



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Mensans at Game Night
[Courtesy Jan Pfeil Doyle]

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 Richard Gibson, 5726 Toad Hollow Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46220. 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 following the ExCom meeting (usually the third Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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From the Editor's Cubicle

Rich Gibson, Editor

Greetings from sunny Florida! Jackie and I are not exactly snowbirds—at least not yet. Our two granddaughters in Indiana are too precious to abandon them for the entire winter. Our plan is to spend 10-14 days a month in sunshine, mid-October through mid-March, and hurry back for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the like.. Sure will help pile up the frequent flyer miles—as if that were worth anything. Oh well.

I am pleased to learn that editing the MIND needs only the internet to be do-able anywhere, regardless of location. I guess that working from home (WFH) or remote working is not news to anyone these days; on the other hand, it's one thing to hear about it and another to do it. So there you go.

Finally, I want to trumpet the October Book Group meeting, and publicize the upcoming one in November. Sometimes, you wander into a gathering and it seems like everybody has brought their A games, conversation-wise, and is bringing up fantastic insights; about a book, in this case. The conversation evolves naturally and goes from the book to related topics, back to the book, well away from anything in the book, and then back yet again—and everyone is tuned in, everyone is contributing, everyone is looking at everyone else out of the corner of their eyes and silently asking, “Is this a great time, or what?” That's what happened in October, and that's what we want to happen every time. Our next opportunity is November 19th, which is also our special Bring-A-Book meeting. Once we run out of books, we invite all and sundry to bring their favorite recent reads, whether one or three or more, and convince the group to read and discuss it. We build a themed list of books from everyone's suggestions, and then spend the next year, eighteen months, or however long it takes to work through it. Please take a look at the expanded discussion in the Book Group article. Hope it tempts you to show up!



LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

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 see 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*).



Visitor – Our RVC (Regional Vice Chair,) **Jon Gruebele**, attended our October Monthly Gathering. It's always nice to catch up with Jon! We appreciate his effort to drive down from Chicago to visit us. Jon represents our group and the rest of Region 4 on US Mensa's national board, the AMC (American Mensa Committee).

World-Famous, Best-Way-to-Celebrate-Anything Greek Buffet – Join us on Nov. 12th for a special evening of good company and great Greek food from Santorini's Catering at the Biltwell Event Center in Indianapolis. See the details in the calendar events list.

Cincinnati Regional Gathering Dec. 1-3 – More info at www.cincymensa.org/RG2023/. Regional Gatherings ("RGs") are weekend-long conventions/parties put on by many local groups and are open to all Mensa members. They are usually held in hotels. You'll find speakers, games, fun, food, socializing in the hospitality room, and more. They're a great way to meet Mensans from around the region. You can find RGs and other events at www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/

ICYMI

Wetumpka Impact Crater – Our October Monthly Gathering speaker, **James Lowery**, gave an interesting talk about Wetumpka impact crater in central Alabama. Until the mid-1930s, geologists believed that the craters on Earth were created by volcanoes, not by external forces. As scientists reviewed the data and did more studies, they realized that some craters were formed by the impact of a meteor. By 1970 they had identified more than 50 impact craters on Earth. The Wetumpka Crater was "discovered" in 1976. To date, some 190 craters have been identified, including one in NW Indiana near Kentland.

Games and Conversation Night – As usual, **Candis** and **Robert King** were the perfect hosts! After a rousing game of *The Big Bang Theory: The Party Game*, the conversation ranged from Tolkien to the economics of pig farming to socks in university colors (**Larry** showed off his maroon and orange argyles).

Happy Thanksgiving!

2022-2023 Book Group Reading List/Call for More

Rich Gibson

November: Schedule Change!! Bring a book! We are very near the end of our last compilation. Please come to our November meeting and bring 1, 2, or many books you've recently read that you'd like to discuss with others. We'll compile a new list for next year.

