

THE WIRE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Dates</i>	1
<i>From the LocSec</i>	1
<i>From the RVC</i>	1
<i>Member submission</i>	2
<i>Mensa Survey Results</i>	3

- **June 25th - 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

Welcome back:

Linda Lanier, Barry McKnight, and Ernest Smith.

Welcome to our area and group:

Brendon Arcuri and Allison Shelley



FROM THE LOCSEC

Greetings fellow Mensans. First, let me say that I deeply regret the location issue at our last monthly meeting location. Though we notified the Asia Bistro and Seafood managers that we would be having a meeting there, we were not notified that they had an issue and had to be closed on the day we met. We were forced to go next door to Sinclair's, which was not conducive to a proper meeting. Hopefully, this will not happen again. Our next schedule meeting is the last Saturday in June (June 25th) at 6pm at Asia Bistro and Seafood, 7839 Vaughn Road in Montgomery.

At our last meeting, one of the things we discussed was the fundraiser that was discussed in our last newsletter. Unfortunately, not enough volunteers came forward to make this a reality. After a short discussion, it was unanimously decided that we would not put on the fund raiser and would rather send a check for \$2,500 to the Governor's Emergency Relief Fund. As was mentioned last month, this fund was

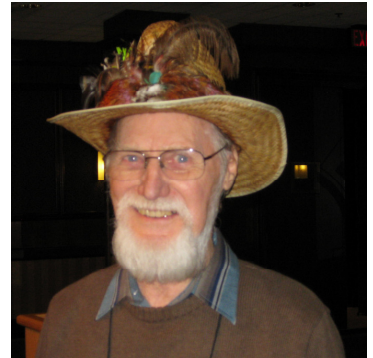
chosen rather than one of the National or International relief organizations (Red Cross, etc.) in order to keep the funds in Alabama. The GERF needs to be replenished as soon as possible or it will not be available to help our fellow citizens of Alabama should there be another disaster this year (Hurricane Season started 1 June).

There was one officer change as a result of the meeting. Once I send out this newsletter, I will be stepping aside as Newsletter Editor and Ms. Barbara Hoover will be taking over, with the assistance of others. Additionally, we will be formally participating in this year's scholarship activities with American Mensa.

That being said, there were some new faces at this month's dinner. We were pleased to have met David, Jerry & Jim, and one of our young Mensan's, Ms. Vanessa Robinson. Ms. Robinson is normally a resident student at a high school out of state, but was home with her family in Enterprise and was able to make our meeting, along with her mother. Also attending were Barbara Hoover and her husband, David, and their grandson, Destin (who brought his award-winning Pinewood Derby racecar), and the Akins (Bob and Laurel). We missed seeing our regulars, but trust they are well and will return to us soon.

In this month's issue of "The Wire", we have the first column from our new RVC, Bob Cox. We also have a submission from Vanessa Robinson and more. See you the 25th!

- Rodger Morrison (LocSec)



From The RVC By Bob Cox

As of July 1, I will be Regional Vice Chair of Region 5, the South East Region. I will take over from Nick Sanford who will be AMC Treasurer. There are twenty Local Groups (far more than in any other region) in the six South Eastern states excluding Florida. I will represent you the members, and the Local Groups on the AMC (the Board of Directors). I want to hear your ideas and your concerns. I will try to address them, and if need be, take them to the AMC. My main interest and responsibility will be encouraging and helping the Local Group officers in any way I can as they work to make the Mensa experience the best it can be for you.

We have had some recent changes of officers in the region. Amy Willburn is the new Editor of NorbaMensa, the newsletter of North Alabama Mensa. She takes over from Travis Harding. Barbara Hoover is the new Editor of The Wire, the newsletter of Montgomery/Wiregrass Mensa. Roger Morrison, the LocSec, has been acting as Editor. Be sure to say thank you to your officers. Without these volunteers, we would have no Mensa.

cont... "RVC Column" page 2

RVC Column (cont.)

Attention Mensan's
The number of Mensans in
our chapter has dropped
from last year. We
currently have 85 members.



NEWSLETTER HELP NEEDED

We 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.

RVC Column (cont.)

The big event for July is the Mensa Annual Gathering in Portland, Oregon. I hope to meet some of you there. The 2011 Sweet Home Alabama Regional Gathering will be August 12 – 14. Registration is \$55.00 in June and \$60.00 in July. There is a \$5.00 discount for Birmingham RG veterans. Send your registration today to Jan Kral, 1407 Ruby Drive, Pelham, AL 35124 or e-mail puzzler3@charter.net for more information. My wife and I have registered and hope to see you there.

The Newsletter Awards nominations have been announced. Our region received three. Neil Caesar of Piedmont Area Mensa received one for his poem "2010 AG Memories". Both Broadcast (French Broad Mensa) – Editor Michael Havelin, and PAMphlet (Piedmont Area Mensa) – Editor Brian Williams were nominated for Outstanding Newsletter – Small Groups. I am sure some of our CultureQuest® teams are winners and there may be other awards we receive. All winners will be announced at the AG in Portland and I will report them next month.

We are all concerned for those who have suffered from the tornados and floods around our region and especially our Mensa family. Enjoy Mensa! - Bob

Beauty

(by Vanessa Robinson)

They say that beauty comes from the inside,
 Healthy, with pride, it never can subside.
 But in reality, beauty is like Jekyll and Hyde,
 One side sweet, the other snide,
 Beauty on the inside with the out can't coincide,
 Out can be denied but in can have defied.
 But beauty can be to life applied,
 We, with our kindness can provide,
 Then, only then, may we truly feel pride,
 In the spirit that we've set astride.

