

THE WIRE

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- **June 4th - Meeting at Asia Bistro and Seafood in Montgomery, 6pm.**
- **American Mensa's annual gathering is scheduled for 30 June - 4 July in Portland. See Mensa website for details.**

NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members to our chapter this month.

STATUS UPDATES (MAY) - BY LOCSEC RODGER MORRISON



Greetings fellow Mensans. First, let me announce that there will not be a May monthly meeting due to the Memorial Day holiday on the last weekend of the month. Rather, we will have a meeting on the Saturday following, which is June 4th, at Asia Bistro and Seafood in Montgomery (near Taylor and Vaughn).

At our last meeting, one of the things we discussed was the possibility of Mensa working with other organizations to put on a pay-per-plate banquet and silent auction. The proceeds from this effort will go to help replenish the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) following the recent tornado outbreak. In order to keep the funds in Alabama, this fund was chosen rather than one of the National or International relief organizations (Red Cross, etc.). The GERF needs to be replenished as soon as possible or it will not be available to help our fellow citizens of Alabama should there be another

disaster this year (Hurricane Season starts 1 June).

We are now at the point where I need to ask for volunteers and get everyone up to speed. We will be working with three student groups at Troy University in Montgomery. The Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, the local student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, and also the student History and Social Science Club. We will be lead on this project, but we are not alone. Here is what we have worked out so far:

1. On the second Friday evening in June (June 10th), we will have a planning meeting (location and time to be announced later). We will choose a specific date for the event at that time.

2. After we meet and hammer out a plan, we begin gathering items for the auction. My first preference is for art and cultural pieces, which would probably bring a higher dollar, but that is just my preference and not the voice of the majority. Again, as this is a team effort, it will be discussed at the planning meeting. We will need to meet artists, business owners, etc, face-to-face when soliciting donated items. I have a place to store whatever is donated that is secure, but we need to work out some details first. More on this at the planning meeting.

3. We are looking at a timeframe of the end of July for the banquet/auction. A 230 seat banquet hall has already been

donated, and a caterer has already been identified, but we will need to work out menus, pricing, etc.

4. I have identified a possible banquet speaker (one of our state senators) who happens to live just down the street. I would also like to arrange for some quality entertainment. We would like to have a representative and others from the governor's office present in order to present a check to from our chapter of Mensa and the student groups assisting. This will give us a LOT of quality visibility. So, here it is. We need volunteers for the following:

- Soliciting for, picking up, and delivering items for and to the silent auction
- Selling banquet tickets
- Setting up for the banquet/auction (banquet is mostly set up by the caterers)
- Helping on banquet day with the silent auction itself.
- Ushering on banquet day.
- Cleanup when it is over.

If you are able to help out with this effort, please email me directly and include your interest and contact information. In particular, I encourage our young Mensan's to assist with this effort.

We have notified Mensa of our recent officer changes and are waiting to hear back regarding a resent Montgomery area proctor form for me. Nothing else to report at this time. There have been some changes to our website (Thanks to Brent Gourley!!)

- Rodger Morrison (LocSec)

OTHER CHAPTERS' NEWS ITEMS

Attention Mensan's

The number of Mensans in our chapter has dropped from 105 to 80. We currently have only 7 Mensans aged 17 or younger.



NEWSLETTER HELP NEEDED

Though I just took over as newsletter editor, I need some assistance from our members. Please send in articles, poetry, recipes, or whatever else you would like to submit to *THE WIRE*. Heading somewhere this summer? Tell us about it and we'll try to print it for the others to read.

LATE RENEWAL

By Dave M. Shiffman
Assistant LocSec—Memphis
Reprinted from
NORBAMENSA 35(5)

It happens every year – and because memberships always expire on March 31, it happens right on schedule. Your April issue arrives, as always, within a day or two of April 1, so nothing seems amiss. But back at the AML “ranch” in Texas, the “persuasion police” are gearing up for their final effort, triggered by the “2011” lingering in the expiration date field. The names remain on the roster, but sprout anew on the official “Lapse List” of forgetful – or worse – members, who have, for a time, slipped “former” ahead of their now inactive Mensa membership.

