ILLUMINATE

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April Newsletter

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



The Newsletter of Missouri Ozark Mensa

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LocSec Thoughts

Happy Spring! After the long winter, it's nice that the weather is finally more friendly and conducive to outdoor activities. I'll be bicycling outdoors more often and looking forward to scheduling another hike in the Springfield Nature Center in the coming months.

We had a really nice turnout for the February Lunch Bunch with 8 folks showing up at the Springfield McAllister's Deli.

Many thanks to Austin Sandberg for volunteering to lead the Membership, Scholarships, and Gifted Children's programs. "The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children." - Dietrich Bonheoffer

Regional Vice Chairman April Thoughts

Flowers are blooming. Birds are singing. Spring is in the air. This is the best time of year, and not just because Mind Games will start on April 16 and Culture Quest will be held on April 26. We're putting the cold and darkness behind us and entering the earth's period of growth. We can use this season of growth to reach out

to prospective members, welcome them into our community, and grow Mensa!

We start April on the week following our annual March Board Meeting in Texas. We are working on developing a new strategic planning framework that maintains a three-year outlook. A major part of this is adoption of five pillars. These are "Membership, Growth, and Outreach," "Member Experience and Retention," "Technology and Operational Efficiency," "Sustainable Revenue and Events," and "Trust, Culture, and Safety." Creating these pillars will help the Board prioritize areas of focus and develop key measurable metrics to guide Mensa's growth. We are here to serve you, so it's important to us that all interested members understand what our current strategic priorities are, and it's important to me that your voice is heard. If you have any concerns with your experience in Mensa that we might be able to help with, or comments on the strategic planning we're working on, please feel free to reach out.

Another exciting initiative coming from the National office is a partnership with the Davidson Institute. Their Young Scholars gifted program offers academic, social, and emotional support for gifted students and their families. We have the opportunity to work with their students through communications and webinars to increase our visibility and attract new members. The prior evidence review fee is waived for students interested in becoming members, but the rest of our qualification process remains. We see this partnership as strengthening Mensa's role within the broader gifted education ecosystem. 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:	Austin Sandberg
Hosting:	Vacant
Membership:	Austin Sandberg
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 March, 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

January Opening Balance	10,723.44
January Receipts	1,005.56
January Expenditures	0.00
January Closing Balance	11,657.50

Events Calendar

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

Coming Events

Deadline for Calendar/Illuminate Submissions

April 11 at 5pm: This is the deadline for submissions of Events and Articles for the May 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).

March Saturday Lunch Bunch

For the March Lunch Bunch, let's gather at 1pm, Saturday, March 21st, at Los Michoacanos Garcias, 1402 West Sunshine, Springfield, 417- 884-1266. They have Mexican cuisine ranging from $10-$20 per entrée. Please email me if you're planning to attend so that we can get good head count. Please bring family and friends so that we can make it a lively gathering.

April Saturday Lunch Bunch

During discussions at the February Lunch Bunch, let's Lunch Bunch on April 18th at 1pm at Asian King Buffet, 3130 S. Glenstone Ave, Springfield. So that we can provide a head count, lease email me by 5pm, April 10th at locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org if you will be attending. Thanks so much and we hope to see a good group. Remember that friends and family members are welcome to attend.

April's Thought

Five things to remember daily.

1. The past cannot be changed.
2. Happiness is found within.
3. Comparison steals peace.
4. Growth takes patience.
5. You only fail if you quit.

Shen Yu.

April Birthdays

Vivian Wasson (2)

April Anniversaries

Felicia Ellis (4/20/2021)
Elsa Hazell (4/7/1997)
Mackenzie Inman (4/3/2017)
Kylie Martin (4/20/2021)
Nathanael Martin (4/20/2021)
Ray Mueller (4/9/2021)
Darrell Sour (4/2/2024)
Kira Venable (4/25/2024)
Milton Vernick (4/19/1996)
Vivian Wasson (4/19/2012)

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