

February 2025  
Volume 61, Number 2



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Punxatawny Phil and the Mensa Owl wish you a Happy Groundhog Day!*

## **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 98<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

## **Reprint Information**

Mensa publications may freely reprint material from *MIND*. If a piece bears an individual copyright, publishers must obtain a release from the author.

## **Advertising**

*MIND* accepts paid advertising. Contact the Editor for current rates.

## **MIND Staff**

**Editor:** Richard Gibson, [mind.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:mind.editor@yahoo.com), 5726 Toad Hollow Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46220

**Publisher:** Central Indiana Mensa

*MIND* is published monthly by Central Indiana Mensa.

Subscriptions are \$12 annually for those not members of CIM.

Postmaster: address changes to *MIND*, c/o American Mensa, Ltd, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103. Include membership number.



**Website: [centralindiana.us.mensa.org](http://centralindiana.us.mensa.org)  
-or- [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org)**

Volume 61, Issue Number 2  
February 2025



# mind

## table of contents

Editor's Page	4
LocSection	5
Poetry	6
Mensans Dining Together	7
Puzzle Column	7
Book Group Reading List	8
Mensa Book Group Book Previews	8
Calling All Trivia Buffs!	8
AG 2025, All Fired Up	9
Report of the National Hearings Committee	10
February 2025 Events	11
Calendar	12
January 14, 2025 Message From Chair	14
RVC4 Column	15
Books On the Runway	17
Theodore Talks	18
Welcome!	19
Puzzle Solutions	19
Comments on the Sanctions	20
EXCOM Minutes, 12/17/2024	21
Treasurer's Report	22
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	23
Contact Information	24

## From the Editor's Cubicle

*Rich Gibson, Editor*



You know, it's not often that I get to edit a newsletter and have, you know, NEWS to report. To rope in those who have been asleep for the last several weeks, in mid-January the Hearings Committee of American Mensa announced sweeping sanctions—removal from office and banning from any and all official positions at any level, local to national—of two appointed national officers and eight Regional Vice Chairs, of which our RVC, Matt Crawford, is one. You will find the official announcement in this issue. You will also find Matt's monthly columns, written before he was aware of his dismissal. Matt had a lot on his mind, and he submitted two columns—one on Region 4 and his ideas to make it better, and one on his frustrations with the national office. The column focusing on national issues gives only a hint of what in the world was going on. Our wonderful LocSec Jan Doyle has sent me a selection of clippings from Mensa chats about this sensation. I'm afraid space limitations are going to force me to some serious, um, editing to get you as full and clear a picture of a murky and unknowable situation as possible. I have my own thoughts, which I may find space to share.

OK, I have space right here. As succinct as possible:

- Matt was upset with a culture of secrecy, and with financial doings which might rate as questionable shenanigans
- He and the others were suspended for "acts inimical" to Mensa. The acts occurred in a meeting constrained by the Bylaws to be confidential, and we may never learn what they were.
- That is the gist. Other things happened at a December national meeting that raised temperatures and emotions, but the official line is that September is when the line was crossed.

**IF** (big word) the sanctioned group tried to get full and open insight into the financial issues that concerned them, and were punished for their effrontery, or presumption, or ignoring proper procedure, then this could be a big, ugly deal. If not, then not quite so big nor ugly.

*Personal opinion:* confidentiality is appropriate and necessary in some personal and personnel matters, but never never NEVER in financial matters. Full openness and transparency should be the minimum acceptable.

In other pages, you'll find this MIND to be the usual grab bag chockfull of poetry, puzzles, upcoming events, and a rather nice paean by Alison Brown to community dining. Please check them out.

And let's hope that Punxatawney Phil helps us to an early spring! I think we've suffered enough, don't you?

# LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**February Monthly Gathering Program (Zoom and In Person) – “CrowdStrike Strikes the World.”** Ruth Schmidt, PhD, MBA, will talk about the largest IT outage in the history of the world and how CrowdStrike and other companies offering cybersecurity products could improve their product. Hope to see you there!



**Regional Coordinator Needed** – Those of you who have email addresses on file with Mensa’s national office should have received messages about the recent sanctions handed down by American Mensa’s Hearings Committee (HC). If you haven’t, Rich has reprinted them later in this issue of MIND.

