



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Wild and crazy bunch of Mensans Dining Out at City Barbecue

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

I write this in the middle of November. How's it going with you? We're fine, getting into our second winter of snowbirding—sounds like snowboarding, but it's a lot easier. We're on the fourth floor of our condo building in Punta Gorda, Florida—there's two coconut palms just outside our screened-in lanai. If I stand up, I can see a couple of date palms behind them. The sky is blue, and I'm in my favorite outfit of shorts and a T-shirt. It's in the high 60's this morning, with a forecast high of 84.



Jackie has a small plot of land, leased from the city, about a 20-minute walk from here. We'll wander down there in a while and she'll water her plants. Another Central Indiana Mensan, Brent Smith, lives about an hour south of us in Naples. We're going to go visit him in a few days and catch a concert at the Naples symphony hall, featuring the Concertgebouw—"concertgebouw" being a word that means "we're Dutch musicians." The Naples Symphony, by the way, is the latest location of the Indy Symphony Orchestra's erstwhile concertmaster, Zach Depue. So the ties to Indianapolis are pretty strong around here...

My bride has two particularly endearing features: she creates beauty I get to immerse myself in, whether it's gardening or decorating; and she rarely stops. Her latest project is to paint the master bathroom, so I'm close to taking a break from MIND editing for my shift with the paintbrush. She doesn't begin all of our home projects—we only just got our ceilings fixed from Hurricane Ian a few years ago, so painters are coming in after Thanksgiving to paint all the new stuff. For the record, on the Florida Gulf coast: if the hurricane hits south of you (as was Ian), it's wind that will do the most damage; if its landfall is north of you (i.e., Milton), it's flooding. Who knew? We're semi-impressed by Florida construction. Milton did nothing to us on the fourth floor. The first floor, which has zero homes but is all storage and parking, was flooded badly. So: I'm writing before Thanksgiving, which you will have enjoyed before you read this. Hope it was a joyful occasion for you. Also, our best wishes to you for an even more joyous holiday season, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, the solstice, or whatever. All the joys of the season to you and yours!

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Holiday Party – I hope many of you will attend our annual holiday pitch-in dinner and gift exchange on December 9th in Indianapolis at All Souls Church (map in the back of *MIND*). Doors open at 7 pm; we'll eat at 7:30. Meat, bread, beverages, and tableware will be provided. For the pitch in: If your last name starts with A – G, please bring an appetizer or dessert; if your last name starts with H – Z, please bring a side dish (vegetable, fruit, or salad). **Please RSVP** by email or text to Jan, 317-431-3500, jan@mw.net or Teresa, 317-430-1761, ag18tg@yahoo.com by **Thursday noon, Dec. 8th**, so we'll know how much meat to buy.



The gift exchange after dinner is always a hoot. We call it “**Gimmee Grabbee**” – when it's your turn, you may choose a gift that hasn't been selected yet or take one that someone else has already chosen. Presents remain wrapped until everyone has chosen. People choose based on the appearance of the package and/or what they think might be inside. Every year, there are a few imaginatively wrapped presents that are the hit of the party! Participation in the gift exchange isn't required, but you'll be missing out on some of the fun if you don't. Suggested price range for a gift is \$10-\$15.

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.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

WeeM - Central Indiana Mensa was well represented at Chicago Mensa's Regional Gathering, called HalloweeM or WeeM for short. We had 15+ members who made the trek north for a very enjoyable long weekend.

Monthly Gathering - We had a nice turn out in November. Dr. Ruth Schmidt spoke about Claudia Dale Goldin's research, for which Dr. Goldin was awarded the 2023 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences "for having advanced our understanding of women's labor market outcomes".

Coming Up

January Meeting Program: Games and Conversation Night – Bring a game to share if you'd like. OR you can participate in an interactive murder mystery game by Zoom or in person. Watch for details in the January *MIND*.

Happy Holidays to All!