But beauty can be seen with the eyes,
 All we must do is look to the skies.
 Nature is our greatest prize,
 We know just from seeing a single sunrise,
 And hearing the birds and distant wolf cries,
 And seeing ants crawl and knowing our size,
 And seeing a star reach its demise,
 That beauty does not have to take a guise,
 And true beauty can soar to reach new highs.

Or maybe, beauty comes from acceptance,
 Because we are too cut off by our arrogance.
 Problems never truly have absence,
 Because there is no acquaintance,
 We look on people in accordance,
 To what we have been taught in adolescence,
 Because we have adherence,
 To what is our alliance,
 We cannot make advance, or gain affluence,
 Then on purpose, disrupt the ambience,
 Provoking evanescence.

STANDING MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

We plan to hold our monthly meetings on the last Saturday of each month at 6pm, unless otherwise stated, at the Asia Bistro and Seafood, 7839 Vaughn Road in Montgomery. This location seems nice, inexpensive, and quiet enough for us to talk without having to yell across a room.

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!

MENSA SURVEY RESULTS

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. We sent out invitations by email and in our monthly newsletter. There were not as many responses as we would like, but we did get enough to give us some idea of where your thoughts were on what direction to take. In short, while some of our members would welcome the idea of outings and socializing as a group, many of our members also indicate that they are not much interested in the activities of the chapter and are members of Mensa for other reasons. Here are the questions we asked, along with the results:

(strongly disagree=1, disagree=2, no opinion=3, agree=4, strongly agree=5)

Average response in parenthesis

1. Mensa makes me feel good about myself (3.03)
2. Mensa looks good on my resume (2.53)
3. Mensa makes me look smart to others (2.53)
4. I am a member to socialize with other smart people (2.77)
5. I am a member for intelligent discussions (2.84)
6. I am a member to contribute to society through Mensa (2.31)
7. I am a member for chapter outings (2.47)
8. I don't care about being a member now, but did then (2.61)
9. I am a member for young Mensan activities (1.92)
10. I am a member for the national newsletter (2.93)
11. I am a member for the local newsletter (3.00)
12. I am a member for networking potential (2.53)
13. I am interested in chapter newsletter activities (2.84)
14. I am interested in eList activities (2.53)
15. I am interested in chapter website activities (2.70)
16. I am interested in a Planetarium outing (2.84)
17. I am interested in a Zoo outing (2.38)
18. I am interested in a Legislature Visit (2.61)
19. I am interested in an Art Museum outing (3.07)
20. I am interested in a Space Museum outing (3.00)
21. I am interested in a Naval Museum outing (2.46)
22. I am interested in a Monthly Dinner outing (3.07)
23. I am interested in a Theater outing (3.30)
24. I am interested in a Ballet outing (2.70)
25. I am interested in a Symphony outing (2.84)
26. I am interested in a Day at the Lake outing (2.61)
27. I am interested in a Baseball Game outing (2.23)
28. I am interested in Regional/National Gatherings (2.54)
29. I am interested in Think-Tank work (3.30)
30. I am interested in helping with scholarly research (2.46)
31. I am interested in fundraising for a good cause (2.23)

When asked what for opinions to improve our chapter, the following were among the comments (some comments removed if not related to the question, or if the identity of the respondent was apparent)

- More things to do throughout area, not just in Montgomery area.
- Distance and schedule are the main obstacles to my participation. If I were closer to Montgomery and had more free time, I would participate in the local Mensa chapter activities. *(some content removed here)* Until I am able to participate to a fuller extent, I give my thanks and regards to those that are keeping the Mensa chapters going and available.
- Meet on the east side of town more often.
- I have not attended any chapter meetings. *(some content removed here)* I'm busy like everyone else, and just haven't set aside the time to attend any chapter meetings. Thanks much for the very professional looking and informative newsletter, as well as your time and efforts for our Mensa Chapter
- Would like to see some mentorship for the Young Mensans and maybe some get together events for them. Maybe develop something for the Gifted Kids in/out of Mensa to increase membership and participation. *(some content removed here)*
- I am interested in outings with the group, but I feel that Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa comprises such a large geographic area that it will be difficult to achieve a high level of participation.
- I have no opinions on the local chapter at this time *(some content removed here)*.
- I feel good that I was able to become a Mensan (years ago) but I am definitely not a horn blower. If you are a member, it shows in all you do. That is why my survey did not provide for very many Mensan ID outings. *(some content removed here)* Again, as well as you can see from the survey, I am very interested and sometimes involved in governmental activities. *(some content removed here)* I think your last newsletter (and the survey idea) was great.
- *(some content removed here)* I have no new ideas.

CONCLUSIONS:

In looking at the types of outings that interested the respondents the most, it seems that going to see a play, going to the art museum, and perhaps going to the space museum interest folks the most. Though a planetarium outing is not high on the list, several people did indicate a desire to go. I have a contact at the Gayle Planetarium, near Jackson Hospital in Montgomery. If someone wants to contact them for an outing, I have a contact name. We do have some funds available to help with outings, but we need someone to plan and coordinate each of them. So, here it is... If someone wishes to volunteer to plan and coordinate an outing, please contact me as soon as possible.

My contact information is as follows:

Dr. Rodger Morrison
2476 Eastwood Blvd
Prattville, AL 36066

(334)224-0837 cell, or (334)285-2208 home
rodger.morrison.us@member.mensa.org

American Mensa Ltd.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103