ILLUMINATE

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January Newsletter

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



The Newsletter of Missouri Ozark Mensa

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LocSec Thoughts

Welcome to the New Year! Last year, we had minimal participation in our Lunch Bunch and replies to emails/newsletter. I'm hoping that more members will participate so that we all have a good time together. The monthly luncheon is a great chance for fellowship and those who have participated seem to have enjoyed themselves. The hike at the Nature Center was also a great time, though only two members joined in. We're also open to other activities should anyone have suggestions for something different. I encourage members to correspond with the membership and make suggestions.

Corresponding with other Mensa LocSecs, some chapter events include things like group hikes on area trails (perhaps the trail that begins at the Springfield Library Center), a dinner get-together at a nice restaurant, a group bike ride, volunteering at a food pantry, and putting a team together to assist an elderly or disabled neighbor with yard work this spring. Please let me know your thoughts and feelings on these.

Remember that our website is updated at least once a week, so please visit https://missouriozarks.us.mensa.org to check out the updates and keep abreast of what's coming up.

Regional Vice Chairman November Thoughts

2026! I'm actually writing this before the new year, but I'm optimistic we made it. My first term on the American Mensa Committee (AMC) and as your Regional Vice Chair has been rocky at best. The AMC looks a lot different at the start of 2026 compared to my first meeting in July of 2024. We now have a fully seated Board again, so I'm excited and hopeful to see where that takes us. In December, we all met at the National Office in Hurst, Texas for our quarterly AMC meeting. One of the focuses was reviewing our strategic plan. You can review our priorities from the 2020-2025 plan on the American Mensa website. Our priorities included Outreach, Value, and Diversification of Revenue Streams. Hopefully over the next few newsletters I'll be able to write more about the direction we're looking forward to for the years to come.

2026 is opening up with a new AMC Board, new hope, and new opportunities. One of the great things you can take advantage of in January is the Level Up! series of webinars. This will be held on January 13 at 7:00 Central. You can find it on the American Mensa website under Attend – Events Calendar. Join us for Dr. Nicole Price's presentation on "Engineering Empathy In Your Organization" and learn how to improve team communication and how your role can improve the organizations you work with.

Applications for the Foundation Scholarship close January 15. Judging will continue from February through April. If you haven't signed up to read essays and be a judge yet now is the time. If you have signed up, let me know what you think of the new process. There was some concern as the new system was rolled out, but now that we have a couple years behind us we can take a look at what really works better and what areas can still be improved. Feedback is always appreciated. You can send me your thoughts at rvc7@us.mensa.org.

Steering Committee/Volunteers

Thanks to those who cast their ballots for the Steering Committee. Below it the full list of Steers and Volunteers. If you want to volunteer for one of the vacant Volunteer Positions, please email the LocSec at locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Local Secretary (LocSec):	Lonny Burger
Vice President:	Jonathan Long
Recording Secretary:	Felicia Ellis
Treasurer:	Felicia Ellis
Ombudsman:	Wes Young
Illuminate Editor (Non-Voting):	Lonny Burger

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Calendar Editor:	Vacant
Gifted Children:	Vacant
Hosting:	Vacant
Membership:	Vacant
Testing Coordinator:	Charles Myers
Testing Proctor:	Charles Myers
Publicity:	Vacant
Public Relations:	Vacant
Puzzle Master	Wes Young
Scholarships:	Vacant
SIGHT Coordinator:	Vacant
Speaker Coordinator:	Vacant
Webmaster:	Lonny Burger

Membership Report

As of the end of November, there are 87 members in Missouri Ozarks Mensa. If you know people who might be interested in joining, please direct them to the Membership Page of the Website.

Membership Corner

Moving? If you are moving or have a change of address the simplest way to have your records changed is to log in to your MENSA account at https://www.us.mensa.org/. If you don't have an account with American Mensa, it is a simple process to create a new account.

If your membership has lapsed, you can renew at by going to the American Mensa website and clicking on JOIN at the left of the top menu bar, then Rejoin from the dropdown. You can also rejoin by phone or mail to American Mensa, 1315 Brookside Dr., Hurst, TX 76053, 1-817-607 0060.

Treasurer's Report

December Opening Balance	10,723.44
December Receipts	0.00
December Expenditures	0.00
December Closing Balance	10,723.44

Events Calendar

JANUARY 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Lunch Bunch
18	19 Martin Luther King	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Coming Events

DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR/ILLUMINATE SUBMISSIONS

January 16 at 5pm: This is the deadline for submissions of Events and Articles for the February Newsletter/Website update to assure we have time to get them posted to the Website and included in the Newsletter in time for printing and mailing. Please email your events and any articles you want to include in the newsletter to the LocSec (locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org).

JANUARY SATURDAY LUNCH BUNCH

With no suggestions from members, let's get together on January 17th at the McAlister's Deli Springfield Location, 1460 E. Primrose Street. Please email locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org to let us know you will be attending so that we can give McAlister's a head count. Thanks so much and we hope to see a good group. Remember that friends and family members are welcome to attend.

January Birthdays

John Gould (3)
Charles Criswell (9)
Lonny Burger (12)
Anthony Robertson (15)

January Anniversaries

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

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