Time for Poetry

Marilyn Wolf

3 Haiku on Taste

Open mouth tongue out
Catching raindrops and snowflakes
Both tasting of ice

A kiss on his neck
Salty on my tongue and lips
Lick for more flavor

Scent smell sauce savor
Succumbing sweetness supreme
Succinctly *savoir*

©2022, Marilyn Wolf



Therese Kopiwoda	Pendleton	IN	Rejoin
Aryan Ritesh	West Lafayette	IN	Joined

Wanted: Mensa Foundation Scholarship Judges

Teresa Gregory, Scholarship Chair

The process for selecting scholarship winners is changing this year. In the past, each group that participated read entries from their geographic area, and the best were moved on to the regional competition. Because the number of entries has increased each year, The Mensa Foundation has implemented a new system. Anyone who volunteers to read will be given around 50 one-page entries from anywhere in the country. It will all be conducted online. The judges will have four weeks to do this. Please consider helping. I have been reading essays for a number of years, and I find them very interesting. Career goals and fields of study have certainly changed!

Here is the information sent by The Foundation:

"Do you love to read? Are you curious about what the future holds in the hands of the next generation? If your answer is 'YES' then the Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program can help.

The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program offers scholarships to college students regardless of age or GPA. Over the past 52 years we have helped hundreds of people attain their goal for higher education. This past year we awarded over \$200,000 in scholarships.

Last year, we received 50,000 essay applications from a variety of college hopefuls. This year, we are anticipating that number increasing as word of our scholarship program continues to spread.

As a result, we are in need of volunteers, both Mensan and non-Mensan alike to help us handle the load. All we are asking is for each volunteer to read and judge 50 one-page essays over a 4-week period in Jan/Feb 2025. All scoring is done online in your own free time.

So if you love to read and are curious about what the future holds, come join us for a rewarding peek into the lives and goals of college students.

To volunteer, please register at bit.ly/Scholarship-Judge



Puzzle Column

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

Starting with DEC.

Find words that start with **DEC**, based on the clues and letter counts.
Example: A unit of sound volume (7 letters) = **DEC**ibel.

1. Break down, biologically (9 letters)
2. Verbally state (7 letters)
3. Goodness (7 letters)
4. Break down, grammatically (11 letters)
5. In terrible shape (8 letters)
6. Kill at the guillotine (10 letters)
7. A Shipboard job (8 letters)
8. Like a 3-scoop sundae (8 letters)
9. Very much (9 letters)
10. An octagonal prism is one (10 letters)

Solutions on page 16

2024 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Title	Author(s)	Date
Naked Statistics The Gulf:	Charles Wheelen	12/29/2024
Making of an American Sea	Jack E Davis	1/19/2025
Bring a Book!		2/23/2025

Mensa Book Group Previews

Rich Gibson

THIS MONTH:

***Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data*, by Charles Wheelen**

Naked Statistics, by Charles Wheelen, 250 pp, published in 2012. The Mensa Book Group will discuss it on Sunday, December 29th, 2024, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and events for more information.

I have a masters in systems engineering, for which I took one course in probability and statistics. That was, um, late 1980 or early 1981. The one thing I remember clearly is that saying, “plus or minus 3 sigma” is a very funny thing to say around engineers and statisticians, and a very wise-sounding thing to say around everyone else (it means ‘plus or minus 50%,’ which gives you lots and lots of wiggle room).

With this exalted exposure to statistics, it’s seemed to me that there’s folks out there with PhDs who have even less knowledge, much less expertise, with statistics than I do. A recent Book Group book, *Science Fictions*, by Stuart Ritchie, covered a wide range of research papers riddled with statistical misuse. Some of these evinced pure ignorance of how to do statistics; others were

fraudulent examples of the old saying, “There’s lies and damned lies; then there’s statistics.”

This book is a welcome corrective to the parlous state of statistical ignorance throughout the population. It uses simple language and a step-by-step approach that covers the waterfront in entertaining fashion.