On January 14th in a confidential meeting, the HC removed eight of the ten RVCs (vice chairs who represent the 10 regions of American Mensa) plus two other non-voting members from the AMC (American Mensa Committee, i.e., the national board that runs American Mensa). They may not serve as officers for Mensa at any level for 6-12 years. The "acts inimical" (Mensa-speak for doing something that harms Mensa) occurred at the September 21, 2024 AMC meeting in an executive session (confidential part of the meeting with no minutes). Needless to say, this is truly earth-shaking for American Mensa’s governance!

The actions occurred in an executive session, so we don’t know what they were. From one online post: "It's safe to say [the HC agreed] something bad occurred. Bad enough to remove a majority of the board and two appointed members. This wasn't an 'oops, my bad' moment; it was so egregious that the [HC] took unprecedented actions." The HC members are three past chairs of American Mensa, Deb Stone, LaRae Bakerink, and Timmy King. I've worked with two of them and trust their judgment, so I believe they must have felt these actions were the best way to help American Mensa move forward.

There has been a lot of discussion on Facebook and Mensa Connect about the situation. I’ve collected some of the more rational posts and will forward them to anyone who asks for them.

To fill the AMC vacancies until a special election is held, each region will choose a **Regional Coordinator (RC)** who will serve on the AMC and have all the rights and responsibilities of an RVC but will not have a vote on the AMC. The RC will be selected by the LocSecs of the region. **If you would like to be considered for the Region 4 Coordinator**, please let me know ASAP (contact info on the last page). The Region 4 LocSecs are meeting **February 3** to consider applications.

**CultureQuest© is coming up! More info elsewhere in MIND.**

## Poetry

Marilyn Wolf

### Midwestern Storms

*Poetry from the Porch*

Midwestern storms:  
tornado sightings  
thunder rattles windows  
lightning turns night to day  
trees dip and break  
furniture disappears  
children cry.

Mom changes storms  
to a private showing  
of nature's display.  
Sitting on the porch  
munching popcorn  
watching the arcs and wind,  
discussing how they happen.  
Oohhh and Aahhh  
and Wow!

A new appreciation for  
Nature's gifts.



©2024, Marilyn Wolf

# Mensans Dining Together

Alison Brown

Central Indiana Mensa offers many opportunities for communal eating; one or two options every week. Each month there are two Lunch Bunches, two Chowhounds, Mensans Dining Out, Ham'n Eggs, and dinner before the Monthly Gathering. Then there is food to eat together at the Monthly Gathering and usually something at Games Night at the Kings'. According to member and ex-member surveys, eating together is the second most desirable local group event after cultural activities like museum visits or concerts. This surprises me since our many dining offerings are usually attended by the usual faces and not many other local members, while concerts and museum tours are less well attended than our visits to various restaurants around the area.

Reading Michael Pollan's *Defense of Food*, I find this encouraging section on improving the health benefits one gets from one's daily bread: "TRY NOT TO EAT ALONE. Americans are increasingly eating in solitude. Though there is research suggesting that light eaters will eat more when they dine with others (probably because they spend more time at the table), for people prone to overeating, communal meals tend to limit consumption, if only because we're less likely to stuff ourselves when others are watching. This is precisely why so much food marketing is designed to encourage us to eat in front of the TV or in the car: When we eat mindlessly and alone, we eat more. But regulating appetite is the least of it: The shared meal elevates eating from a mechanical process of fueling the body to a ritual of family and community, from mere animal biology to an act of culture." p.192 [Editor's enthusiastic note: Jackie and I took a Rhine cruise some years ago, and the meals were communal and loooong. We found the long-ish time between courses to be delightful opportunities to chat and get to know our table mates.]

This communal meal as an act of culture actually satisfies both expressed wishes of current and ex-members - I hope we will see new faces at our many sociable dining opportunities in 2025.

## Puzzle Column

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

### Four Es a Jolly Good Solver

Find words that contain 4 Es, based on the clues and letter counts.

