ILLUMINATE

Vol 36 Issue 1

Happy New Year

Missouri Ozarks Mensa
814 E. Weldon Drive
Nixa, MO 65714



Springfield Library Center

The Newsletter of Missouri Ozark Mensa

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LocSec Thoughts

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had great holidays.

We're off to a slow start reactivating Missouri Ozarks Mensa but I am hoping that we can get members to volunteer to fill the open positions and host events around the area. With no Steering Committee in place yet, we've not had a Committee Meeting yet but, once the positions are filled, we will start meetings as needed – perhaps at the Library Center or at a member's home.

With no Editor for Illuminate yet, I took the liberty of doing the January issue. Please read, enjoy, and suggest articles for future issues. Remember that our website is updated regularly, so please visit https://missouriozarks.us.mensa.org to check out updated information.

Lonny Burger – LocSec

Regional Vice Chairman January Thoughts

I'm excited to bring in 2025, and I hope you are too! January is a great time of year where the days are getting a little longer, bringing a little more light into the world. There may have been some conflict or discord to close out 2024, but we can now let that drift back into our memories and look forward with the hope and the promise of new beginnings. Let's embrace the opportunity for renewal and positive change.

Keep your fellow Mensa friends in mind as you think about what goals you want to set for the new year. We have new beginnings growing momentum in our region along with established groups continuing to do a great job hosting events and bringing people together. I've been honored to work with some of our best volunteers, and I'm excited to see that continue in the months ahead. It's our volunteer efforts to host events, set up testing, judge scholarships, edit newsletters, and all of the other engaging things we do that have made Mensa everything it is today. One of the most important things we can focus on for the upcoming year is communication. On top of the newsletters, we have online communities like Mensa Connect, Facebook, and our local websites to communicate upcoming events. People have to know where to go and who to contact to be involved, so let's make sure that information is as accessible as possible. While it's important to focus on maintaining the great relationships we've built, let's look towards what new experiences and opportunities we can create for the people who may have yet to find their tribe here. This can be reaching out to those you know who may not get out as often, or it could be finding new people who don't know about Mensa yet. Let's use 2025 to get more people tested and involved.

Curt Krambeck – RVC7

Steering Committee Open Positions

Many hands make light work. We still have a number of open positions for which we need volunteers to assure the success of Missouri Ozarks Mensa's programs. If you have questions about any of the following positions, please email the LocSec.

Vice President
Treasurer
Membership Coordinator
Newsletter/Calendar Editor
Events Coordinator
Gifted Children Coordinator

Hosting Coordinator
Publicity Coordinator
Scholarships Coordinator
It would also be fun to have a Puzzle Master to provide puzzles for the newsletter.

Current Steering Committee/Volunteers

STEERING COMMITTEE

Local Secretary (LocSec):	Lonny Burger
Recording Secretary:	Felicia Ellis
Ombudsman:	Wes Younger
Newsletter Editor (Temporary)	Lonny Burger

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Testing Coordinator:	Charles Myers
Testing Proctor:	Charles Myers
Webmaster:	Lonny Burger

Coming Events

DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR/ILLUMINATE SUBMISSIONS

January 17 at 5pm: This is the deadline for submissions of Events and Articles for the Newsletter/Website to assure we have time to get them posted to the Website and included in the Newsletter in time for printing and mailing. Since we don't have an Editor yet, please email your events and any articles you want to include in the newsletter to the LocSec (who is also the Webmaster and temporary Editor).

SATURDAY LUNCH BUNCH

January 25 at 1pm: We will gather at Library Station, 2535 N Kansas Expy, Springfield, MO 65803. There is a Panera Bread connected to the library, so grab lunch and we can meet either in one of the library's meeting rooms or at tables in the restaurant.

Please RSVP to the LocSec by 5pm, January 15th, so that we can let the library and Panera know how many to expect.

Events Calendar

JANUARY 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sun
			1 New Years Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Feb Newsletter Deadline	18
19	20 MLK Day	21	22	23	24	25 Sat Lunch Bunch
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January Birthdays

Lonny Burger (12)
Charles Criswell (9)
John Gould (3)
N Sue Hollis (11)
Roddy Rupert (17)

January Anniversaries

John Conners (1/29/1998)
Jonathan Long (1/3/2024)
Donna Ninemire (1/30/2002)
Robert Street (1/26/2011)

Annual Gathering Update

Daisy has been keeping an eye on the Annual Gathering (AG) Team as they work hard preparing for the 2025 AG, July 2 through 6 in Chicago. She even made an appearance at a local regional gathering on Halloween weekend!

The 2025 AG will be held in the downtown Chicago Hilton at 720 S Michigan Avenue. The room rate is only $139/night for single, double, triple, or quad rooms. Yes, you saw that correctly! There will be free WiFi in hospitality as well as your sleeping room. Included will be four breakfasts, three lunches, and snacks – all available in hospitality. The current registration rate is $319 for adult members through January 31.



We are planning lots of programs and interactive opportunities for everyone to enjoy. We even expect we might see Daisy and her herd showing up from time to time. Details on tours and special events will be available within the next couple of months. Tickets for the Gala Dinner have sold out.

AG and hotel registration is available at ag.us.mensa.org. Registration is required before you can make your hotel reservation. Daisy and our AG Team look forward to seeing you there!!

Allison Reeves and Karen Gruebele
2025 AG Co-chairs

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