That Lapse List triggers other events – reminders from AML that you are on the list; actual disqualification from CultureQuest; and a semi-stern reminder about the peril to any office you hold, whether elected or appointed. Locally, you will receive a reminder via e-mail, telephone, or postal mail, followed by your May newsletter – perhaps your last – containing this article, the banner message on the cover, and your personal mailing label marked to show your lapsed status.

Finally, after your June newsletter does NOT arrive, we will ask you to let us know how we failed to meet your expectations of Mensa membership. If we failed you, perhaps you can help us do a better job – and perhaps you will give us another opportunity to be part of your life.

Au revoir, Mensan! And please come visit when you can!

LEXIPHILES

From Triad Mensa's
May 2011 Newsletter

- When you've seen one shopping center you've seen the mall.
- Police were called to a day care where a three-year resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture: a jab well done.
- The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.
- The batteries were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.

American Mensa online: What do YOU want to do today? (From Mensa's eNews)

If you're a member who's been online a while, you may recall American Mensa's (*earlier web sites*). Of course, you'd recognize the current site that debuted in 2005 – until recently, that is. With each of these sites, we've taken a major step forward for our Web presence, often including a redesign of the site itself. 2011 brings another occasion for the improvement of our primary site at www.us.mensa.org, though you won't see as much of a redesign as a change in the menu and navigation with a number of extended features!

Over a two-year period and with the input of many members in multiple evaluation stages, our Web team has been diligently working on what we've referred to internally as a “renavigation” or re-menuing of our primary Web site. Others have likened it to pulling all of the books off the library shelves (thousands, actually) and then reshelving them, occasionally building new shelves along the way.

During the past year, our members, officers and staff have provided information on how they would sort the Web site, the terminology they would use, and even their preferences for top menus vs. side menus. The input we've received from them has been invaluable – though we won't be using the Dewey Decimal System!

What's new and different? The menus have been renamed and reorganized. There is a mobile interface (we're still tweaking it!). InsideAML as a separate Web site is no longer, and its content has been merged into the main site under the LEAD menu. There is still a “My Mensa” menu for our members, but much of your site customization will occur in a right-side menu of tools available throughout the site. Then there's the search engine. With a new site and new software comes a new search engine, and well – admittedly – it just works.

MENSA SURVEY NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

In our monthly meetings, we have discussed ways that we can make our group more active with doing things as a group. That is, doing something other than just eating out once a month. So, rather than take our best guess at what everyone wants, I decided to put together a short survey online that would take less than 5 minutes for each Mensan to complete. This should tell us a) what people think about why they are a member, b) what types of activities they are interested in, and c) what opinions everyone has as to how we can make our chapter better. As of today, only seven (7) chapter members have completed the survey, so there are not enough responses with which to formulate an answer. I ask that each member go to the website below and complete the survey. The only personally identifiable information we require in the survey is either your email address and your Mensa membership number. This is only to prevent duplication of responses. The survey is accessible by going to <http://www.trustc3.com> and click on "SURVEYS". You will see the link to the Mensa preferences survey. Click that and follow the directions accordingly. I hope to have the results available in the next newsletter, however, preliminary responses suggest that at least a few of our members are interested in outings to the: ballet, symphony, planetarium, zoo, legislature, art museum, space museum, history museum, theater, day at the lake, baseball game, and more. There are also a few folks interested in the newsletter puzzles and in our eList being used for sending out puzzles. After we get more responses, we should have a better idea of what folks would be interested in doing, so please participate and complete the survey! RM

AN ANALYTICAL PUZZLE

You are planning to throw a huge wedding reception in 24 hours. You've bought 1,000 bottles of wine, but you find out that one of them may have gone bad. Unfortunately, when this type of wine goes bad, it develops a poisonous substance that is very deadly. When this substance is consumed, it exhibits no symptoms except for sudden cardiac arrest and death, which occurs within ten to twenty hours after drinking even the smallest amount. You need to identify which bottle may be the one that has gone bad.