Example: A business owner (12 letters) = entrepreneur

1. A service station staple (8 letters)
2. Non-deciduous (9 letters)

3. Zebra (7 letters)
4. Fill with repeated sound waves (11 letters)
5. An important CV section (10 letters)
6. One with 434 colleagues (14 letters)
7. Notwithstanding (12 letters)
8. Exchanged reward points (8 letters)
9. March slainte day (11 letters)
10. Debilitate (8 letters)

Solutions on page 19

## 2025 Book Group Reading List

*Rich Gibson*

Title	Author(s)	Date
Bring a Book!		2/23/2025

## Mensa Book Group Previews

*Rich Gibson*

### THIS MONTH: BRING A BOOK!

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00 PM: Whenever we exhaust our book list, we have a Bring a Book! session. If you’ve read a book (or several) in the last year or so and think it would provoke a good discussion, please bring it and prepare to present it with a short introduction, covering why you think we should all read it. We tend to focus on nonfiction and usually accept something less than 250 pages. Don’t bring a book you’ve heard is wonderful but you haven’t read it and hope this will be the motivation to tackle it at last—we don’t do that. I tried it. Peals of derisive laughter. Never again. On the other hand, if you think you’re not reading enough and think joining this group will motivate you—please come! You don’t have to bring a book, just come and get to know the group. We’ll be excited to meet you.

**NEXT MONTH:** Watch this space!

### Calling all Trivia Buffs!

*Ann Hake*

Are you a font of useful (or useless) knowledge? Do you like challenging quizzes? Do you like having a good time? If so, Central Indiana Mensa wants you for CultureQuest©!

CultureQuest© is a friendly competition that tests the “cultural literacy” of groups of Mensans in the form of a giant trivia quiz that occurs simultaneously across the US and Canada. Did you know that CIM has had at least one team



that has placed in the top 20 teams for this illustrious contest for the past 4 years? Help CIM extend the streak!

This year's CultureQuest© will be held virtually on Sunday, May 4, 2025, beginning at 4:00 pm EDT. Teams will have 90 minutes to answer the test questions, then another 60 minutes to enter their answers online. Teams may consist of up to 5 primary players and up to 2 alternates. All team members must be dues-paid US or Canada Mensa members for the 2025-26 membership year as of April 1, 2025.

The complete official rules can be found online

at <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/culturequest-xxxvi-contest-rules-registration/>

Registration closes on March 31, 2025. If you would like to participate, or if you have questions, please email Ann Hake at amhake@yahoo.com or Jan Pfeil Doyle at jan@mw.net.

## AG 2025, All Fired Up



Daisy has been keeping a close watch on the Annual Gathering (AG) Team as they work tirelessly to prepare for the 2025 AG, happening July 2–6 in Chicago. She also made a surprise appearance at a local regional gathering on Halloween weekend!

The 2025 AG will be held at the downtown Hilton Chicago, located at 720 S. Michigan Avenue. And get this: the room rate is only \$139 per night for single, double, triple, or quad rooms! Yes, you read that right! Plus, enjoy free WiFi in both the hospitality area and your sleeping room.

Your registration includes four breakfasts, three lunches, and plenty of snacks—available in hospitality throughout the event. The current adult member registration rate is \$359 through March 31.

We've got a lot of exciting programs and interactive opportunities lined up for everyone to enjoy. And who knows, Daisy and her herd might even make a few surprise appearances! Be sure to check out the AG website for details on tours and more. Note: tickets for the Gala Dinner have sold out.

Registration for both the AG and hotel is available at [ag.us.mensa.org](https://www.us.mensa.org). Remember, you'll need to register for the AG before securing your hotel reservation. At this time, rooms are available from July 2–6 and also for the nights of July 7 & 8.

Daisy and the AG Team can't wait to see you in Chicago!

# Report of the National Hearings Committee

The National Hearings Committee conducted a hearing on January 11, 2025, regarding charges against Regional Vice Chair for Region 1 (RVC1) Franck Mounier, RVC2 Steve Welch, RVC4 Matt Crawford, RVC5 Nancy Campbell, RVC6 David McCallister, RVC8 Michael Eager, RVC9 Kelly-marie Jones, RVC10 Katharine Klasen, Communications Officer Lily Noonan, and Membership Officer Kimberly Strickland. Its Decision was issued on January 14, 2025.

The charges involved conduct that occurred at the September 21, 2024 AMC meeting.

The National Hearings Committee ruled that each of the ten Respondents intentionally violated the Bylaws of American Mensa in several ways by their actions at that meeting, and that those violations constituted acts inimical to Mensa. The Decision states, in part: “To us, the actions of the Respondents in intentionally violating the Bylaws of American Mensa are particularly egregious because they are in direct conflict with the Respondents’ responsibilities as directors of the corporation American Mensa, Ltd. All members of American Mensa are bound to act in accordance with the Bylaws, of course, but that is especially true of the Respondents in their capacity as directors.”