If you have a sinking feeling that people are using statistics to pull the wool over your eyes, you’d do worse than read this book. For extra grounding in this important discipline, why not participate in the Book Group discussion on Sunday, December 29th, at 2:00 PM? We’d love to see you!

NEXT MONTH:

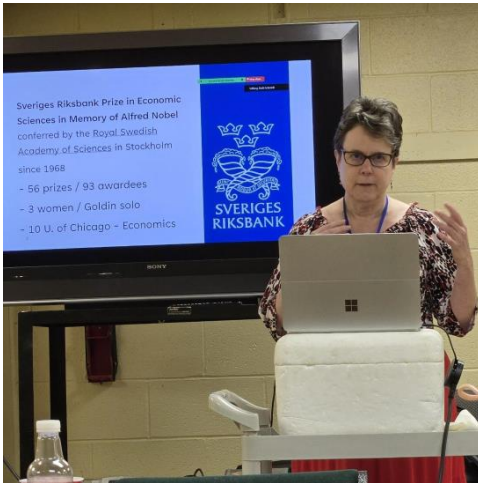
The Gulf: Making of an American Sea, by Jack E Davis

The Gulf: Making of an American Sea, by Jack E Davis, 608 pp, published in 2017 and won the Pulitzer Prize for history. The Mensa Book Group will discuss it on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and events for more information.

Do not be put off by the size of this book! We part-time Floridian CIMers, Brent Smith and we Gibsons (a circumlocution that elides the fact that Jackie has read it, but I have not...yet), have read this book and have the knowledge to advise you if you cannot read it all. The book is in four parts, each pretty much stand-alone. Part I is geology and history: it describes how the Gulf was formed and early encounters between European explorers and aborigines. I love the contrast between the civilized, technologically advanced, short, dirty, malnourished Spaniards and the primitive, strong, tall, clean-limbed Calusa tribe. Part II addresses the 19th century and chronicles the growing US engagement in the Gulf and its littoral. Part III—Preludes to the Future, explicates our increasing involvement and exploitation. Part IV—Saturation and Loss, Post-1945, should be right up your alley if you’re into overdevelopment and pollution and all the ill effects attendant thereon. So pick one or more sections to focus on first, and add more if time permits. You’ll enjoy the conversation, regardless.

Our discussion will try to cover the entire book, although our inevitable custom is to focus on one topic that may or not be covered in the book and beat it to death (Kidding. Mostly). Please consider joining in to the Book Group discussion on Sunday, December 29th, at 2:00 PM. We’d love to see you!

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)



Dr. Ruth Schmidt, speaker at the November Monthly Gathering



Audience at the November Monthly Gathering

December 2024 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

12/4, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual *Online*

12/18, 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

12/7 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio, 11700 Illinois St, Carmel, IN, (located at IU Health North) **RSVP:** Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org

LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch – 2nd and 4th Wednesday

12/11, 2:00pm ET - Big Hoffa's Smokehouse, 800 E Main St, Westfield, IN 46074

12/25, 2:00pm ET - NO CHOWHOUNDS DEC. 25th

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

VIRTUAL Sunday Social – Some Sundays (check the calendar) from 7:00pm

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

ag18tg@yahoo.com.

VIRTUAL and LIVE Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday,

12/13, 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.

Annual Holiday Party and Gimmee Grabbee Gift Exchange!

(See details on Page 5 in the LocSec column.)

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group DATE CHANGE!

12/29, 2:00pm ET

Naked Statistics – Charles Wheelen

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

12/15, 6:00pm ET

Chicago Pizza with a Twist, 8650 E 96th St, Fishers, IN 46037

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

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1	2	3	4 * Lunch Bunch*
8 *Sunday Social*	9	10	11 Chowhounds
15 Dining Out	16	17 * ExCom*	18 Lunch Bunch
22 *Sunday Social*	23	24	25 Chowhounds CANCELLED!
29 Book Group; *Sunday Social*	30	31	

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
5	6	7 Ham'n Eggs
12	13 Monthly Gathering	14
19	20	21
26	27	28

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or the weekly CIM ReMINDER in your Monday email.

