



**Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa
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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

July 24, 2021
Santa Fe Cattle Company
1270 Highway 231 S, Troy

August 28, 2021
Venditori's Restaurant
2575 Hilton Garden Dr. Auburn

September 25, 2021
Jan's Beach House Grill
850 East Blvd., Montgomery, AL

*If you're not a member of our MWM Facebook group, please send Steve a RSVP if you wish to attend. Thanks!

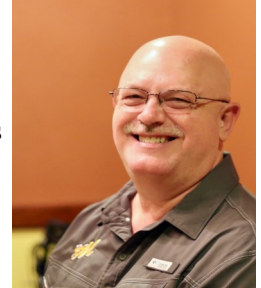
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Words from Steve, our Loc Sec

Hello everyone!

We had a nice gathering in May at Venditori's in Auburn and welcomed Curtis Lewis of Opelika. In June, we met at Mr. Gus' Ristorante in Montgomery and had a great group of eight including new attendees Greg Thompson and Jason Wohlford. If you've never joined us before, please consider doing so! We also look forward to seeing those who have been unable to attend our meetings due to COVID-19 or other issues.



Our July 24th meeting is scheduled at the Santa Fe Cattle Company in Troy. August will take us back to Venditori's in Auburn on the 28th. September's meeting will be at Jan's Beach House Grill in Montgomery on the 25th. All meetings (with the exception of November/December) are on the 4th Saturday of the month at 6:00 PM.

As of this writing, our membership stands at 75 in Montgomery Wiregrass Mensa. Thank You to each of you who either renewed your membership or rejoined Mensa.

We still have several officer positions open for anyone who wishes to volunteer. None of the positions require a lot of time and your efforts would be extremely beneficial for MWM. Please peruse the list immediately to the left of my column and please ask if you have questions about a position. Jason Wohlford has volunteered to assume the Newsletter Editor position beginning in 2022. He and I will share responsibilities with Issue #4 later this year. Thank you, Jason!

We hope to see you at our monthly dinner gatherings and/or in our Montgomery Wiregrass Mensa Facebook group. If you're not on Facebook and would like updated meeting information as warranted, please call or text me at 636-346-3522 or email at swknuckles@aol.com.

That's it from here for now.

Take care!

Loc Sec Steve

OUR RVC (NANCY CAMPBELL) SPEAKS

July 2021--Well, a new American Mensa Committee takes office July 1, 2021, including yours truly as Regional Vice Chair for Region 5 (RVC 5.) And for the first time, we will have three-year terms instead of two-year terms. Region 5 is the Southeast Region, including the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. There are twenty local groups in our region – some regions only have seven to ten. I have already visited ten of our groups before COVID hit and closed everything down. Now I'll have a chance to visit the other ten, then start the process over again. If you want to rise to the top of the list, invite me! I'd love to help your group grow and thrive!



Mensa's International Constitution states that Mensa has three purposes: 1) to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity. 2) to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence. 3) to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Our local groups tend to focus on that last one – the social aspects. Members who live in large metropolitan areas usually have a variety of meetings to go to (pre- and post-COVID.) For members who live far from the bulk of the Mensa membership in an area, there is Isolated-M, an online group that provides a website and newsletter for members. They can be accessed at isolated.com. Many local groups set up Zoom meetings during social-distancing. I hope you will continue to offer regular Zoom meetings after the quarantining is over.

The Mensa Foundation was founded to address the first two purposes stated above. It is very much a part of Mensa: they share office space; the Board of the Foundation is, by Bylaws, the same as the voting membership of the AMC; Mensa volunteers judge the scholarship essays for the \$150,000 plus that the Foundation awards in scholarships every year; and American Mensa donates about \$1 per member per year to support the work of the Foundation. The Mensa Foundation publishes a Research Journal, hosts the Colloquium every year, and provides the mensaforkids.org website. Donations are warmly appreciated!

Ian Strock, who was RVC 1 for the past two years and is our newly-elected Secretary on the AMC, provided this Glossary in his monthly RVC column.

AMC: American Mensa Committee; the national board of directors.

AG: American Mensa's once-a-year, five-day Annual Gathering, featuring the Annual Business Meeting, more than a hundred speakers, and more than a thousand Mensans.

