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Illuminate

The Newsletter of Missouri Ozarks Mensa

Recent Events

March

Lots of MOM: Too soon to report on the concourse meeting, we'll talk about it next time!

Upcoming Events

April

Third Thursday Repast: April 18, 6:30 pm at Hot Cluckers, 1450 E. Sunshine St. in Springfield
Join us for food and fun conversation at Hot Cluckers, Springfield's new Nashville-style hot chicken restaurant. They also serve catfish! RSVP to Lorraine at lorrainegardner1@gmail.com or on the Facebook event page.

Mensa Games Night: April 20, 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. It's off to a slow start, but will rev up nicely! Cheryl has a small stash of games, but feel free to bring your own games ☺ No RSVP required, guests welcome – yeah!

MOM at The Library Center: Library Center (TLC) in the Grafton Room for public information and visiting. Saturday 4/27/2019 - 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/

MOM plays trivia! April 28, 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

Illuminate is a monthly publication of Missouri Ozarks Mensa, a division of American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr. West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

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

~ Rich Olcott – Gatherings ~

Ignore the March cold snap. Think ahead to the good things that April brings – flowers and bird-song and CultureQuest® and the *Mensa Cares* projects that many Local Groups schedule to coincide with National Volunteer Week (although Denver Mensa will be doing theirs in May).

For me, March began with a quick trip east for the quarterly AMC meeting and *Snowball*, the Regional Gathering sponsored by Central New Jersey Mensa. Unfortunately, the AMC's meeting schedule obstructed what would have been the highlight of my trip, Dr Harry Ringermacher's presentation of his recent astrophysical observations. I hope I can catch his talk at the AG.

The other unfortunate aspect of the AMC meeting was that once again we had to face up to the same question that occasionally bedevils Local Groups – what do we do when a Mensan behaves badly? Mensa has a formal hearings process for addressing patterns of inappropriate behavior. This meeting we received reports from two such hearings. In each case, the Hearings Committee recommended that the offending individuals should be expelled from our organization – the most severe penalty we can impose. Decisions like that are never easy. After considerable discussion, we concurred with each recommendation.

In that connection, I'd like to state my support for the Event Safety Task Force's proposed Referendum "Procedure relating to discipline of members whose conduct has been deemed to be harmful." This didn't come out of the blue for no reason. What may have been acceptable behavior years ago isn't any longer. Mensa and other organizations are experiencing a rising number of incidents that deserve formal penalties. This proposal is the first of what I expect will be a series from ESTF, all directed to helping our members feel safe and our event sponsors feel that Mensa has their back. Look for it on your ballot in the upcoming American Mensa election. As usual, the ballot will carry *Pro* and *Con* statements. In my opinion, the *Con* statement is erroneous in most of its points. Read the material and make your own judgement.

Now for some good news. Region 7 hasn't hosted a Regional Gathering for a while, but we're getting back into gear. North Dakota Mensa has announced *FoRGe North*, to be held in Grand Forks August 2-4. All you folks in the Northern Tier or along I-29, this party's for you! Full details are at northdakota.us.mensa.org/RG.html.

And Spring is coming!

~~ Rich

~ *Member Contribution* ~

Movie Review

Ok, so I watched *The Hate You Give (Thug life)* and I'm glad I did: pretty good acting, interesting twist (I'll try to review a similar film, later) and only a couple hitches. Basically, a female black teen is with her male black childhood friend in a car when the latter gets shot to death by a male white cop.

The cast and crew go on about it being a social awareness slice o'time and not a black power film, per se, but in the same vein that they properly point out the impact of veiled racism…well, they offer a veiled black power film - formulaic, but I don't mind because we need to keep stuff "out in the open" of our minds until it's lessened or fixed.

Right On: 1. Neither side is all bad, mostly good; 2. Unfortunately, racism seems to be "raised" in some children one way or t'other and they can choose to break out of that, or not; 3. Getting it right and rescuing your family might cost you your life; 4. The riot scene is very disturbing and displays how quickly a life tenet can be twisted or destroyed.

Wrong Off: 1. The hair brush scene is gratuitous and melodramatic – in reality, the main character would've gotten a serious racial beat-down and/or expelled; 2. Pay close attention, here…the star's comment to her father at the end about how she "see's" him is exactly the altruistic failure of what she champions and desires during her awakening in the 2nd half of the piece: feels good but ain't right - c'mon Mr. Sensitive Producer/Director, which is it?