December: *Power and Liberty* by Gordon S. Wood, 188 pages

- *See book reviews below*

Mensa Book Group Book News and Reviews

Rich Gibson

THIS MONTH: *BRING A BOOK!!!*

SCHEDULE CHANGE: The Book Group hosts will be out of town in December, and plan to Zoom the December meeting. The bring-a-book event is much better in person—folks can pass candidate books around, and so on. Therefore, by consensus all the Book Group regulars agreed to switch the next two meetings. In November, all interested are invited to bring a book they like and be prepared to make a short pitch as to why they like the book and why they think it would foster a good discussion. The only rules are:

- You must have read the book
- It's been nationally reviewed (winnows out self-published stuff that may not be up to snuff)
- It's less than 300 pages

During the meeting, we'll compile a list of everyone's candidates, agree on a final list (they're usually the same list), and hammer out a schedule and order. Oftentimes, we discover common themes across several books. We get an immense benefit from reading them in a certain order. For instance, we read *The Verge* one month, a history of Europe during four decades around the year 1500. It was a close look at the people, events, and forces that began the Great Divergence, when Europe's progress in science, technology, and industry suddenly took off, accelerated, and ultimately surpassed that of every other nation, state, people and region on the planet. The next month we read *The WEIRdest People in the World*, which described the utterly unique psychology and culture of Europe, America, and a few other countries. The tie back to the Great Divergence was fascinating!

The Book Group meets the third Sunday of every month at 2:00 PM. We welcome both in-person participants and Zoomers. Email the host, hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com, to RSVP and I'll send you directions to our home. You can always find the Zoom information in the weekly email or on Meetup.

NEXT MONTH:

Power and Liberty: Constitutionalism in the American Revolution

Power and Liberty: Constitutionalism in the American Revolution, by Gordon S. Wood, 188 pages (228 including appendices, notes, and index), published in 2021. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, November 19th, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

The fifty years, from the onset of friction between the United Kingdom and its American colonies in 1760, to the early decades of the new American republic, has been called the most intense and creative period of constitutionalism ever seen. Gordon Wood, widely considered the greatest living American historian, examines this period and offers up insight and clarity about the issues, the controversies, the experiments that worked and those that didn't, the discussions and the decisions that led to the American Constitution, the Bill of Rights. His story doesn't end there; he further describes the impact on each and all of the states as the Constitution was implemented, establishing a federal authority over them.

The first half of this book is a blow-by-blow account of the issues leading to the Revolution, the establishment of state constitutions as they declared their liberty, and the disorganization of the Confederation that led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. I was astonished to learn a concrete example of Churchill's description of America and Britain as a single people separated by a common language. To the Americans, No Taxation Without Representation was a stirring slogan capturing a huge grievance. To the British, the term was close to nonsense. The idea in the 1770's that any Member of Parliament was answerable to a particular body of voters was outlandish. As is usual, mutual incomprehension did nothing to smooth the way to an equitable outcome, and so we lurched to war.

The remainder of the book focuses on some of the issues facing the convention, and the compromises that were hammered out. Among these issues were slavery, the role of the judiciary, and the differences between public and private. This latter was particularly interesting (I'd never thought about it before). In colonial times, the line between public and private was blurry. The state was weak, and private individuals often conducted public activities as if they were their private businesses. Also, asking/drafting/coercing private citizens to engage in public service was problematic. The Constitution changed all of this. To learn more, you need to read the book. To digest it, and ponder the way these issues affect our daily life today, necessitates your attending the November 19th Book Group meeting, 2:00 PM, either in person or via Zoom. Hope to see you there!

Puzzle Column

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

WORDS FROM BEETHOVEN'S SIXTH SYMPHONY

All answers must start with 3 consecutive letters in **PASTORAL**. For example, Ceres, for one would be **ASTEROID**.

1. Lethargy
2. Extinct pigeon
3. Suddenly surprise
4. Come from behind
5. Lincoln's hat
6. Big Fort Worth attraction
7. Element number 85
8. One-time partner of Purina
9. Old Olds muscle car
10. Handel's Messiah, for one

What if They Gave a Beatle Concert and Nobody Took a Picture?

Teresa Fisher

Although I didn't realize it at the time, the night of September 3, 1964 was to be one of the defining moments of my life. The Beatles were appearing at the Indiana State Fair, and I had a \$5 ticket to see them. (There were \$3 tickets, but we splurged and got the better seats.) A friend's dad took three of us excited teenage girls to the grandstand at the Indiana State Fairgrounds for the second of two shows they played that day. The first had been in the afternoon, indoors at the adjacent coliseum.

It was wonderful; their part only lasted half an hour; I don't remember if I screamed; and I still have the ticket stub. I was 15.