ExCom: Executive Committee, in some groups known as Board of Directors: the members who have volunteered and been elected to take care of the day-to-day business of operating a local group. This is the local group version of the AMC.

GY and GYC: Gifted Youth and Gifted Youth Coordinator

LocSec: Local Secretary, aka president: the elected leader of a local group (the name comes from our British roots).

RG: Regional Gathering: a weekend-long get-together hosted by a local group featuring speakers, games, events, and more, with 100 to 400 of your closest friends you haven't met yet.

RVC: Regional Vice Chairman: a member of the AMC with responsibility for a specific region of American Mensa.

YAM: Young Adult Mensan: members in their twenties and thirties.

YM: Young Mensan: teenage members and those younger.

Nancy Campbell, RVC 5

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LOCAL LANGUAGES ARE DYING AND TAKING INVALUABLE KNOWLEDGE WITH THEM

By Hannah Seo

January 22, 2021

Linguist Nicholas Evans had heard the Kaiadilt people, an Aboriginal group in Northern Australia, utter “malji” on the beach many times. He knew the term meant “schools of mullet” and “holes of a fishing net,” but they would say it even when pointing at empty water. It wasn’t until he saw [a local artist’s painting](#) of malji—a blue canvas covered in pink and red eyelets—that he realized the word also described the bubbles of light that indicate where the catch might be.

As with many small, remote cultures, the Kaiadilt’s native Kayardilt vocabulary got muffled by Europeans and missionary teachings. In modern history, the tongue’s never had more than a few hundred speakers. Today, according to UNESCO, about 40 percent of the world’s 7,000 languages are at risk of vanishing in the next century or two. Losing them means letting go of ancient knowledge about little-known places embedded within the words—and gleaned from multi-generational observations. “Each language holds clues that help us understand all people, but you don’t know until you look,” says Evans, who’s also a professor at Australian National University.

Take Australia, for example. As Kayardilt and other Aboriginal tongues faded under British rule, the communities lost the ability to pass on their understanding of natural patterns and island ecology. In Kune, which is spoken in the Northern Territory, *manyawok* refers to both long-horned grasshopper and yam; the shared name arose because the critters’ summer chirps cue when it’s time to harvest the tubers. Other terms help lay out precise directions with geographic cues.

From a global perspective, anthropologists can trace the evolution of speech patterns to help fill in our history. They can see how people migrated across islands and pinpoint when technologies like canoes emerged by tracking the emergence of seafaring terms.

(Continued in next column)

EDITOR’S DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed herein are those of the writer — not of Mensa nor the editor unless he is the author. Anyone with an opposing or supporting view is encouraged to respond, and to include any other submissions to thewireeditor54@gmail.com, Steven W. Knuckles, 11 Crabapple Trace, Montgomery, AL 36117-4224.

Happy Birthday Wishes in July

Charles Gantner, Jr.	July 3
Steven Knuckles	July 16
Gregory Thompson	July 24

Happy Birthday Wishes in August

Jessica Okutso	August 20
James Nelson	August 24
John Selden	August 26
James Golson	August 29

Happy Birthday Wishes in September

*Amazingly, none are listed.

List may be incomplete because several MWM members have restricted information as to date of birth.

Membership Anniversaries in July

Roger Corley	6 years
Ken Sullivanne	17 years
Thomas Funk	39 years

Membership Anniv. in August

John Peek	1 year
Benny Walton	3 years
Tina Chappell	4 years
Robert Eaton	6 years
Henry Kravec	35 years

Membership Anniv. in September

Kemper Franklin	2 years
Jason Grice	6 years
John Simmons	6 years
Onastasia Gunlogson	12 years
Casimir Lukjan	16 years
Martha Whitt	36 years

(Continued from previous column)

On the individual level, working to preserve tongues offers a way to reclaim identity and share cultural pride. That’s been [the case in Hawaii](#), where immersion schools run jointly by Native Hawaiians and the state government helped the number of Ōlelo-fluent households jump from a few dozen to 24,000 between 1985 and 2010. Elsewhere, international groups like Terralingua and the Endangered Language Fund are helping Indigenous scholars launch their own campaigns. Each word they save imparts a lesson with the power to round out the human experience.

<https://www.popsoci.com/story/science/why-save-dying-languages/>



MONTGOMERY WIREGRASS MENSA GEOGRAPHIC AREA

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