Volume 40 March 2019 Issue 3

Illuminate

The Newsletter of Missouri Ozarks Mensa

Recent Events

February

Lots of MOM: We had a fabulous meeting at the Library Center on the 23rd! Most present contributed heartily with discourse on psychiatric medicine, the future of the Presidency, impact of the Vatican, deterministic ratios of unemployment reports, adult education in the Springfield trade area, the effect of modern transportation and elements of e-commerce advertising algorithms. Yeah, you missed some good stuff, this time, but there's always more from where that came ☺

Upcoming Events

March

Second Sunday Social: March 10, 12:30 pm at Lindberg's, 318 W. Commercial St. in Springfield
Join us for food and fun conversation at Lindberg's, Springfield's oldest tavern! They have a great Sunday brunch, and you can order from their regular menu as well. You can check out their menu here: http://www.lindbergsbar.com/?page_id=16 (they also have a different brunch special every week). Stay for live music starting at 12:00 noon if you'd like! RSVP to Lorraine at lorrainegardner1@gmail.com or on the Facebook event page.

Mensa Games Night: March 16, 6:30 pm at Cheryl Braswell's house, 1510 N Washington Ave, Springfield. Join fellow Mensans for a night of fun and games – board games, card games, whatever strikes your fancy. Cheryl has a small stash of games, but feel free to bring your own games. No RSVP required, guests welcome.

MOM at The Library Center: Library Center (TLC) in the concourse for public information and visiting. Saturday 3/30/2019 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and, of course, stay tuned in to the MO Ozarks Mensa FaceBook page for updates: https://www.facebook.com/groups/MissouriOzarksMensa/

Not only is this a great time of lively discussion, we'll be answering all kinds of questions that potential members and the general public may have – so please bring/send anyone you'd like to introduce ☺

MOM plays trivia! March 31, 7:00 pm at Patton Alley Pub, 313 S. Patton Ave. in Springfield
Join us to play trivia and have some fun! We need 2-5 people to make a team. (If we have six or more people, we can make two teams.) We'll meet at 7:00, and trivia starts at 7:30. Patton Alley also serves food, so you can eat dinner there if you'd like! http://thepattonalleypub.com/food-menu/ RSVP to Lorraine at lorrainegardner1@gmail.com or on the Facebook event page.

~ Rich Olcott – Gatherings ~

As a Mensan you probably know this, but here's a reminder. The Romans celebrated New Year in March, when the snows melt away, seeds sprout and flowers brighten our horizons. For American Mensa each membership year ends on March 31 and the new year starts April 1. So, *felix annus novus vobis* and I hope you've renewed your membership.

One reason to do so – **CultureQuest®**, one of Mensa's most Mensa-typical activities. It's a 200-question team trivia contest with proceeds going to the MERF scholarship fund. Well, *we* think it's fun, anyway. The contest will be on April 28 this year. Teams have to register in March and every team member has to be a paid-up Mensa member. Logon to us.mensa.org and navigate to *Play→CultureQuest* for details.

The word "scholarship" leads into my next topic. You may be one of the dozens of Heartland Region Mensans who judged hundreds of scholarship essays in January or February. On behalf of MERF and the scholarship applicants, I thank you and salute you.

A special nod to our **Scholarship Chairs**. They don't do the judging; they recruit the judges, arrange the judging session and manage the process – pre-screening the essays for rule infractions, printing off the essays and score sheets, and handling all the technical details to get each essay's scores correct and properly recorded in MERF's files. As I ran my eye down the list of Chairs I was struck by how long many of them have served us. Some took on the position relatively recently:

- South Dakota Mensa's **Mike Hamerly** in 2018, following **Christy Zwagermann's** terms
- Nebraska-Western Iowa Mensa's **Sherri Levers** starting in in 2016
- Kansas Sunflower Mensa's **Larry Paarmann** and North Dakota Mensa's **Maggie Kohls** in 2015
- Boulder/Front Range Mensa's **Martha Hyder** and Central Iowa Mensa's **Larry Brandt** in 2010
- Wyoming Mountain Mensa's **Terry Yentzer** in 2008

but these four have been with the project since 2005:

- Mid-America Mensa's **Rhonda Johnson**
- Missouri Ozarks Mensa's **Andrea Miller**
- Denver Mensa's **Tim Winkleman**
- Plains and Peaks Mensa's **Sandy Halby**

High Mountain Mensa's **Donna Scott** is our Longevity Champ. She chaired her…

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Mensa is an international society whose sole requirement for membership is a score in the upper 2% on a standardized IQ test. It is nonprofit, has no religious or political affiliation, and holds no opinions.

MENSA serves as a means of communication and assembly for its members and is interested in gifted children and psychological research.

The web address for American Mensa is www.us.mensa.org

…first judging team in the year 2000. One more nod – Plains and Peaks Mensa's **Jane Cosper** stepped up to be our Regional Scholarship Chair in 2017. A round of applause for all of you.
March is a good time to plan for April's **Mensa Cares** event. There'll be T-shirts.

