

THE WIRE

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Mensa Dates

- **February 26th - Meeting at Ming's Garden in Montgomery, 7pm.**
- March 26th - Meeting at Ming's Garden in Montgomery, 7pm.
- Be thinking about a picnic gathering for April or May, plus things to do later in the summer.

STATUS UPDATES - BY LOCSEC RODGER MORRISON

Greetings fellow Mensans. As some of you already know, I was elected to be your new Local Secretary at our last meeting in January. I would like to thank Lester Holmes, my predecessor in this role, for a job well done. Mr. Bob Akins will continue as treasurer. Our meeting went well, though there were only a few of us, and we had some good ideas to work on for the future of our local group. More on that later, but for now... Be thinking about things we can do in the summer. I do think that, to be fair to our group members far east and south of us, we should have a meeting at least a couple of times a year closer to them if there is sufficient interest. This brings me to the first thing I need to do as Local Secretary.

We need to know what everyone wants so that we can plan accordingly. I will be contacting each of you in the near future with a few questions. I may also send out a survey by USMail, or by email where I can, to make this easier.

One thing for sure that is needed is a local group webmaster. We need to update our site so that it is usable and has, at the very least, contact information and links back to the main Mensa pages. I suspect that this would not take very much of someone's time, but the person working on it should at least be able to handle a simple web editing tool such as FrontPage.

We also need volunteers to contribute to our newsletter, review essays that accompany scholarship applications, and more.

If you don't have any free time to volunteer, that is fine. But, if you can, at least come have dinner with us at our monthly meetings. The next one is Feb 26th at Ming's Garden on East Blvd in Montgomery. (See LocSec - page 2)



Welcome new members Barbara Hoover and Ulf Schorling of Prattville. Ulf has transferred to us from outside our local group. We also welcome returning members Charles Anderson and Robert Force, both from Montgomery.

Members in group: 93 adults plus 9 members aged 17 or younger. (102 total).

American Mensa's annual gathering is scheduled for June 30 through July 4th, 2011, in Portland, Oregon. Registration fee (if received by March 31st) is \$90 for adults and less for children. See Mensa's website for details at "<http://www.ag2011.us.mensa.org/>"

MEMBER PASSING

With great sadness, I must bear news of the loss of one of our members, Ms. Linda Ann Schurer Crawford. The following is edited from the obituary that appeared in The Enterprise Ledger, Nov 12th, 2010).

-LocSec

Linda Ann Schurer Crawford of Enterprise, AL passed away Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at the family residence. She was 63. Mrs. Crawford was born March 10, 1947 in Oneida, NY. She had lived in Pennsylvania and Oklahoma prior to moving to Enterprise.

She received an Associate Degree from Morrisville State Ag & Tech College in Morrisville, NY. She was a member of Green Hill Presbyterian Church and MENSA.

*I am German and
agemise somewhere in my
fifth decade on Earth.*

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION “FROM GERMANY TO PRATTVILLE”

I would like to grab the opportunity and introduce myself as a new member of Mensa in the Montgomery region. My name is Ulf Schorling, I am German and agewise somewhere in my fifth decade on Earth.

I moved to Prattville half a year ago with my wife and son on an assignment by The German Air Force to the Air War College (AWC) at Maxwell AFB.

I will stay here for a couple of years as a faculty member of AWC and German adviser / liaison officer to Air University.

As you have figured out by now: I'm an active duty officer of the German Air Force. I had the privilege of flying jets until not too long ago but now look forward to the academic and teaching opportunities at Maxwell AFB.

I am from the North of Germany - of course the most beautiful part of Germany even though so many Americans prefer to visit Bavaria (which does have its charm but should not be confused as being all there is to see in Germany) and Berlin.

Back home I prevalently participated online in Mensa's activities but occasionally went to interesting presentations and gave some myself about security policy issues that were of interest to the Mensans in my local chapter.

My other interests are in endurance sports, photography and philosophy where it meets / is confronted with the findings of neurobiology.

Another issue I find interesting is the challenge that modern technological de-

velopments (web 2.0 etc) pose to our personal rights and liberties.

I will leave it with that for the time being. More about me, should you be interested, at one of the upcoming meetings.

Ulf Schorling

(editor's note: Ulf sent me this in the form of an email and included his email address. Should you wish to communicate with him directly, I will be glad to forward an introduction to him by email.)

LOCSEC (CONT FROM P1)

Speaking of our monthly dinners, Lee Cash suggested that we have a "discussion theme" for each dinner. Lee is interested in foreign politics, particularly some issues related to the Middle East and our presence there (forgive me, Lee, if I got that wrong). So, for our dinner in March, read up on issues related to our presence in Afghanistan. In April, perhaps we can discuss issues related to the American education system. If you have an idea for other discussions, please feel free to let me know and we'll see what we can do.

Lee Cash also agreed to help our local group out with another function that should be notable, namely, the awarding

of college scholarships. We will be working out the details soon, but in short, our funding is such that we could support at least one scholarship. Lee will be our point man for handling the logistics of pulling this off when the time comes. This effort, by the way, will center around the review of student essays so expect another request for volunteer reviewers when the time comes.

