

## The Wire

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### Mensa Dates

- 6:00 Meeting July 30 at Asia Bistro
- Next meeting August 27 at Asia Bistro

Editor  
Barbara Hoover  
[bjhoover71@gmail.com](mailto:bjhoover71@gmail.com)  
423-364-9242

### From The RVC By Bob Cox

I am writing this on a cruise to Alaska along thirty other Mensans. The cruise began the day after the Mensa Annual Gathering in Portland Oregon. There were over 2,000 Mensans there. Isn't Mensa great! Where else can you make so many friends?

Our region received several awards at the Awards Banquet. We had two of the Top 20 CultureQuest® winners. The Standard Deviants with Courtney Kyle as captain was in 7th place and received \$120. Carolina Brain Gang, Lewis Gosnell captain, came in 18th and received an award of \$70. Both were from Piedmont Area Mensa.

Chattanooga Mensa received an Honorable Mention for the Innovative Owl in recognition of outstanding membership retention. Piedmont Area Mensa again received the Group of the Year Award (GOTYA) in Group III, groups with between 200 and 399 members.

Christine Hinkle of North Alabama Mensa won the Leadership Development Competition for our region and received a \$50 gift certificate and her group will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for holding a Leadership Development event. Congratulations to all our winners.

Nexus, the newsletter of Upper East Tennessee Mensa has a new Editor, Linda Quillen, taking over from Jean-Marie Keursehner. David Stowell is now Editor of Memphis Mensa. Zarya Weinburger of Coastal Carolina Mensa will come back as Region 5 Scholarship Chair, taking over from me. James Francis of Memphis Mensa is stepping down as Region 5 Webmaster. The new Webmaster is Josh Lawton of Mensa in Georgia. A great big thanks to all these volunteers.

If you missed the Annual Gathering or just need a Mensa fix, we have something for you. Central Alabama Mensa is hosting Owlabama Blast in Birmingham August 12 - 14. Registration is \$60.00 until July 30, and then \$65.00. 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](mailto:puzzler3@charter.net) for more information.

Enjoy Mensa.

### WORDS FROM THE LOCAL SECRETARY

Greetings fellow Mensans,

I trust you have been enjoying your summer, even though the weather has been difficult for many of you. At our June meeting, we discussed the possibility of



meeting in different places around the chapter area. To that end, we would like to have a chapter dinner somewhere in the Dothan area in September. However, we need someone to coordinate arrangements for a place to meet and eat. If you are interested helping coordinate this, please don't hesitate to email me soon. We would like to announce the location in our August newsletter, so we would need someone fairly quickly. We would also like to have regular meetings in different areas (Auburn, Enterprise, etc.)

On a different note, if you would like to plan an outing for our group, please contact either me or the newsletter editor (Barbara Hoover) so we can work through some details. It doesn't matter what it is, as long as it would be enjoyable to Mensans. Additionally, if it is something that might be enjoyable by Mensans in our sister chapters, we would need enough notice time to get the word out to them. Some funds are available, depending on what it is.

My deepest thanks to Barbara Hoover, who has taken over the duties of Newsletter Editor.

There are no new members this month, but we did have a few come back that had left. To those, welcome back and we hope to see you at one of the monthly dinner meetings.

Rodger Morrison  
Local Secretary

### The Joke's on Me!

I have always had trouble telling jokes. I would try to share what, to me, was a hilarious story, only to be met with puzzled expressions on the faces of my audience.

Shortly after I married my husband, Bob, he assigned me the role of joke-master at our Toastmaster's club meeting, which meant I was expected to end our meeting by sharing a joke with the club.

Luckily, he also gave me some valuable advice. "The secret to telling a joke," he said, "is to make it personal, instead of telling about imaginary people. Don't say "a husband and wife," say "my husband and I"."

It worked! This is the story I told the club at that meeting and have used several times since then. Bob and I have a happy marriage and still feel like

newlyweds. We've only had one serious disagreement, which was about whose job it is to make coffee in the morning.

I said he should do it, because he gets up first. He said I should do it, because in our home, I am the chief cook (he's the chief bottle washer).

I told him, "Bob, in the Bible it says the husband is supposed to make the coffee."

He told me that if I could prove that, he would agree to make the coffee.

I opened a Bible and opened it, showing him my proof.

"Here's a whole book named 'He brews'!"

Now he brings me coffee in bed every morning.

Laurel Akin



## AG 2011 PORTLAND OREGON

by Jeri Jardine

We arrived several days early in order to enjoy the Oregon Coast and Portland itself. The Oregon coast is spectacular with rugged vistas at every turn of the coast highway. The beach towns vary from luxurious enclaves to touristy. Portland is a mix of hip very young citizens and older socially active ecological types mixed in with a lot of homeless. The food and wine scene is absolutely wonderful.

This is the 5th or 6th AG that we have attended in some ways they are all very similar but with enough differences that each maintains some degree of individually. The Hospitality Room is the gathering point where meals and snacks are served with whatever beverage service is available. In Portland after certain hours local wine and beer were available and included in the registration price. Soft drinks and bottled water were available at all times. The meals were served buffet style and were hearty with ample amounts of food. Certain days the meal service was limited but was announced far in advance. The local group worked very hard to give a local touch to the hospitality room with local specialties like "Voodoo Donuts" and local Bagels. Voodoo Donuts has a huge Portland following. Their specialty is a zombie donut which is a bar shaped like a person with its hands in the air and a pretzel through its

chest with a grimace on its "face" and raspberry filling which is said to simulate blood when you bite into it. It was really cute. There was a long line waiting at every Voodoo Donut store that we saw.

