ILLUMINATE

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May Newsletter

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



Steering Committee Election Month

The Newsletter of Missouri Ozark Mensa

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LocSec Thoughts

The annual Steering Committee election ballot is included in this issue, so please vote and get your votes in by April 30th, or as soon as you can. You can also download a fill-in ballot (PDF) from 2025 Ballot for Missouri Ozarks Mensa Steering Committee.pdf. and email it to the Locsec or mail it to the address on the front cover of this newsletter or email your votes to locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org.

It's been a challenge getting events such as the Lunch Bunch scheduled at a time when the most members and their families are available. Please check the newsletter events section and the website calendar so that you don't miss out on the food and fellowship.

If you want host other events and get them scheduled, please email the LocSec so that we can get it added to the calendar so that members and their family members can participate. It would be nice to see more events: I've heard suggestions for a book discussion at the Library Center, a bookstore, or someone's home. Someone mentioned a special gathering with a guest speaker. Just thinking.

Remember that our website is updated at least once a week, so please visit https://missouriozarks.us.mensa.org to check the updates. Thanks. Lonny Burger – LocSec

Regional Vice Chairman April Thoughts

This month starts with May Day, celebrated with various traditions throughout the world. For starters, May first is International Worker's Day, so let's take a moment to celebrate the 8-hour workday. Back in 1886 a May Day protest in Chicago led to the Haymarket massacre. You can visit the Haymarket Martyr's Monument in July, which is about a 10-minute drive from the AG hotel. This also marks Beltane, the half-way point between the equinox and solstice. This is the season for protection and growth. It's also the time I'll let my inside plants go outside. When your celebrations of labor, maypoles, and bonfires get a little rowdy, May Day is also recognized as an international distress call, derivative of the French word m'aider. That's a lot to fit into the first day of the month!

What do we do once we get past the first day of May? My goal is to start looking in depth at how American Mensa handles confidentiality. There is the obvious, such as Executive Sessions in a Board meeting for such things as personnel matters, contract review, etc. There is concern among some members about how confidentiality is handled with the Hearings Committee. That includes understanding who has the authority to protect someone's privacy versus releasing their findings. What we have now is a body independent of the Board making that decision, which I think is important to maintain. I have heard from a few people with strong opinions. Over the next few months, we have the opportunity to look at the policies in place and propose new paths for Mensa to take where appropriate. It's not just in-vogue topics though. The Board has a confidential forum where we can discuss proposals before they're made public. That's essential for us to come together and present a unified vision and maintain our fiduciary duty to loyalty. Other committees have varying degrees of confidentiality; the Finance Committee, the AG Committee, the Bylaws Committee. Any broad, sweeping change could affect each group differently, so we have to be careful in implementing sound policy that engages our membership while protecting our

organization. The most important part of that is listening to you. If you have any ideas or concerns, please let me know. I can be reached at RVC7@us.mensa.org or curtkram2001@yahoo.com. Mensa is what you make it. Thank you.

Current Steering Committee/Volunteers

STEERING COMMITTEE

Local Secretary (LocSec):	Lonny Burger
Assistant LocSec (Vice President	Jonathan Long
Recording Secretary:	Felicia Ellis
Treasurer	Felicia Ellis
Ombudsman:	Wes Young
Newsletter Editor	Lonny Burger

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Testing Coordinator:	Charles Myers
Testing Proctor:	Charles Myers
Webmaster:	Lonny Burger
Puzzle Master	Wes Young

Events Calendar

MAY 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				30 Ballots Due	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Submissions	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Lunch Bunch
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Coming Events

Deadline for Calendar/Illuminate Submissions

May 15 at 5pm: This is the deadline for submissions of Events and Articles for the June 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

May 23rd at 1pm: Let's try McAlister's Deli again, 703 N. McCroskey, Suite 1 Bldg A, Nixa, MO 65714. They have a wide variety of food and beverages. Please RSVP to the LocSec by 5pm, May 13th, so that we can let them know how many to expect. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

Deadline for Ballot Submission

April 15 at 5pm: Steering Committee Election Ballots are due April 30 but sooner is better. The ballot is included below and also has been emailed to members taking documents via email. We're overdue for the election so we're catching up. It's only once a year. Thanks.

Book Club

I recently inherited a LIBRARY of classic leather-bound books. The "top 100" classic books, plus many more. I'm retired now, so am beginning to read some of these wonderful classics that I have somehow missed in my life!! It would be so awesome to have other folks reading these too...so we could discuss them!! If you are interested in getting together to start reading some of the classics...let me know! Felicia Ellis at mrsfellis@gmail.com

Election Ballot

2025 Ballot for Missouri Ozarks Mensa Steering Committee

YOUR NAME: _____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____

LOCAL SECRETARY:

Lonny Burger

Write In _____

VICE PRESIDENT:

Jonathan Long

Write In _____

TREASURER:

Felicia Ellis

Write In _____

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Felicia Ellis

Write In _____

OMBUDSMAN:

Wes Young

Write In _____

Tear off the ballot. Please put a check next to the listed candidate (or write-in your alternate choice) and mail this ballot to:
Missouri Ozarks Mensa
814 E. Weldon Drive
Nixa, MO 65704
Or email to locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org

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