Now when someone on Facebook asks what everyone's first concert was, I can claim The Beatles. And I do. People do brag about having been at those concerts, and one recently deceased classmate had it in her obituary. David Letterman was at the earlier show.

Recently, thanks to a Facebook page for anything related to Rock Music in Indiana, I learned that no one seems to have taken a photo of the night concert in the grandstand. I certainly didn't have a camera, and I don't think they were allowed. And anyway, it was dark out. Did the newspaper photographers get all of the shots they needed at the coliseum show? There are photos of that concert easily found on the Internet. Can you imagine *any* concert today being unphotographed, much less one as important as a Beatle concert?

Several years ago I was thrilled to find online a bootleg audio copy of the daytime concert. It wasn't the exact concert I saw, but it followed the same "script," and I was happy to get it. It was only \$15, but I hate to think what I would have been willing to pay for it.

Once again, proof of reality is only available for the coliseum concert. As far as I know, no record exists of "my" concert either auditorily or visually. Without pictures or an audio recording, did it really happen?



November 2023 Events

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK ON 11/5.

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

11/1, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual *Online*

11/15, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery, 2370 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

LIVE Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday

11/4, 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio, 11700 Illinois 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 11 a.m., then lunch starts..

Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org

LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch – 2nd and 4th Wednesday

11/8, 2:00pm ET - Juniper On Main, 110 E Main St, Carmel, IN 46032

11/22, 2:00pm ET - BIBIBOP Asian Grill, 9719 E 116th St # 450, Fishers

Late lunch or early dinner? You decide!

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-912-3590

VIRTUAL Sunday Social – Some Sundays (check the calendar)

7:00pm –8:30pm ET Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa,

ag18tg@yahoo.com.

VIRTUAL and LIVE Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday,

11/10, 7:00pm – 11:00pm ET

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. Proof of vaccination or recent test required.

Check the CIM ReMINDER or IndyMensa.org.

LIVE Bridge SIG

11/12, 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET

Candis King and **Judy Weitzman** are forming a group with emphasis on “play.” This is to be a fun, casual group, so you don’t have to be an expert. Please contact either Judy at bridgejudy@aol.com, or Candis at 630-642-9063 to RSVP and for location. It will be mostly party bridge, but duplicate is possible as well.

Continued on next page

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***In Person* Special Dining Event**

11/12, 7:00pm – 8:00-pm ET

Santorini Greek Buffet

Biltwell Event Center

950 S White River Pkwy Dr W, Indianapolis, IN 46221

Some of you may remember the wonderful food at the Santorini Greek Kitchen in Fountain Square. Unfortunately, the restaurant closed some years ago, but they now offer elaborate Greek buffets (20+ items) a few times a year. Join us for the next one on Nov. 12th. The cost is \$45 for adults; \$25 for “more experienced” adults (65 and over); and \$20 for veterans and their spouses. The cost includes tax, tip, and water, iced tea, lemonade, and coffee. Make your own reservation with Santorini Catering at 317-917-1117, then let Jan Pfeil Doyle know you’re coming so we can save you a seat. Contact Jan for more information: 317-431-3500 or jan@mw.net.

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group

11/19, 2:00pm ET

Bring A Book: Bring one or five of your favorite recent reads and help us build next year's reading list. See Mensa Book Group News and Reviews in this issue for more information. [Bring a Book has been moved up one month so that you will have more time to secure the books for the new year. The previously scheduled book will be discussed next month.]

Contact Rich Gibson hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link.

LIVE Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday

11.19, 6:00pm ET

Giordano's, 4110 E 82nd St, Indianapolis 46250

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-912-3590.

VIRTUAL *ExCom*– 3rd Tuesday of the month.

11/21 - 7:00pm. ET All active members are welcome to see your board in action. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 *Lunch Bunch*
5 *Sunday Social*	6	7	8 Chowhounds
12 Bridge SIG; Santorini Dinner	13	14	15 Lunch Bunch
19 Book Group; Dining Out	20	21 * ExCom*	22 Chowhounds
26 *Sunday Social*	27	28	29

Virtual Zoom Events

Important Info for In-Person Events: Be Kind!—As we are entering cold and flu season, if you're not feeling well or have any symptoms such as a fever, cough, runny nose, COVID, etc, PLEASE be courteous to your fellow members and don't attend.