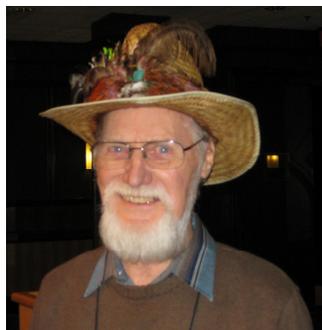
At your disposal are a number of animals about to be slaughtered for their meat to feed the folks at the reception. You consider that you might be able to use an eye dropper to put a drop of the wine from each bottle into the animal's mouth to see if the animal dies. However, you have a limited supply of animals and time. Because this seems to be more humane than normal slaughter methods, you decide to proceed. Assuming that the tiniest amount of the poisonous substance would kill the animal within 10 to 24 hours, how many animals would you need to be absolutely sure to find the bad bottle before the party starts?

This problem was derived from "The Emperor" problem at www.folj.com (hint and answer can be found there).

LATERAL THINKING

You see three people waiting at a bus stop on a very nasty, rainy, stormy night: a feeble elderly person about to die from the cold, an old friend who once saved your life, and the perfect partner you have been dreaming about. Your car has room for only one passenger, so who do you choose?

This also from www.folj.com



Bob Cox – Our soon-to-be RVC

I had a nice conversation with Bob Cox, who will be taking over as RVC and will be sending info for our monthly newsletter. Bob can be reached at bob.cox1@juno.com

FUNNY STUFF FROM THE WEB

-Even at a Mensa convention, someone is the dumbest person in the room.

-Intoxication is the euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

WHY IS...

... it called a "hot water heater"? Who heats hot water? Why not have a "cold" water heater?

... it we get "on" an airplane? Wouldn't it be better to get "in" it? ... there no other word for "Synonym"?

... there an "s" in "Lisp"?

... Braille on drive-through menus?

STANDING MONTHLY MEETINGS

We plan to hold our monthly meetings on the last Saturday of each month at 6pm, unless otherwise stated. At one of our recent meetings, it was agreed that we would try to find a location that was a little more conducive to meeting. Our April meeting was held at Asia Bistro and Seafood on the East side of Montgomery and was very nice, inexpensive, and quiet enough for us to talk without having to yell across a room. Until further notice, we will meet there during our monthly meetings. (NOTE: *May meeting will be held June 4th due to the May holiday*).

NOTE TO MENSANS REGARDING FAMILY MEMBERS

Please know that your families are welcome to attend all Mensa functions. Contrary to what some might think, most of our meetings are social gatherings where we talk about the same sorts of things that non-Mensa folks talk about. In fact, it is often difficult to tell who is a Mensa member and who is not. Some of our spouses regularly attend Mensa functions and enjoy it tremendously. Also, all of the youngsters in our families are considered by Mensa to be "Young Mensans", even if they are not members in their own right. This allows them to participate in any and all chapter activities without feeling like outsiders. This is especially important to our young Mensa members that have siblings and friends, and our older Mensa members that have grandkids, nieces and nephews, kids at home, etc.

That being said, if you are a Mensa member and have kids, grandkids, siblings, boyfriends, girlfriends, spouses, etc., that might like to go on a trip to the planetarium, air and space museum, day at the lake, symphony, or whatever else we might plan to do or that you think that we as a group might be interested in doing, please indicate that on the Mensa user preferences survey. If enough people are interested, we can begin planning some outings as early as June and can try to get group rates. And please, bring to the meetings!

Our survey is at <http://www.trustc3.com> and click on "SURVEYS"

Our eList is at <http://www.trustc3.com> and click on "ELISTS"

Our web page is at <http://www.montgomery-wiregrass.us.mensa.org>

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