Matt's Musings – News for Region 4

Matt Crawford, RVC4



Forward, Four

An idea has been brought up in other regions, and that is regional media infrastructure. Some regions have had a regional web site for some time, most seem to have a regional Facebook group, and all have a regional area in Mensa Connect. In the “Coffee with the AMC” meeting here at HalloweeM, someone put forth the notion of a regional newsletter. Would this add any value for members? I imagine it containing mostly events and articles from local group newsletters, selected on the basis of probable wider interest. I also imagine it being delivered electronically only, because printing and postage are quite a cost challenge. (You can help your local group’s budget by opting for electronic delivery of its newsletter. All newsletters are uploaded to the national web site and digital subscribers receive email with a link.)

Getting back to the regional web site idea, I think a regional webmaster or web team could also be a resource for local groups who haven’t found a volunteer with the time to maintain their web site, or who want to take their site to a higher level. Having a web presence with the right metadata is a good passive recruitment tool to catch prospects who search for a local Mensa presence, or high-IQ societies in general. Perhaps a regional resource would help? Contact me directly or open a discussion thread in the Facebook group “American Mensa - Region 4” or the Mensa Connect community “Region 4 Member Communities,” or join in if you find one already in progress.

While I’m thinking about volunteerism, let me draw your attention to the “Volunteer Marketplace” on the national website. The openings change often, and are well-described, including the duration and magnitude of the time commitment they ask for. You can find the Volunteer Marketplace from the main website through VOLUNTEER→Volunteer Marketplace or from Mensa Connect under VOLUNTEER→VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. If a regional web team turns out to be something we do, you’ll find it posted there early next year. As I write this, there are five other openings listed, plus two that are specifically for other local groups or regions.

The hibernal holiday cluster is coming. There will probably be another ‘round the world New Year’s Eve zoom. This lasts around 26 hours and you can drop in and out at will. When I find out the details, I’ll post them to Mensa Connect and our Facebook group.

Finally, let me ask you to watch your inbox after the new year for an invitation to take the membership satisfaction survey. We may do all we can to control for for selection effects like satisfied members, active members, cranky members and so on, but we haven’t yet eliminated the bias toward members who like doing surveys. Please, if you are disinclined to answer surveys, answer this one and help remove that bias!

You can reach Matt through rv4@us.mensa.org or by text or call to +1 630-336-8733. You can find Region 4 information in Mensa Connect's Region 4 Member Community and the Facebook group American Mensa - Region 4./

Books On The Runway

Margy Fletcher

Author: Chloe Rhodes

Title: *A Parliament of Owls: A Book of Collective Nouns*

Publisher: Michael O'Mara Books Ltd. (U. K.)

Year: 2014 (new edition, 2023)

Has Been Read by: Margy Lancet Fletcher

Book Description: Overwhelmed with election exhaustion? Many of us who are blessed with above-average intelligence seek the etymological escape routes offered in literature that explores our wonderfully complex English language. One such treasure is *A Parliament of Owls: A Book of Collective Nouns*, in which British freelance journalist Chloe Rhodes details the fascinating backstories of the various English words denoting specific groups of living creatures. The book's introduction summarizes and comments on the motivating forces behind the creation of collective nouns, and lists the historical documents--dating as far back as the Middle Ages--from which she obtained her material. The succeeding chapters are titled according to the following categories that these words represent: People (a tabernacle of bakers); Professions (a laughter of hostellers); Religious Callings (a superfluity of nuns); Domestic Animals and Birds (a trip of goats); Wild Animals, Insects, and Fish (a busyness of ferrets); Wild Birds (a murder of crows); and Exotic Creatures (a shrewdness of apes). The book includes an impressively lengthy bibliography, as well as masterfully rendered pen-and-ink illustrations to sate the reader's aesthetic appetite.