~~ Rich

~ *Member Contribution* ~

Why Me?
Benjamin Ezekiel Elliott
© 8/20/2012

Bliss asked Nirvana
How did you reach enlightenment?
Nirvana replied
I pitched a tent
Without any rent
And all my money spent
To find your heart
Because you're perfect art
You are better than the void
Without you I'm paranoid
Without you there is no light
And I'm full of fright
I have no might
I'm not willing to fight
I thought I had it all
Until for you I fall
Your name I will call
For your love is honey
Better than all the money
I would darken the sun
Because without you there is no fun
I asked the Lord
Who told me you are the scabbard for my sword
And you are good like His Word
Without you life is void and black
Bliss laughed and said
Let's go hit the sack.

~

~ *Just an Opinion…* ~

Here are the 2 known candidates for 2nd Vice Chair of American Mensa to which I'm giving equal "time" due to request, with minimal editing and sorted on receipt.

Please vote!

Profer 1

If there existed a secret Mensa handshake, I'd ask you to pretend I was offering it to you now. Hello, Mensans all. My name is George Haynes and I'm just popping in to your newsletter to raise awareness that I'm running for a national office within Mensa that YOU will have the opportunity to vote for.

Second Vice Chair is the name of the office for which I'm running. It's like the Vice Vice President of Mensa. If Alexander Haig held this position, his grasp of the rules of succession would be correct (that's my attempt at making a joke).

This is not my official campaign statement or my official biography. This is just a friendly howdy. Although my tone is more informal in this article, you can rest assured that I take this election very seriously and the responsibilities that come with being on Mensa's national board of directors. I served on the AMC (that's the national board) from 2015-2017. I'm currently the LocSec (that's the president) of St. Louis Area Mensa. I was also the newsletter editor for St. Louis from 2010-2015.

Interesting tidbit, I ran in 2015 for the AMC as a total newcomer to elected office for national Mensa. At that time, there were two ways to get on the Mensa ballot: The Nominating Committee (NomComm) was one way and the other way was by petition, i.e. getting enough signatures to get your name on the ballot. The NomComm initially rejected me because they thought my supposed "lack of experience" should keep me out of the running for national office. Thankfully, the people who signed my petition thought otherwise and indeed got me on the ballot. I won that election against my two opponents who were, ironically, favored by the NomComm. By the way, the two guys who were my opponents were great candidates; I consider them both my friends. My victory in 2015 as an AMC member was made even sweeter by a ballot initiative that eliminated the NomComm.

I share that story to respectfully highlight that I was a big outsider candidate four years ago. Even though I have substantially more Mensa experience, now, that outsider mentality still pervades my thinking. Everyone plays politics to a degree; there's no avoiding it. If you say you don't EVER engage in political machinations (at work, at home, etc.), I have a hard time believing you. However, there comes a point where every person should ask the question, wherever they find themselves, "Am I primarily just an authentic person or am I a politician?" My desire is to be an authentic hard-working person (with skills and strengths) who serves the organization faithfully and diligently. Politics are real, but they don't have to pervade everything.

Here comes the campaign slogan (forgive me if it's cheesy): "We're all in this together. You're a Mensan too." If you have specific questions, please email me at: haygeomensa@gmail.com

Please vote George Haynes for Second Vice Chair. Your vote is very much appreciated.

Profer 2

Greetings Missouri Ozarks Mensa!

My name is Billie Lee and I am running for reelection as the Second Vice Chair of American Mensa.

The Second Vice Chair fills in for the Chair when both the Chair and the First Vice Chair are unavailable. It's a position that's flexible enough for the holder to take on whatever special projects they are passionate about. Personally, I want to focus on growing our membership and providing local groups with the support to retain members.

If reelected, I will:

1. *Launch a national initiative focusing on the new member experience. Our membership growth has been flat over the last few years and local groups are seeing fewer new faces at events. While we are successful in recruiting people to take the test and join, we lose so many of them after the first year. Whether the new member starts their Mensa experience through a monthly dinner, the newsletter, or a social media post, we need to make sure that their first impression is a stellar one. By soliciting ideas from across the organization and members like you, I am confident we can design a welcome wagon that will showcase the best that Mensa has to offer. My goal is to increase the percentage of members who renew after the first year.*
2. *Continue building online tools to support Local Groups. We've recently launched online communities for local groups and SIGs on the American Mensa website. More and more local groups are now getting connected with a website and app to help their members chat with each other online. We can explore other technical solutions to better facilitate member engagement at the local level.*
3. *Strengthen the ties between American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation. By encouraging members to support the Foundation, we can leave a legacy for future generations of gifted individuals. In January, we welcomed our youngest member at 2 years old. Majority of new members are under the age of 35 and we continue to see more gifted youth joining us with their families. Students across the country apply for our scholarships that members get to help award. My goal is to bring more awareness to the Foundation's various programs so that members who are inspired to pay it forward have different ways to do so.*

What are your top concerns for our organization? What makes you proud to be a Mensan and what makes you stay? I'd love to hear your ideas on how we can make Mensa better for the future. Email me at hello@billieleefor2vc.com. You can learn more about my platform at BillieLeeFor2VC.com.

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For Information or to host an Upcoming Event

Check our Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/groups/MissouriOzarksMensa/

Or contact Lorraine 417.619.8719 lorrainegardner1@gmail.com

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Missouri Ozarks Mensa Elected Officers

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Recorder/Secretary: *Bill Bultas*	314.962.5828	billbultas@yahoo.com
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Southern Area Coord.: *Sally Schuster*	501.521.6443	grannys@aol.com

"Gray skies are just clouds passing over."
Duke Ellington

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