The Hospitality Room is where people meet and socialize all during the AG. There were after hours social area but I can't comment on them as we did not go there. In the Hospitality Room the tables were large which encouraged us to join others and meet new friends. As one would expect there were as many interesting conversations as there were interesting people attending from all walks of life.

The programs were varied and usually were about 1-1 1/2 hours in length. The subjects ranged from Pornography to Local Groups issues, medical and scientific topics. There were about 6 choices for each time slot which made decision making difficult. The program presenters were professionals in the area of expertise that they spoke on. The extremely popular author Jean Auel who wrote "Clan of the Cave Bear" and is a member of Oregon Mensa gave an extremely popular presentation attended by an overflow crowd. The presenters always entertained questions. There were special areas and programs for the younger members. There were also tours of the various areas of interest in the area. These were

available for sign up prior to the main event and appeared to have sold out.

The Game room was quite popular. There were several presentations by Mensans including the very popular Mr. Mensa and Sing A Longs. Mensa Crafters brought their crafts and they were for sale in the Mensa Marketplace. The items appeared to be of high quality.

We did not attend any of the luncheons or dances or anything of that type so we cannot comment on them.

One could attend an AG for little more than registration, hotel and travel costs as food and drink are available at the majority of times and are included in the registration price. The hotel prices were quite reasonable

Oregon Mensa did an excellent job organizing and putting together and all together enjoyable experience...

Over 2,000 people attended the Annual Gathering in Portland, OR.



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## National Mensa News

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Two of American Mensa's publications efforts have recently received international awards.

The Mensa Foundation's Mensa for Kids Web team has been recognized with a 2011 APEX Grand Award in the category of Electronic & Video Publications (Nonprofit/Small Office subcategory). Specifically, the award was given for the site's online activity and lesson plans. According to the judges' comments, they were impressed by the "brilliant lesson plans -- wonderfully written and illustrated, and crafted to get students involved."

In addition, the Mensa Bulletin received an APEX Award of Excellence in the Most Improved Magazines & Journals category. The Bulletin was recognized with another association award in the same such category earlier this year.

APEX 2011 -- the 23rd Annual Awards for Publication Excellence -- is an international competition that recognizes outstanding communications activities in all media. Of the more than 3,300 entries to this year's competition, just 100 Grand Award winners were selected in 11 major categories; winners included the Disney Company, Sandia National Laboratories, Lockheed Martin, Kohl's and Merrill Lynch. An additional 957 APEX Awards of Excellence recognize excellence in 130 subcategories.

To view and download the lesson and activity plans, visit the Parent/Teacher Resources section at [www.mensaforkids.org](http://www.mensaforkids.org).

- Julie Boone

## Interested in playing Mind Games®?

Individually, you are of course heartily encouraged to register for Mind Games 2012 at [www.mindgames.us.mensa.org](http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org); the event will take place April 20-22 in Herndon, Va. But if your whole group wants to play, consider hosting the annual event! The RFPs for Mind Games 2013 will be available later this month and due back to the National Office in late November. Email [CatherineB@americanmensa.org](mailto:CatherineB@americanmensa.org) for more information.

**Mensa Education & Research Foundation** is hosting Colloquium 2012: Bioterrorism Strikes HOME, A comprehensive examination of the vulnerabilities of the U.S. Food Supply.

May 4-6, 2012 at the Doubletree by Hilton Overland Park - Corporate Woods, 10100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210-1462 (913-451-6100) \$99-S/D, \$109-T; \$119 - Q; room rates guaranteed through Jan. 27, 2012. Visit [www.colloquium.us.mensa.org](http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org) for more information and registration materials.





Mensans around town! The group at Sinclairs on Vaughn Road for the May 2011 Mensa meeting.

Top left - Vanessa, Christiana and Laurel

Top right - Bob, Rodger and Jim

Bottom - Barbara, Destin, Jim, Jeri and David



- **Owlabama Blast 2011 - August 12-14** - For more information and registration about the RG in Birmingham, go to mensa.org, attend, events calendar, and owlabama blast.
- **Hymn Sing & Covered Dish Dinner Gathering - August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00** - David and Barbara Hoover's house in Montgomery. For more information and to RSVP call - 423-364-9242.
- **Jazz in the Grass - Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>**. River Walk Amphitheater, Montgomery. Details to be announced.
- **Atlanta Peachtreat XXXVI RG September 23-25** <http://mensaingeorgia.org/rg2011/index.html>
- **Montgomery Riverwalk Wine Festival - Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 1:00pm until 4:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$25 per person. For more info: <http://riverwalkwinefestival.com/>
- **Wine Fest Cruise - Saturday, Oct. 8.** The Cruise will take place after the Wine Festival and will start boarding at 4:30 p.m. The boat will cruise from 5 - 6:30 p.m. It will be \$20/ticket without a Festival ticket and \$10 with a Festival ticket. For more info: <http://riverwalkwinefestival.com/>
- **Alabama Shakespeare Festival Backstage Tours** - Let me know if you're interested in signing up. I'm starting a list and will set a date when we have enough people. Thanks! Barbara (email on front page)