As a consequence of those acts inimical, the National Hearings Committee imposed the following sanctions:

(a) removing each of the Respondents from every national, regional, and local Mensa office they currently hold, and

(b) barring each of the Respondents from serving in any national, regional, or local Mensa office, whether through election or appointment, for a specified period of time.

(1) For the non-voting members of the AMC among the Respondents, i.e., Noonan and Strickland, the period is six years from the date of the Decision.

(2) For the voting members of the AMC among the Respondents, i.e., Mounier, Welch, Crawford, Campbell, McCallister, Eager, Jones, and Klasen, the period is twelve years from the date of the Decision.

For both of these sanctions, the “national office” reference includes, but is not limited to, any and all positions on the AMC, National Ombudsman, chair or committee member of any national Mensa event, proctor, SIGHT Coordinator, and Gifted Youth Coordinator. The “regional office” reference includes, but is not limited to, assistant RVC and any other position appointed by an RVC or a Regional Coordinator. The “any local office” reference includes, but is not limited to, all positions on a local Executive Committee and all positions appointed by a local Executive Committee or a member thereof, including Regional Gathering and other event positions.

(Continued on page 14)

# February 2025 Events

**LIVE Ham ‘n’ Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)** – 1st Saturday

2/1, 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](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org)

**Indy Lunch Bunch** – 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

2/5, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual \*Online\*

2/19, 12:00 noon ET - **MCL Restaurant and Bakery**, 2370 W. 86th St, Indy

**RSVP** Karen Steilberger, [steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net)

**LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch** – 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

2/12, 2:00pm ET - **Pisco Mar Peruvian Restaurant**, 9546 Allisonville Rd

2/26, 2:00pm **Ash&Elm Carmel Taproom**, 525 N End Drive, Ste 190, Carmel

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 calendar) **7:00pm –8:30pm**

ET Drop in anytime for casual chat. Contact: Teresa [ag18tg@yahoo.com](mailto:ag18tg@yahoo.com).

**LIVE Supper Before the Meeting - 2nd Friday**

2/14, 5:00pm - **The Burger Joint**, 5450 E Fall Creek Pkwy N Dr

**RSVP** Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500 (voice or text) or [jan@mw.net](mailto:jan@mw.net)

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Monthly Gathering** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday,

2/14, 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.

**CrowdStrike Strikes the World - a Technical Analysis presented by Dr**

**Ruth Schmidt**

**LIVE Mensa Admissions Test** – 2/16, 1:00pm in Carmel. More information is

available on [Take the Mensa Admission Test](#) . Contact Alison

at [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org) to reserve a seat.

**LIVE Mensans Dining Out** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 2/16 6pm ET

**Quesa Tacos**, 9802 N Michigan Rd, Carmel, IN 46032

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

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group (Please Note Date Change)**

2/23, 2:00pm ET

Time to make our reading list for the coming year! (More info p. 8.)

**For more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link**, contact Rich Gibson at

[hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 770-548-5217.

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 *Sunday Social*	3	4	5 *Lunch Bunch*
9 *Sunday Social*	10	11	12 Chowhounds
16 Mensa Test; Dining Out	17	18 * ExCom*	19 Lunch Bunch
23 Book Group; *Sunday Social*	24	25	26 Chowhounds

## \*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
		1 Ham'n Eggs
6	7	8
13	14 Supper Before; Monthly Gathering	15
20	21	22
27	28	

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

(continued from page 10)

These penalties are among those authorized by the Bylaws of American Mensa, Article IX, section 5, which provides that: “A member may be suspended from specific activities, offices, positions or functions, for a specified time, or suspended from membership for a specified time, or expelled from membership, for acts inimical to the society.”

The Bylaws of American Mensa, Article IX, section 5, further provides that: “A decision by the Hearings Committee to suspend or expel a member from American Mensa, Ltd., shall require the concurrence of the American Mensa Committee.” As neither of the penalties imposed is suspension nor expulsion from American Mensa, Ltd., an automatic review by the AMC under the Bylaws of American Mensa is not available in this matter. In accordance with Hearings Rule 13.F.1, the penalties are imposed with immediate effect, i.e., starting on January 14, 2025.

