups. We will also discuss a Code of Conduct, which might cover both on-line and in-person interactions if adopted at a future meeting. While social media posts that could be considered racist, sexist, ageist, or any other "ist" may be protected by free speech, they also represent a reputational risk to Mensa. We somehow need to nurture the free exchange of opinions – including those with which we personally disagree – without crossing the line into abuse. That won't be easy to define or implement.

As I have a close relative who works for Facebook, I will be recusing myself from the discussion and votes on the Firehouse and Hospitality motions. That may not be strictly required, but American Mensa officially approved having these groups on Facebook, and that generates advertising revenue. As a Facebook employee, my relative participates in that revenue stream through employment, bonuses, and stock incentives. By recusing myself, I will help ensure these decisions will be made without impropriety on my part.

Feedback? Please contact me at rvc4@us.mensa.org or via phone/text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4's Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.



Meet the ExCom 2020 Candidates

Continued from page 7

Barb George



As a kid from Indy, I joined Mensa a few years before the turnover into this century, while still living in Texas. I have to say that my past activity level does not reflect that length of seniority. The last several years, I have been pretty active at *MIND*bending (love the company, the pizza, and even the Bending part); occasional Monthly Gatherings (bring food); Annual RG (help out as needed); the Amazing 2018 AG (again a random volunteer); and one stint as a member of the CIM Nominating Committee.

I am so appreciative of the work and caring that fellow members and volunteers of Central Indiana Mensa have extended over the years and I'm hoping that we will be able to once again gather in person for CIM events in future times. I find a commitment to offering to run for a position on the ExCom may be my stepping stone to more active membership involvement. Think you could say that my "Super Power" tends toward being sociable, when I am present. Good luck to all my fellow nominees.

Teresa Gregory



I am in my sixteenth year as a Mensa member and my fourth term (non-consecutively) as your Local Secretary. Jan Pfeil Doyle handed over a well-oiled machine in 2018 and things continued to go very smoothly.

At the February 2020 Monthly Gathering, Ann Hake presented information about the threat of COVID-19. Within a month, everything turned upside-down. The Executive Committee and I conducted email discussions and online meetings. I corresponded with our RVC and staff at the National Office.

Working together, we were able to keep CIM open and active. During these crazy times, I can't predict the future except to say I will do my best for this group as we approach the 75th Anniversary of Mensa next year.

Matt Zwick



Hello, my name is Matthew Zwick and I'm running for ExCom. I have been a part of our local group for over ten years, and officially a Mensan for two years. I have currently never held a Mensa position, but have always been a volunteer for most of my time in Mensa.

I'd like to be a part of ExCom and put in my time for those who have done it before me. My main goal for CIM is to keep reaching out and finding new members. My superpower is a scary ability to play

Sudoku at inhuman levels in both difficulty and speed.

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Basil Vareldzis



I recently joined Mensa in 2019 after I started the process of moving back to Indianapolis following twenty years of living in Geneva (Switzerland, that is). I had left Indy after graduation from IU Medical School and went on a 33-year trek that took me all around the World. It was cool. Got to visit some amazing places and make friends all over the World. I think the only continent that I have no connection to so far is Antarctica. Don't know anyone on any of those scientific bases, and not too

keen to visit (too cold). Still dream of visiting the South Pacific islands (loved reading books on WWII in the South Pacific when I was a kid).

As for why you might want to vote for me? I haven't held any positions with Mensa, so I'm fairly unknown to most of you, but I've been involved with getting the zoom events going and have been very grateful for the virtual social connections that we've been able to develop during this time of social distancing. The gifts that I would bring to the ExCom would be my enthusiasm, my love of travel and adventure, and my interest in fostering connections.

2020-2021 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is currently meeting virtually via Zoom. It meets on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. once a month. Check the calendar for exact dates and contact information for Rich Gibson.

Aug 16: *The Meaning of Human Existence* by E. O. Wilson

Sep 20: *The Order of Time* by Carlo Rovelli; Videos available

Oct 18: *How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain* by Lisa Feldman Barrett

Nov 15: *Pleased to Meet Me: Genes, Germs, and the Curious Forces That Make Us Who We Are* by Bill Sullivan

Dec 13: *The Case Against Reality* by Donald Hoffman; Lectures available on-line

Jan 17: *Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck* by Adam Cohen

Feb 21: *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II* by Molly Guptill Manning

Mar 21: *The World in a Grain* by Vince Beiser

Apr 18: *1177 B.C. the Year Civilization Collapsed* by Eric H. Cline

May 16: *Mortal Republic: How Rome Fell into Tyranny* by Edward J. Watts

Jun 20 (possibly) *The Deficit Myth: Modern Monetary Theory and the Birth of the People's Economy* by Stephanie Kelton

Jul 18: *Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism* by Angus Deaton and Anne Case

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 6/16/2020

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Members present: Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky.