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

As a lifelong amateur linguist, I found this book highly entertaining, and at times downright hilarious. It offered me a perpetually-sought reprieve from daily pressures and the constant flood of bad news. I also savored the opportunity to immerse myself in British culture, as this book, published in the United Kingdom, retains that nation's unique terminology and spellings.

Who should definitely read this book? Why?

Both biologists and anthropologists will appreciate the insights on animal and human behavior that this book provides. Historians and language experts will enjoy this vicarious voyage through our linguistic past (sometimes darkly, per Biblical scholars and Rolling Stones fans). By the way, this book is my latest

Holiday gift recommendation; at 5-1/2 inches by 8 inches, this relatively small hardback can either occupy an extra-large stocking or be presented at an annual Mensa Holiday gathering, as it can be easily disguised in elaborate packaging (the book's title is wonderfully appropriate, too). It is available via the Edward R. Hamilton book catalogue (a great source of unusual, sale-priced books, at HamiltonBook.com) and Amazon.com.

How long might it take to read this book?

A mere 179 pages in length, this modest-sized volume can be read cover-to-cover in the brief time consumed by a cloud of gnats performing their mating ritual: one to two days at the most.

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

A SIEGE OF HERONS

Medieval warfare was usually waged by laying siege to a town or castle. Walled cities well stocked with provisions and served by a network of tunnels for the supply of fresh water could withstand an assault for months, but if the attacking army had the strength and patience to sit tight, the city would eventually fall. The medieval castles that survive today reveal in their construction the need to be able to withstand siege warfare, with their high walls, moats, arrow slits and murder holes through which boiling oil could be poured on advancing enemies.

Though the long-legged heron seems like a peaceful creature, there are good reasons for 'a siege' to be used in describing a group of them. Written as 'a sege of herons' in *The Book of St Albans*, the word siege came from the Latin *sedere* meaning to sit, and it was used in the Middle Ages as a collective noun for herons because of the bird's hunting methods. Herons sit on their nest or stand, one-legged, in the water, completely motionless, until a fish passes, oblivious to the predator waiting to pounce. Once the fish is in reach, the heron brings down its bill and plucks the fish from the water and so medieval hunting guides describe the heron sitting on the riverbank as being 'at siege.' It's one of the many collective nouns for animals and birds that were inspired by observation of the creatures' behaviour and yet it also sheds light on a tumultuous and violent passage in our history.

Solutions to December Puzzle:

1. Break down, biologically (9 letters) = **DE**Compose
2. Verbally state (7 letters) = **DE**Clare
3. Goodness (7 letters) = **DE**Cency
4. Break down, grammatically (11 letters) = **DE**Construct
5. In terrible shape (8 letters) = **DE**Crepit

6. Kill at the guillotine (10 letters) = **DEC**apitate
7. A Shipboard job (8 letters) = **DECK**hand
8. Like a 3-scoop sundae (8 letters) = **DEC**adent
9. Very much (9 letters) = **DEC**idedly
10. An octagonal prism is one (10 letters) = **DEC**ahedron

Northern New Jersey RG Announcement



We are happy to announce that registration for BLAST!, the Northern New Jersey Regional Gathering, is now open!

The 3rd Annual BLAST! RG will be held at the SpringHill Suites in Newark, N.J., Jan. 17-19, 2025, and will feature games, speakers, and special activities specifically for MENSAns.

Registration includes all meals between Friday evening and Sunday morning, with snacks and drinks available in Hospitality throughout the weekend. As in previous years, we also have RG add-ons, including wine tasting and whisky tasting events, available on a first come, first serve basis.

To register, visit our site [here](#) or via the button below. Early-bird pricing is available now through the end of November — so sign up soon to save!