## **Jan. 14, 2025 Message from Chair:**

*[Editor’s note: This announcement and the preceding copied from the American Mensa website]*

The following *[Ed: preceding]* is a decision from the National Hearings Committee, which is not a subset of the AMC (American Mensa Committee). It is posted here because the decision – and the situation which engendered it – are unprecedented in American Mensa’s history. The decision has such a major effect on the governance of Mensa that it is important to post it to the membership in this manner. The AMC is working on installing Regional Coordinators for the affected Regions as soon as possible to serve until RVCs can be elected to serve for the remainder of the term. A Regional Coordinator is a full member of the AMC in all respects – a seat at the table, able to speak and to make motions, having the same funding and the same regional budget as any other RVC – except the right to vote. If the AMC could install replacement RVCs ourselves, we would do so, but we cannot because of applicable law. Appointing Regional Coordinators is something we can do, and we are doing it. The point person for appointing Regional Coordinators is First Vice Chair Jon Gruebele. Jon is also available, as are other members of the AMC, to provide any assistance or guidance to the Local Groups.

**Lori Norris,**  
Chair  
American Mensa

## Forward, Four– News for Region 4

Matt Crawford, RVC4

*[Editor's note: This is Matt's last column as RVC4. I received it on Jan 4. On Jan 17, I learned that Matt and several other RVCs have been terminated and banned from holding positions for 12 years.*

*For some reason, Matt sent out a local and a national version of his monthly column and gave editors the option of printing either or both. Coupled with today's news, I feel obligated to give you both. Enjoy]*



### (LOCAL COLUMN)

Earth still moves around the sun, and now our half is tilted away from that mighty orb. NOAA says we'll probably have typical winter temperatures but above-average snowfall in our region. Time to check the shovels, plows, and snow-blowers. I just got back from a trip to Southern California with my children to visit their grandmother, and the weather there was excellent for late August, notwithstanding that the calendar said late December. We visited the tar pits and by the time this hits print I should be unstuck from my own tar pit and ready to come a-visiting—if that above-average precipitation doesn't get in the way.

I went looking for notable upcoming events in our region. There's AGOG, Chicago's all-gaming RG February 14–16. Further afield, Los Angeles' StaRGazing and Central Alabama's science fiction RG Mensa=Con (also known as CAM-CON) are on that same weekend. This hardly seems an optimal use of the time dimension.

While searching for local group events of broad interest, I came across something else, so let me give a shout-out to Carl Jackson of St. Louis Area Mensa, a member for 51 years last month, and to Mary Anderson of Central Indiana and Richard Jacobs of Minnesota for 60 years! Apologies to anyone of similar attainment that I missed. I went hunting for more gold and diamond anniversary members but found anomalies in the database—members with join dates in 1900. We'll get that sorted out.

A monthly column is not a timely way for me to cross-promote local group events, that much is clear from my meager efforts. I have therefore requested a Region 4 web site be created by the IT staff and I now call for a small number of volunteers to help me build and maintain a minimal site to help us in the region find events of interest in other local groups. When the site is created I'll make another call for regional webmasters on Mensa Connect. I'd like the site to be ready before the weather turns favorable for intra-regional day tripping. A design goal would be to require little or no extra effort from each local group. People work hard enough already!

How's everyone doing with their newsletter budget? Ninety-six cents would hardly cover postage to all your members, but if enough take electronic delivery (and thereby a full-color copy?) you may have some spare change. Some groups find interesting ways of using that extra money to enhance

members' experience. One covers appetizers at dinner gatherings. Another encourages its members' 'trips to RGs. Please share any new ideas with your local group leadership, and share successful practices with other groups, or with me.

Speaking of people working hard, AML affairs have been quite distracting lately and I've written an alternative column for those who want to read about them. I leave it to your editors to choose which edition to print, local or national—if either! You can go to <https://crawdad.neocities.org/RVC4/> for the other.

#### (NATIONAL COLUMN)

In my October column I made a veiled allusion to something JFK said at his first birthday party as President. I was gladdened to see that couple of you looked it up. The quotation is, "When we got into office, the thing that surprised me the most was that things were as bad as we'd been saying they were."

When I wrote that, I didn't know the half of it. And it would be optimistic to suppose I know the full extent of the problems now. The root and support of the problems is the pervasive culture of secrecy, which is imposed on pain of expulsion for Acts Inimical. One of the most inexplicable instances I've encountered yet was when a committee chair refused to provide some data that they had available because it belonged to another committee! Someone did step in and override that chair, so it was only a temporary obstacle, but it does speak to existing AMC culture.

Another thing that speaks loudly, albeit unclearly, is the number of resignations there have been in less than three years' time: a Chair, two First Vice Chairs, two Ombudsmen, one Advocate, and we may as well mention an Executive Director. I can't connect all of those dots, but I can't call them all fully independent events, either.