As I am also the editor for the newsletter, I guess I should provide a status update to that as well. This is my second attempt at a newsletter and I trust you will like it. The folks at American Mensa liked what we had last month, so I think I will contin-

ue the format. I also think that, at least for the time being, newsletters should go out monthly, then sometime later, perhaps in the summer, shift into a quarterly publication that is more robust.

Beginning this month, I plan to add some content that you probably haven't seen before in a newsletter such as this. First, some poetry. Yes, I am including poetry of my own, but would like to include something from you folks as well. I also plan to begin include recipes, jokes, more puzzles, etc, along with information from Mensa HQ.

Again, we need submissions, so please contribute!!

-- Rodger



ANSWERS (TO JANUARY PUZZLES)

Think about it... (Jan, p4)
 26 Letters of the Alphabet
 7 Days of the Week
 7 Wonders of the World
 12 Signs of the Zodiac
 66 Books of the Bible
 52 Cards in a Deck (without jokers)
 13 Stripes in the US Flag
 18 Holes on a Golf Course
 39 Books of the Old Testament
 5 Toes on a Foot
 90 Degrees in a Right Angle
 3 Blind Mice (See How They Run)
 15 Players in a Rugby Team
 3 Wheels on a Tricycle
 100 Cents in a Rand
 11 Players in a Football (Soccer) Team
 12 Months in a Year
 13 is Unlucky For Some
 8 Tentacles on an Octopus
 29 Days in February in a Leap Year
 27 Books in the New Testament
 365 Days in a Year
 13 Loaves in a Bakers Dozen
 52 Weeks in a Year
 9 Lives of a Cat
 60 Minutes in an Hour
 23 Pairs of Chromosomes in the Human Body
 64 Squares on a Chess Board
 9 Provinces in South Africa
 6 Balls to an Over in Cricket
 1000 Years in a Millennium
 15 Men on a Dead Man's Chest

Boston/NY Train Question...
 When two trains meet, aren't they both the same distance from both origins and both destinations? Technically, I would say no because as

the engines of the two met, the caboose of each train would be closer to their origin. However, I think the accepted answer was that the two were both the same distance from both places.

(Jan, p5)

(1) Throw the ball straight up. (2) Put one footbridge diagonally across one corner, bridging a short section of moat. Then, put another from that footbridge to the point on the other side where the two sides meet. (3) The Petri dish would be full exactly one minute later. (4) The test is only fair if all three dots are the same color. The first to realize this was the wisest, and spoke first. (5) "You will chop my head off." (6) The letter "m" (7) Turn on one switch and wait a few minutes. Then turn it off, turn another on, and go up to the attic. Feel the two dark bulbs. The warmest one was the one that was turned on and then off. (8) Pick the door associated with the electric chair. Remember, the power is out. (9) First, the one minute person and the two minute person must cross the bridge, for a total of two minutes. Then the one minute person should come back with flashlight - total of three minutes. The five minute person and the ten minute person cross together next, making the total thirteen minutes. Now the two minute person goes back and (total now fifteen minutes) and gets the one minute person and they cross together bringing the total to seventeen minutes. (10) Fruit doesn't grow inside the ground. (11) Grover Cleveland was president twice.

CLOCKS

It need not dress up,
 or pretty a face,
 Just put both its hands
 where you want them placed.

If it speaks out of turn,
 It is loud as a gun.
 Yet unexpected silence,
 needs more attention.

Long term care is so simple
 just keep it real clean.
 Give it some space
 you won't tread on again.

You'll know where its going
 and know where its been
 Never doubt its intent
 but will know what it means.

It does all its work
 o'er and o'er each day
 Just to keep us on schedule
 lest we all go astray

In silence it watches
 through year after year
 as we turn old together
 not a doubt or a fear

Not seeing its age
 count as decades or hours
 knowing just to keep pace
 not a drunk or a coward.

By its rhythms we watch
 while the moon's path is
 traced.

By the mark of its arms
 all life's events take place

I wish that more women
 could be like a clock.
 Punctual and reliable,
 more often than not.

If they fail in their toil,
 and don't keep up with the
 time,
 They could just be ignored,
 and it not feel a crime.

(By Rodger Morrison)



You Don't Stink...

While cleaning dead fish I
 caught with a net, the odor was
 strong and the scales made a
 mess.

There came such a funk
 from my yard that hot day that
 even the cats could not bear to
 stay.

The weeds still pull
 at that stump in my yard,
 where the odor still smells like
 funky skunk farts.

But as bad as things stunk,
 there was one thing I knew:
 something always
 smelled better, and that
 something was you.



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For the thinker...