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Ham'n Eggs
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11
16	17	18
23	24	25
30		

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meet Up group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meet Up 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

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

The Mad Genius

American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation intersect in the area of intelligence research. On the Mensa side, our Research Review Committee – of which I am a member – vets requests from researchers who want to use our members to test their hypotheses. The Foundation supports research through awards and grants, mostly thanks to generous donations from Mensa members. They also publish the Mensa Research Journal (MRJ) a few times a year, highlighting scholarly research articles.

The latest MRJ edition (Vol. 54 No. 2) contains an interesting article discussing data gleaned from 3,715 Mensa members whose preferences allowed them to be contacted about research projects. The data were collected via survey. The researchers investigated whether high intelligence might be correlated with an increased risk of mood / anxiety disorders, ADHD/ADD, autism spectrum disorder, allergies, asthma, and autoimmune diseases.

Interestingly, Mensa members reported these issues at a higher rate than would have been expected across the general population. For example, the National Institute of Health estimates the overall incidence of ADHD/ADD is 4.1%; the Mensa member sample reported 7.4%. Statistically, this is significantly greater (exact binomial $p < 0.001$) [*Editor's note: "p" is the probability that the findings of increased occurrence of these conditions was completely owing to a very odd selection of samples; i.e., that the findings are bogus. In this case, the probability that the findings are bogus are less than 0.001, or one in 1000 (1/1000)*]

The negative stereotype of the "mad genius" is a frequent theme in the arts. The authors mentioned historical intellectuals such as Sir Isaac Newton. He brooded over past mistakes, worried excessively, and suffered a nervous breakdown. So perhaps the research results aren't that surprising. Of course, correlation and causation are two very different things, but the paper's findings point out that challenges for gifted individuals deserve additional study.

The few paragraphs I've written above are only a brief summary of the 23-page scholarly article by authors Karpinski, Kinase Kolb, Tetreault, and Borowski. It's nevertheless indicative of the important work that both American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation support, and I'm proud of both our organizations. Many thanks must also go to the Mensa volunteers who participated in the study. If you're interested in subscribing to the MRJ at mensafoundation.org, it's only \$27 for a year. Single issues may be purchased for \$10.

In other news, Mensa's election season will soon be here. You can help by ensuring you will receive election communications electronically, thus saving us the cost of mailing. Simply get on the national website (us.mensa.org), and navigate to My Mensa -> My Membership Profile -> My Communication Preferences.

Candidate petitions will be available starting December 1st, and everyone will very much appreciate any support you see fit to give. It's difficult for RVC candidates to get 100 signatures to get on the ballot, and national officer candidates need 250.

Personally, I will not be running for RVC4 again as I plan to seek the office of Second Vice Chair. If you're interested in running for something, please feel free to contact me for more information.

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/americanmensaregion4>.



Alice Benson	Fishers	IN	Joined
Daniel Ellis	Greensboro	IN	Rejoined
Jake Heffington	Pittsboro	IN	Rejoined
Nancy Leavitt	Danville	IN	Rejoined
Clare Skeeahan	Indianapolis	IN	Rejoined
Keith Steward	Carmel	IN	Rejoined

BOOKS ON THE RUNWAY

Margy Fletcher

Author: Christopher Skaife

Title: *The Ravenmaster: My Life with the Ravens at the Tower of London*

Publisher: Picador / Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

Year: 2018

Has Been Read by: Margy Lancet Fletcher

Book Description: Inasmuch as November 2023 is the electoral “calm before the storm,” I feel compelled to migrate from the usual political focus to a somewhat more neutral topic: the legendary avian guardians of the Tower of London. Now, before I’m accused of *unkindness* - or, worse, *fowl* play - for

once again indulging in my obsession with birds and Brits, I would urge all of you to add *The Ravenmaster*, Yeoman Warder Christopher Skaife's exuberant and enlightening account of his experiences as the caretaker of England's celebrated corvid corps, to your reading list.

In addition to chronicling his own progression from wayward youth to British Army soldier to Ravenmaster, the author provides a cornucopia of tidbits regarding ravens as a species and the actual Tower residents: physical and character attributes (including their amazing intelligence, noted in the excerpt below); the daily feeding and cleaning routines; some rules to follow to ensure the health and safety of the ravens and their human stewards; how the ravens are initially acquired and how to safely and effectively retrieve escapees; legends, stories, myths, and misconceptions surrounding these remarkable birds and the roles they have played in British history and literature; and the potential future of the centuries-old practice of sheltering ravens in the Tower of London.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?