One of the first things I encountered upon joining the AMC, and this is in the open record, was an attempt to take annual budget authority away from appointed officers and committees and leave it all in the hands of staff. For the most part, the appointed officers are among the sharpest and best-informed people we have on the AMC. In the previous term, several of them objected strenuously to being shut out of their defined roles as budgetary officers. One was removed, another was bullied and nearly removed. The proposed change was justified as a "housekeeping" codification of the existing practice, which was not in conformance with existing ASIEs. There seemed to be a bias against hard-working appointees on the AMC. Without psychic powers I can only guess at motivations.

In March, when the dues were increased, the amount of the monthly per-member stipend to local groups was removed from the ASIEs. I could see no reason practical or nefarious for doing so, nor could I see the validity of any argument made against my motion to restore the stipend amount to the text at the September 2024 meeting. It passed solely by the votes of eight RVCs. At the next meeting, a motion was made to charter a task force to study, among other



things, the elimination of RVCs as voting members of the AMC. I cannot assert any causality.

I have seen one of my colleagues willing to go to the figurative gallows because, although exculpatory evidence was known and available to him and his accuser, that evidence was in a confidential forum and he would not break trust without authorization.

All this national drama is distracting from the regional and local group concerns which ought to have the higher priority. Until this settles down, I'll just work twice as much. This month I'm writing two columns, one for local issues and one for national. You can find both on the web at <https://crawdad.neocities.org/RVC4/>.

## **Books On The Runway**

*Sharon Merriman*

*Author:* Ruth Reichl

*Title:* Garlic and Sapphires--The secret life of a restaurant critic in disguise

*Publisher:* Allen & Unwin

*Year:* 2005

*Has Been Read by:* Sharon Merriman

*Book Description:* The title says it all; by disguising herself she learns as much about the restaurants as about herself as she tends to transform into the character she creates. Some of her personas she doesn't like! There are a few recipes along the way.

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

Yes and no- this book is not pretentious. It is amusing but it does pointedly describe how we make judgements about people based upon their appearance and more insightfully how we change to suit our exterior persona

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* Anyone who fancies themselves a foodie would enjoy it but also anyone who tends to make snap judgements about people (you know who you are—be honest) based upon superficial indicia

*How long might it take to read this book?* They say six hours but it depends on your speed—there is nothing that will have you rereading a sentence to grasp the meaning but it is riveting—it was for me!

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

“Would you like to eat here every day?”

“Oh no Mummy that would spoil it. This has to be special.”

”I wish we could eat at home, together, every night”.



## Theodore Talks

*Brad Lucht/Shirley Mouer*

This year, to promote 2025 AG attendance, the first seven talks will focus on some of Chicago's unique attractions. This is the second talk in that series. The title of the February Theodore Talk is, "**Made in Chicago: Stories Behind 30 Great Hometown Bites**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom February 23 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 8:30 GMT).

-----  
Sweet steak, Mother-in-Law, Akutagawa, Italian beef and deep-dish pizza are just some of the unique foods first conceived in Chicago. In [Made in Chicago: Stories Behind 30 Great Hometown Bites](#), authors **Monica Eng** and **David Hammond** will discuss lesser-known mom-n'-pop places that serve more affordable – but no less satisfying – food to tens of thousands of Chicagoans every day. These smaller places are often times minority- or immigrant-owned; their book shines a light on the contributions and enduring creativity of street-level food purveyors who, faced with limited resources and unlimited ambition, spread deliciousness throughout the city.

All thirty of the foods discussed in the book will be covered, offering photos and brief descriptions of the many inventive culinary creations and the history behind them.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinvurl.com/37dsncv4>

Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, as long as you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording of the event. All Theodore Talks have Closed Captioning enabled.

Remember, Theodore Talks are offered **free** to all members in an effort to provide value to your membership.

Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. CT.

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the [Mensa National Events Calendar](https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/) at <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>, or by viewing the January issue of the *Mensa Bulletin*.

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at [MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com](mailto:MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support of the Theodore Talk lecture series, which is offered as a way to bring additional value to your members.