ELECTION NOTICE: An election of officers was held at our meeting on January 22nd at Ming's Garden in Montgomery. Results are as follows:

Local Secretary: Rodger Morrison

Treasurer: Bob Akin

Scholarship Coordinator: Lee Cash

No other officers elected at this meeting, however there are several open positions that need filling. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please contact the Local Secretary (me) as soon as possible:

- Deputy Local Secretary
- At Large Members (4 needed)

Also, if you are interested in filling in for any of the appointed positions listed below, please contact me as soon as you can:

- Recording Secretary
- Newsletter Editor (I'm doing it now)
- Area Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Gifted Children Coordinator
- Ombudsman
- Young Mensan Coordinator
- Chief Test Coordinator
- Web Editor

Please note that our bylaws dictate that elections should be held annually for terms that will begin on April 1st of each year and run through March 31st. However, because of the small number of active members (those that attend monthly meetings), we have only elected the Local Secretary and the Treasurer. We still need, at a minimum, a Deputy Local Secretary and at least 4 members at large.

It would be great if enough people were at one of the next two meetings for us to fill at least the at-large positions. These are advisory and do not require any significant effort, other than to attend a few meetings. I would really like at least one of our younger members to consider being an at-large member (we have more than a few 17 or younger). Please consider our needs carefully and help out where you can.

Thank you,

Rodger Morrison, LocSec

NEW MEMBER

Barbara Hoover, born in Ogden, Utah, is one of 7 children from a military family. She feels privileged to have traveled extensively while growing up and as an adult. Barbara has a BA degree from Covenant College and has worked a variety of jobs from secretary, teacher, recruiter and more to small business owner of a health spa. The past few years have been slow going as she is recovering from Lyme disease and has undergone three eye surgeries in the past 7 months, but she is looking forward to taking some classes from Birmingham Theological Seminary, being active in her church and community, and raising her grandson. She and her husband David, who is a business professor at Troy University in Montgomery, have three children and 6 grandchildren, one of whom they are raising. Destin, who is 6, attends The Montessori School on Vaughn Road and has been a part of the family since he was 2. Barbara enjoys music, reading, cooking, gardening, painting and traveling. She is excited to be a part of the area chapter of Mensa and is looking forward to getting involved.

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

What do you want your newsletter to contain? Do you like the travel stories in this issue? Would you prefer puzzles or other works that stimulate your thinking? How about a poetry column or a recipe column? Think about what you think you would like to see in the next issue and send us an email. Or, if you are REALLY brave, contribute something for others to read. As we have several members that are still in grade school, this would be a wonderful outlet for them to try their hand at writing to publish.

-Editor

Announcements from American Mensa: Email the editor for a photocopy of the announcement and more details.

Mensa Foundation's Intellectual Benefits Award - Call for nominations: <http://www.mensafoundation.org/intellectualbenefits>

American Mensa National Awards Program - Call for nominations for awards.

Mensa Education and Research Foundation - Call for nominations for Mensa Distinguished Teacher Award and Candidates sought for Copper Black Award.

National Mensa gathering - June 30-July4, 2011 in Portland Oregon

Logic Puzzle (From Puzzle.com) The National Foundation of Medical Research held a highly-attended conference each year in Washington, DC. The Foundation had a series of awards that could be presented during the conference to doctors and medical professionals who had made a significant contribution to furthering medical knowledge in a main area of study. However, the awards were not generally awarded every year as the candidates must have made an outstanding and recognizable contribution to the science of medicine, which probably helped explain why the Foundation's awards were considered some of the most prestigious in the medical industry. This year, several of the awards were given out to candidates scattered across the nation. Determine the full name of each recipient (one had a last name of Foster), the area of medical research each recipient contributed to (one area was back injuries), and the city where each recipient lived.

1. The doctor who came from Chicago was given an award for his research into cancer.
 2. Patricia was researching heart disease but she didn't live in Miami.
 3. Harry's last name wasn't Atkins. Amy didn't live in Charlotte.
 4. Ms. Ford's award was for her work in DNA mapping.
 5. Michelle Slater wasn't researching mental diseases.
 6. Chet lived in Dallas. The doctor whose last name was McQueen worked in Seattle.
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Alex looked at the fallen leaves blowing around the yard last week and had a great idea. He went around to all the neighbors, offering his raking services to clean up their yards. He got five jobs for this week, a different neighbor each day. The neighbors all lived on different streets and each had a different yard size, so some days he made more than others. Determine the last name of each neighbor who hired him, what street each lived on, what day he worked for each neighbor, and how much each neighbor paid him.

1. Alex worked for the Jones family on Monday afternoon and he earned \$10 more than the day he raked for the neighbor on West Street.
 2. He earned \$4 less working for the Bradley family than he did from the neighbor on School Street.
 3. On Friday, he worked on Oak Street but not for the Hayes family. The family on Main Street paid him \$10 more than the neighbor he raked for on Wednesday.
 4. He got \$29 from the May family but it wasn't on Tuesday.
 5. He worked for the Elliot family the day before he worked on Russell Street. He earned \$39 on Thursday.
 6. Alex raked the Elliot yard two days before the neighbor on Oak Street but one day after the neighbor who paid him \$43.
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Answers will be in next month's edition of *THE WIRE*.

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