Taking into account my many armchair excursions to the British Isles (alas, I've never actually been there - maybe someday...), this book is among my favorites. The author's narrative is fairly brimming with respect and empathy toward his charges. He is also refreshingly candid about the mistakes he has made in carrying out his duties, and what he has learned from his misjudgements. A poignantly rational perspective on avian-human relations is summed up in this concluding passage of the text:

“Almost a thousand years ago a great fortress was built by a river on its northern shoreline, on the site of an old Roman fort, a huge building reaching skyward, the likes of which no one in England had seen before. Designed to provide security and protection, it was also a reminder to the citizens of the city that they had been conquered.
Rising above it all were the birds.
They rise above it still.”

Who should definitely read this book? Why? As the blurb on the back of the paperback cover proclaims, *The Ravenmaster* “...is a compelling, inspiring, and irreverent story that will delight everyone from British history buffs to animal lovers.” Please be aware, though, that this book is a memoir rather than an ornithological text, but is nevertheless a reflection of years of practical experience and research on the part of this dedicated professional. At any rate, one fact that is revealed in this book and supported in numerous scientific sources is that the brain size and capacity of ravens is significantly superior to that of owls, so we Mensans might want to rethink our choice of mascot someday. (A predictable response would be “Nevermore!” which a Tower raven might counter with a derisive “cronk, cronk!”)

How long might it take to read this book? Christopher Skaife's skill at storytelling and his expressive, lightly humorous style should ensure a swift read no longer than two days in duration.

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

I don't teach the birds to speak Human or to squawk because - well, frankly, they deserve better than that. Ravens are smart. Really, really smart. They have enormous brains for their small size. So big, in fact, that Nathan J. Emery, a primatologist turned ornithologist and the author of what is considered to be one of the best books in the world on bird behavior, *Bird Brain* - and therefore a person of not inconsiderable intelligence himself, and someone you would certainly expect to know - calls them "feathered apes." They're *that* smart. In relation to their body size, ravens have about the biggest brain of any birds in the world, rivaled only by parrots. (The brain sizes of different birds were measured by a Swiss zoologist by the name of Adolf Portmann in the 1940s. What a research project!)

In addition, the size of the raven's brain is matched by an amazing density of neurons. As Emery explains, it's a bird's brain anatomy that allows it to solve problems that it may have never previously encountered. According to Emery, birds possess four sorts of mental attributes: flexibility, imagination, prospection (thinking ahead) and causal reasoning. I like the idea that imagination, which was once considered a uniquely human trait, allows birds to anticipate the outcome of their actions. If you go all the way back to the first century A.D., to Pliny the Elder, who was the first great naturalist, and also a soldier, a commander, and the author of *Naturalis Historia* (*Of Natural History*), he illustrates this aspect of avian intelligence with a story about a bird, thought to be a raven or a crow, who figured out that he could drop stones in a water bucket to raise the water level in order to get a sip of water. It's the same story that Aesop tells in "The Crow and the Pitcher." Pliny and Aesop could have been describing the Tower ravens. I see this sort of thing happening all the time, *every day*.

Nancy White Memories

Dr. Alan Dale Schmidt

I visited Nancy White at the Arlington Place Health Campus rehabilitation center, as it turned out, two days before she died May 25, 2023. She was playing bingo. Nancy immediately poured off her chips, put down a payment coupon for the game, and was ready to talk with a fellow Mensan she had known for decades. Later Mensans Jud Horning and Alison Brown joined us. At the time Nancy was planning to gain strength from heart problems and return to her house. I will remember the picture of her smiling face from my last visit with her.

Nancy had always been a friendly wealth of knowledge and insight. Nancy attended and was active in local Mensa activities for decades with activities more of a struggle in later years as debilitating sarcoidosis, heart trouble, and limited income reduced her participation. Early on Nancy brought food for the Mensa outdoor gathering in Versailles State Park, but she would avoid being near coffee since it acted as a neurotoxin. She would bring games to the local Mensa Regional Gathering in January. Nancy would attend Halloween (with “m” for Mensa) up near Chicago, a multiple day gathering with conversation, speakers, and a grand Halloween costume party. I was there July 27, 2023 along with Tim Watson and Anne for the internment of her ashes among her relatives at Forest Hill Cemetery in Greencastle, Indiana. Nancy White lived her lifetime well in the seventy-six years she had and is missed.