We have a special group rate for the hotel starting Thursday, Jan. 16. Simply [click this link](#) to book your hotel room now.

We are very excited to kick off the new year with BLAST! and hope that you will join us for this amazing event. See you in January!

— The BLAST! Team

[Register Now](#)

Theodore Talks

Brad Lucht

This is a reminder that there are no Theodore Talks in November or December, as the fourth Sunday of the month often conflicts with holidays

We *have* finalized our list of talks for 2025. Once again, the first six talks will tie in to the AG host city, in this case Chicago. You will be hearing from us again towards the end of November with information about the January talk. The full list of talks will be published in the January issue of the *Mensa Bulletin* and will be posted on the American Mensa National Events Calendar website as well.

Alternate Autobiography--Introduction

Rich Gibson

I've just begun a long process of trying to write an alternate autobiography, a(n) intentionally incorrect memoir. My actual autobiography would mention that I was an Air Force fledgling, and our family moved every three or four years. The family tagline about me was, I hated moving every time but loved living in the next place just as much as the last place. But I wonder what my life would have been like if I'd stayed in one place throughout the first eighteen years of my life.

Real world: I was born in 1950, just two months before the North Korean Army crossed the 38th parallel. My Dad had flown bombers (B-24) in WWII, and the Air Force pulled him back in and sent him to retrain into a bigger, newer bomber

(B-29, the model that dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki). He didn't finish training. He'd applied to a school in Ohio that was turning officers into civil engineers, and was accepted (he'd graduated with a bachelor's in civil engineering in 1939, and in 1950 was working as a civil engineer). Soon our family—Mom, Dad, my big brother and I--was headed to the United Kingdom, where Dad would build military hospitals and airbases. See, the thinking in the Pentagon was that the North Korean invasion was a feint put on by Monolithic Communism™, to distract the West while they prepared a massive incursion of their own into West Germany. So the only reasonable response was a massive Allied buildup, including lots of construction, in Western Europe.

With that, I spent the first 18 years of my life in a family of nomads. From Dallas, TX, where I was born, we moved to:

- London, UK. I was 18 months old leaving the USA. From there,
- Montgomery, AL. I was 5 and attended kindergarten while my Dad attended Air Command and Staff College, a professional military course for promising middle-rank officers; then
- McLean, VA. I was 6-10, attending 1st-4th grades while Dad was assigned to the Pentagon; then
- Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii! Spent an ideal adolescence, 11-13 years old, attending the base school for 5th and 6th grades, then one year at the Punahou School; a school where a young man (many years later) nicknamed Barry, last name Obama, also attended. Dad worked at the Headquarters, Pacific Command. Then
- Atlanta, GA. I was 13-16 and in junior high/high school. Dad was assigned to the Southeast Region of Air Force Civil Engineering. I spell this out, because next we went to
- NYC, NY. I was 17 and a junior in high school. Dad was assigned to the Northeast Region of Air Force Civil Engineering; and finally,
- Belleville, IL. I graduated from Belleville Township High School East. Dad was Deputy Chief of Staff for Engineering at the Headquarters, Military Airlift Command.

So much for what really happened. What would have happened if Dad hadn't got diverted to civil engineering in 1950? Suppose he'd flown a great big B-29 into North Korean airspace and one of those new-fangled, shiny, fast MiG-15 jet fighters had shot him down? How would my childhood and youth have turned out?

My best guess is that Mom would have taken us home to Hazlehurst, Mississippi. She was an orphan, but her two half-brothers still lived in their childhood home. It was a huge place and could easily have accommodated us. I'm not sure what Uncle Walter (bachelor) did for a living, but Uncle Bob (married, no children) had a steady job in the Post Office. Mom would have had a bit from the Air Force's Survivor Benefit Plan and we would have pulled our weight. We would have had a comfortable enough life; possibly what was

called “genteel poverty;” but for 1950’s Mississippi, probably pretty good. I’m pretty sure about the rough outline of my life from then on: at 18, I probably would have attended Mississippi State University, as my Dad and his sister’s husband had; I probably would have ended up with a southern accent that would have been basically incomprehensible to many of the folks I knew in my real life; and I would have been a shy, impressionable boy and teenager living near the center of the civil rights struggles that convulsed the South from 1954 (Brown vs Board of Education) through the 1960’s.