…Gene Maddux…

~

~ *Just an Opinion…* ~

Here are the 2 known candidates for Regional 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

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT FOR ANTHONY JACKOWSKI
Candidate for Regional Vice-Chairman 7

Why do I want to be on the AMC again? This is a question I've been asked numerous times over the years. Having already served on AMC as RVC7, 2nd Vice-Chairman, International Board member and Communications Officer, one would think I've had my fill, done my duty. And you would be wrong. In addition to those positions I've also held InterLoc Editor and National Gifted Children's Coordinator, not to mention Co-Chairman of two Annual Gatherings (Goin' to Kansas City 1991, and Rocky Mountain High-IQ Denver 2008), and Assistant Chair of the World Gathering in Orlando 2006. Throw in the various Local Group offices I've held and numerous RG's I've been involved with and you can understand why I'm being asked this question. You would think I've had enough. I should sit back and enjoy my membership. I can't!

I'm a person who needs to be involved, needs to continue to work towards the betterment of Mensa. I owe Mensa a lot. Many people say this but considering that I met my wife in Mensa, one of my son's is a member, and many of my friends are members, I truly mean it. My life has been enriched through my involvement in Mensa. I can't begin to give back what it has given to me, which is why I continue to do whatever I can to help make Mensa the best it can be. For you, for my family and for me. Heck, even my license plate reads MENSA. This organization means that much to me.

I've been Regional Vice-Chairman several times before, as well as 2nd Vice-Chairman and other positions in and on the American Mensa Committee. My vast experience will be a benefit as we move Mensa into the future. I've been on both sides of the table and pride myself in understanding the inner workings of the organization. I'm first and foremost a people person. I enjoy meeting people, talking to them, listening to your views and opinions. I do not jump to conclusions but assess all the information available before making an informed decision. I believe my experience and attitude can help the Heartland Region become the best in the country. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve you on the AMC. Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to share your views. Thank you.

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Campaign Statement, Rich Olcott

Five years ago, this was a very different American Mensa. Over the preceding years I'd watched our national leadership's thinking pivot from members-first to organization-first, from collegiality to corporatism, from volunteer-welcoming to volunteer-averse and consultant-hiring. I didn't like that trend so I joined with some like-minded people to help change it.

I think we've turned the corner in the past couple of years. The Chair we elected two years ago has made a point of reaching out to new volunteers throughout the organization (watch for the Volunteer Market, coming soon). Her leadership has helped the RVCs and other AMC members reach important and in my opinion usually correct decisions despite as wide a variety of opinions as you'd expect from a group of Mensans. If you read the AMC meeting minutes I think you'll find that our discussions and decisions are now more about making things possible than setting out new rules. We hired a new Executive Director who quickly made it clear to his staff that his first priority is us – the members and the Local Groups. From my experience the National Office is following through on that policy, and I believe our Local Group leaders have the same impression.

Meanwhile, I've worked hard this term to help each of Region 7's Local Groups be even better at bringing you what you joined Mensa for – or may not have realized you wanted. Whatever they offer you, be it a volunteer position or a new kind of event, try it, you may like it. The two Leadership Development Workshops we held in 2018 were opportunities for all our leadership teams to get together and swap ideas – which they did with lively discussions about everything from how your dues get spent to ways we can exploit the Internet to deliver more Mensa fun to our far-flung membership.

Why did you join Mensa? In my case I was looking for intelligent social life outside of work, plus an opportunity to grow in new directions. I've found both as your RVC and I'd appreciate your vote so I can continue that social life, that growth, and that guiding American Mensa on a member-centric path.

And thanks for voting for me the first time.

~~ Rich

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

Local Secretary: *Eugene Maddux*	417.770.6493	HappyGene@WindStream.Net
Assistant Loc Sec: *Gary Kirkpatrick*	417.501.1868	garykspr@yahoo.com
Treasurer: *Lorraine Gardner*	417.619-8719	lorrainegardner1@gmail.com
Recorder/Secretary: *Bill Bultas*	314.962.5828	billbultas@yahoo.com
At-Large Member: *Cheryl Braswell*	781.929.7097	cheryl.braswell@yahoo.com

Missouri Ozarks Mensa Appointed Officers

Program Coord: *Lorraine Gardner*	417.619-8719	lorrainegardner1@gmail.com
Publications Officer: *Eugene Maddux*	417.770.6493	HappyGene@WindStream.Net
Editor/Web Master: *Eugene Maddux*	417.770.6493	HappyGene@WindStream.Net
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Proctor (testing): OPEN		
Scholarship Coord: *Andrea Miller*		inquiry3@yahoo.com
Joplin Area Coord: OPEN		
Southern Area Coord.: *Sally Schuster*	501.521.6443	grannys@aol.com

"I think that you never fall out of love with somebody, you just let go and move on."
Ashley Rickards

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