Nathan Coleson	Brazil	IN	Rejoin
Dale Dasher	Markleville	IN	Rejoin
Jackson Kisor	Carmel	IN	Joined
Kirsan Sullivan	West Lafayette	IN	Joined

## Solutions to February Puzzle:

1. A service station staple (8 letters) = squeegee
2. Non-deciduous (9 letters) = evergreen
3. Zebra (7 letters) = referee
4. Fill with repeated sound waves (11 letters) = reverberate
5. An important CV section (10 letters) = experience
6. One with 434 colleagues (14 letters) = Representative
7. Notwithstanding (12 letters) = nevertheless
8. Exchanged reward points (8 letters) = redeemed
9. March slainte day (11 letters) = Seventeenth
10. Debilitate (8 letters) = enfeeble

## Comments on the Sanctions on 8 RVCs

Beth Weiss on FB

--Feeding the rumors is the secrecy around the charges and the decision. Most people are assuming that the intentional violation of the bylaws occurred in executive session, which means that it is confidential. Executive sessions are generally not recorded, do not have minutes taken, and are not to be discussed with anyone who wasn't present. Accusations abound right now about "draconian secrecy" and "lack of transparency".

We want to know what happened, but there are reasons it can't be disclosed. Executive sessions are confidential for good reasons. Discussions of contracts and legal matters can't be public. Personnel discussions can't be public; volunteers and national office staff are discussed by name, and they deserve their privacy—legally entitled to it. Those present in Executive Session can speak frankly knowing that the decisions made in Executive Session are public, but that discussion is not. Confidential discussions can't retroactively be made public.

I struggle with the sanction decision because, as I said, some of those sanctioned are my friends. They are people who love Mensa and have made incredible contributions of their time and emotional energy to Mensa. There isn't a "win" in this decision. There are a lot of really hurt people—those sanctioned, those still on the AMC, those on the Hearings Committee, everyone who considers those people friends, and Mensa as an organization.

I believe all of those involved love Mensa and believe in our organization. Nobody is all good and nobody is all bad. I hope we can all find healing and work together to make Mensa thrive.

*[Editor's note: If you go on-line, you'll find lots of discussion about the lack of insight into what happened in the September meeting, and, by default, emotion and attention shifted to the events of December, in which the about-to-be-disciplined group apparently tried to change the rules of how they'd be judged. To my mind, this is distraction: the **real** bad things happened in September. Given Beth Weiss' position on confidentiality being necessary for intimate discussions of personal or contract matters, it looks like a gaping hole to me if the issues were financial and budgetary—see Matt's column. If questions were raised and quashed about money, this is a completely different kettle of fish, IMO]*

# **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 12/17/24**

*Karen Wilczewski, Secretary*

## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 12/17/24**

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

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

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

The November meeting minutes were approved as amended. Judy moved, Ann seconded. The motion passed.

The November's Treasurer's Report: Ann moved to accept and Judy seconded. The motion passed.

The November membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 11/30/24 from American Mensa: total members: 426; 5 new, 1 move-in, 3 rejoin, and 6 prospects.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

The Holiday Party was success; 36 people attended, 29 RSVP'd, and there were 7 additional walk-ins. Candis and Judy will follow-up with those who came, inviting them to future meetings.

Can we call the monthly January CIM meeting the "Procrastinator's New Year's Eve Party"? It will include the murder mystery event for both attendees and Zoom attendees.

The February's CIM meeting topic relates to an erroneous update to a vital piece of software and how it paralyzed the whole country. This meeting falls on Valentine's Day.

Candis moved to adjourn, Emily seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



# Central Indiana Mensa

## Treasurer's Report

12/31/2024

*Emily Boomershine, Treasurer*

### Statement of Assets

Account	Balance
(1) PNC Checking – Regular	\$ 2,231.82
(2) PNC Checking – Scholarships	\$ 217.00
(3) PNC Checking – Events	\$ 3,516.61
(4) MG Petty Cash	\$ 25.00
(5) CD – First Internet	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 15,990.43</b>

### Other Assets

Accrued Interest on First Internet CD	\$ 380.19
USPS Stamps	\$ 227.70
 Memo: Total in PNC Checking (1)+(2)+(3)	 \$ 5,965.43

### Statement of Activity

Activity	Amount
<b>Receipts</b>	
Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 49.00
National Support	\$ 521.00
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>\$ 570.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Facility Rental (All Souls)	\$ (100.00)
MIND Printing	\$ (333.37)
Supplies	\$ (38.14)
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ (471.51)</b>
<b>Net Activity</b>	<b>\$ 98.49</b>

# Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

## All Souls Unitarian Church

### 5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56<sup>th</sup> 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