Guest: Jon Applegate (Regional Ombudsman).

The committee reviewed the minutes of the May 2020 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Jan Pfeil Doyle seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for May 2020. Ann Hake moved that the report be accepted as amended. Vicki Adang seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 5/31/2020 from American Mensa: 448 members, 0 new, 0 movein, 4 rejoins, and 7 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Old Business

Regional Gathering (RG) – preliminary planning is beginning for the 2021 RG.

Outdoor Gathering (OG) – preliminary planning is beginning for the 2021 OG. The weekend of May 14-16, 2021 has been reserved at Versailles State Park and a deposit has been made. This deposit is 50% refundable if we cancel more than 90 days before the event, and 25% refundable if we cancel 90 days or fewer before the event.

Nominating Committee – Karen Guse (chair) and the committee members are developing a slate of nominees for the upcoming election.

New Business

It was noted that longtime CIM Life Member Richard (Bruce) Bakemeier passed away recently. A contribution will be made in his name to the John Matthews CIM Scholarship fund, and his passing will be noted in the MIND.

ExCom Member Vicki Adang announced that she will be relocating to Cincinnati in the near future. We at CIM will be very sorry to see her depart but wish her well in her future endeavors, and hope to see her frequently at many
Continued on next page

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Mensa events. She will continue to serve out the remainder of her ExCom term.

The CIM MeetUp account has been renewed for another 6 months.

The National office has been providing guidance regarding Mensa meetings and activities with regard to COVID-19 via Mensa Connect. The information was discussed, and ideas brainstormed, with an emphasis on continued safety.

There being no other business, Kurt Williams moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 8:

1. Extremely upset (10 letters) = distr **aug** ht
2. Unskilled or casual laborer (10 letters) = ro **ust** about
3. Move quickly (6 letters) = h **ust** le
4. A word in a *South Pacific* song title (6 letters) = t **aug** ht
5. January 20th event (12 letters) = in **aug** uration
6. Pledge of Allegiance word (7 letters) = j **ust** ice
7. Sport with tilts (8 letters) = jo **ust** ing
8. Sometimes called the best medicine (8 letters) = l **aug** hter
9. A crab, for one (10 letters) = cr **ust** acean
10. A large Old-World bird (7 letters) = b **ust** ard



New Members

No New	Members	This	Month
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Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams, CIM Treasurer

Following is the financial statement through June 30, 2020:

Assets	
	06/30/20
Regular Checking	\$ 7,350.95
Scholarship Checking	\$ -
Events Checking	\$ 6,738.98
MG Cash	\$ 25.00
USPS Stamps *	\$ 482.30
TOTAL	\$ 14,597.23
* 100 stamps transferred to Bob Zdanky	

Revenue & Expenses

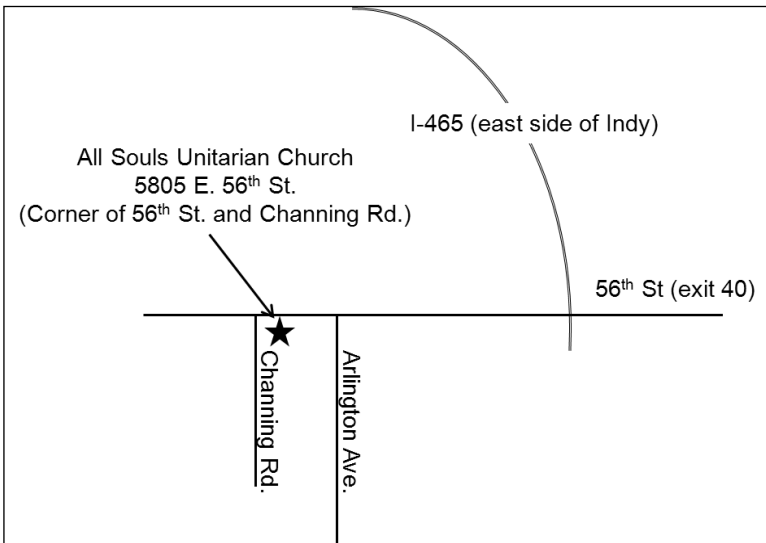
<i>REVENUE</i>	June 2020
National Support	\$ 379.95
Testing Support	\$ -
New Member/ Lapsed Member	\$ 4.00
RG Income	\$ -
MG Income	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 383.95

<i>EXPENSES</i>	
RG Hospitality	\$ -
MIND Printing	\$ 298.62
MIND Hospitality	\$ -
Marketing (Meetup)	\$ 98.94
Total Expenses	\$ 397.56
Net revenue for the period (loss)	\$ (13.61)

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.
- Look for signs within the building.



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