The rest of this story, however long it goes, is going to be a work of study and imagination. Though the real me firmly believes in the rightness and justness of the civil rights struggle, I seriously wonder how I would have reacted to the events around me and the nearly unanimous reaction to them of all the white people around me. I hope this account will be honest, and I hope it doesn’t default to showing me as a virtuous, well-meaning, but silent onlooker. Actually, “well-meaning but silent” condemns me anyway, so why not tell it as honestly as I can? Stay tuned.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 10/15/24

Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Members present: Ethan Blocher-Smith, Emily Boomershine, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Ann Hake, and Karen Wilczewski

Absent: Judy Weitzman, Candis King

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jon Applegate, Rich Gibson, and Pat Milligan

The September meeting minutes were approved as amended. Ann moved and Emily seconded. The motion passed.

Ethan moved to approve the September Treasurer’s report, Ann seconded. The motion passed.

The September membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 10/01/24 from American Mensa: total members: 414, 0 new, 0 move-in, 1 rejoin, and 6 prospects.

Old Business

The ExCom voted last month to give a \$100 honorarium to guest speaker James Lowery. Due to a glitch, James received two \$100 checks; thus, Mr. Lowery will be cashing two \$100 checks.

New Business

Ann moved that we accept the following slate of individuals who have agreed to serve on the 2024-2026 ExCom. Ethan seconded the motion. It unanimously passed.

Elected by individual motions:

- Vice LocSec – Ethan Blocher-Smith*
- Secretary – Karen Wilczewski*
- Treasurer – Emily Boomershine*
- Newsletter Editor – Rich Gibson
- Ombudsman – Alan Schmidt

Appointed by a joint motion:

- Communications Coordinator – Jan Pfeil Doyle*
- Fundraising – Judy Weitzman*
- Membership Coordinator – Bob Zdanky
- OG & RG Chair – Teresa Gregory
- Ann Hake – Program Coordinator*, Assistant Program Coordinator – Candis King*
- Scholarship Chair – Teresa Gregory
- SIGHT Coordinator - Alison Brown
- Testing Coordinator – Alison Brown
- Webmaster – Pat Milligan

*ExCom Members

Open

- Gifted Youth Coordinator
- Publicity Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

Ann Hake has expressed a desire to step down as Program Coordinator after her many years of service, so we will be looking for a new Program Coordinator.

Ann moved that we accept this slate. Ethan seconded the motion. It unanimously passed.

Karen moved that we adjourn, Emily seconded. The motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

Balance Sheet (as of 9/30/2024)

Bank Accounts	8/30/2024	9/30/2024
Checking – Regular	\$ 2,763.32	\$ 2,118.95
Checking – Scholarship	717.90	217.90
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	3,516.61	3,516.61
CD – First Internet	10,000.00	10,000.00
CD interest payment		
Total Assets	\$ 17,022.83	\$ 15,878.46
Unrealized accrued interest on CD	202.74	246.09
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 227.70	\$ 227.70
Total Number of USPS Stamps	414	414

Profit & Loss Statement (9/1/2024 – 9/30/2024)

Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income (Aug-\$42, Sep-\$46)	\$ 88
	Lapsed Member Contact Incentive	35.00
	National Support	348.50
	Testing Support	0
	New Member/Lapsed Member	1.00
	Total Income	\$437.50
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 0
	Scholarship fund transfer to MERF	500.00
	MIND Printing	333.37
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
	Total Expenses	\$933.37

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