In Case You Missed It

Oct 11 Chow Hounds at Mississippi Belle



Oct 8 Sunday Fun Day



[Courtesy Jan Pfeil Doyle]

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 9/19/23

Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Members present: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Paula Ferguson, Barb George, Ann Hake, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jon Applegate

The August minutes were reviewed. Kurt moved, Barb seconded to approve the August minutes. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed the August 2023 Treasurer's report. Barb moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Paula seconded, and the motion carried.

A membership report was compiled by Jan Doyle based upon the information available as of 8/31/2023 from American Mensa: 450 members, 1 new, 2 move-in, 3 rejoin, and 7 prospects.

Old Business

The Carmel Mini Marathon announcement resulted in 4 Ms volunteering. A total of 10 members are needed in order to receive a \$150 payment, which would go to the scholarship fund. The job would involve handing out packets to the runners of the mini on Friday, October 20. Announcement of this event can be posted in the October *MIND* calendar.

A Mensa test is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, in Carmel. Ann volunteered to do an additional Mensa test on the south side. She will confirm who the proctors are and proceed from there. Bob will put a testing announcement in his recruitment letter. Half-price vouchers will be offered for the October testing.

New Business

Teresa announced a weekend of learning on September 30 and October 1, respectively, starting at 11 am. These Leadership Learning Workshops will guide members through how to run your local group better. Also, information is listed on the National website. Local groups can get points for participating. These workshops were initially hosted at this year's AG.

There is a 3-meeting limit for guests before being required to join Mensa. Verbage to this effect has been posted in previous ExCom minutes. The question was raised: does this include *all* meetings or just monthly meetings? Does the 3-meeting limit count for guests coming on their own, because they found us on MeetUp? Or, as a guest of a member, do they need an okay from an ExCom

member to exceed the 3-meeting limit, except when the visitor is the spouse of a member. Jan will get an email to a particular guest who has exceeded this limit and will invite him to join. Kurt suggested addressing the issue face-to-face as opposed to an email.

Next year, 2024, is a CIM election year. Jan would like to offer electronic voting, which might result in more voter participation. Ann has volunteered to explore electronic voting.

New members have up to 3 months to participate in a Dining Out event and receive a gift card up to \$25 to cover their meals.

Jan is talking to Catherine Knox to scout for individuals under age 50 who would be interested in joining CIM.

Barb heard about someone conducting beta testing for a game he created. The creator is now interested in conducting group testing and wondered if he could recruit Ms to participate. No date has been set for the actual testing. Barb inquired whether it would be okay for Ms to contact him regarding the group testing. Since the calendar specifically announces activities are geared to the membership, perhaps this game creator could purchase a classified ad to reach Ms and announce this event.

There being no other business, Kurt moved to adjourn the meeting. Barb seconded. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

Solutions to Puzzle:

1. Lethargy = **TORPOR**
2. Extinct pigeon = **PASSENGER**
3. Suddenly surprise = **ASTONISH**
4. Come from behind = **RALLY**
5. Lincoln's hat = **STOVEPIPE**
6. Big Fort Worth attraction = **STOCKYARDS**
7. Element number 85 = **ASTATINE**
8. One-time partner of Purina = **RALSTON**
9. Old Olds muscle car = **TORONADO**
10. Handel's Messiah, for one = **ORATORIO**

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

Balance Sheet (as of 09/30/2023)

Bank Accounts	08/30/2023	09/30/2023
Checking – Regular	\$ 2,118.33	\$ 2,345.86
Checking – Scholarship	120.00	120.00
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	2,644.88	2,644.88
CD – First Internet	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Assets	\$ 14,908.21	\$ 15,135.74
Unrealized accrued interest on CD	184.40	225.84
Other Assets		
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 341.00	\$ 336.05
Total Number of USPS Stamps	620	611

Profit & Loss Statement (08/30/2023 – 09/30/2023)

Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 56.00
	National Support	382.50
	Testing Support	55.00
	Lapsed Member Contact bonus	28.00
	New Member/Lapsed Member	4.00
	Total Income	\$ 525.50
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 1.88
	MIND Printing	346.97
	Testing expenses	0
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
	Total Expenses	\$ 448.85

Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

All Souls Unitarian Church

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, meeting in Beattie Room

