

THE WIRE



WIREGRASS MENSA

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2012

LEAP into an important international leadership role!

Would you like to share your Mensa successes with other members around the world? Through Mensa International's Leadership Exchange Ambassador Program (LEAP), Leadership Ambassadors reprise a role they have taken in their local or national groups as a way of sharing best practices.

Through a competitive application process, American Mensa's Leadership Development Committee is looking for applicants and leadership workshops that best show innovation, originality and creativity through topics most likely to appeal to both American and international members.

Applicants must prepare and upload a preview (5 to 10 minutes) of their leadership workshop to YouTube. Applicants will be judged on ability to educate, motivate and entertain through a workshop that is clearly presented, logical (with examples), concise and memorable.

American Mensa will choose up to six (with possibly one runner-up) Mensans for the

pool of global applicants. The international LEAP Committee will then choose six finalists to travel to two major events (the Annual Gathering in Reno, Nev., July 4-8, 2012, and the Asian AG in September) to present their leadership workshops.

The best candidates for LEAP will express their interest in international leadership through criteria including the following:

- Achievement of a major goal or ongoing, active volunteerism on the national group level.
- Past participation in at least one major international event.
- English fluency and other language skills.
- Awareness of cultural differences or experience in

cross-cultural learning or business.

Presentation materials to be prepared and distributed to the national publication, the *International Journal* and an individual report to the International Board of Directors at their 2012 meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with optional further distribution through other media such as forum discussions and podcasts.

Application packages must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. CST, Feb. 15, 2012. International LEAP finalists will be notified by

March 25. Get more details and an application package at www.us.mensa.org/LEAPprogram or by contacting LEAP Coordinator Ben Nemenoff at LEAP@us.mensa.org.

Looking for contributions from Wiregrass Mensa members!

- ARTICLES
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- STORIES
- ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME!

BARBARA HOOVER

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WIREGRASS MENSA

MENSA FOUNDATION AWARDS NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

The Mensa Foundation is accepting your award nominations - especially if the best person for the award is yourself!

- The Copper Black Award is given for a Mensan's specific creative achievement that has been patented or otherwise demonstrated to be of practical value, or for an innovation that has been implemented, at least in part, to the advantage of persons other than the nominee. The award does not recognize achievements in the arts.
- The Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes a teacher, professor or instructor at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member or on that of a dependent. Nominations are accepted only from members in good standing of American Mensa, Ltd.
- The Intellectual Benefits Award recognizes a Mensan's application of intellectual abilities that result in tangible benefit to society. Innovative activities relevant for consideration include education programs for employees; client or business associate education programs; programs designed to educate the public; and intellectual research and development. These activities may be paid or unpaid. Consideration is given to the number of individuals impacted.

The deadline for these award nominations is Thursday, March 1. Make your nominations online in the Programs section at www.mensafoundation.org, or call 888/294-8035 ext. 5577 for more information.



TIME TO RENEW
YOUR MENSA
MEMBERSHIP!
CONSIDER
BECOMING A
LIFETIME MEMBER!

MEMBERS CAN RENEW
ONLINE AT
WWW.US.MENSA.ORG/
RENEW OR BY CALLING
888/294-8035 EXT. 199
TOLL FREE DURING
REGULAR BUSINESS
HOURS. OUR MEMBER
SERVICES TEAM STANDS
READY TO ASSIST!

2012 CULTURE QUEST



Register now for 2012
CultureQuest*

Set your calendars and
round up your trivia buffs -
the 2012 CultureQuest*
competition will take place
on Sunday, April 29.

You can register online at
[www.us.mensa.org/
culturequest](http://www.us.mensa.org/culturequest) - select Cul-
tureQuest Registration
from the left menu.
Downloadable rules and
registration forms are also
available on that page.
Online registration can be
made until 11:59 p.m. cen-
tral time, Saturday, March
31. Team changes must be
received via email by that
date as well.

We hope you will join us

this year! Who knows!
Your team could make it in
the Top 20 and win money
for your Local Group! For
more information on Cul-
tureQuest, contact the CQ
Chair Dean Howard at [Cul-
tureQuest@us.mensa.org](mailto:CultureQuest@us.mensa.org).

For registration informa-
tion or changes to your
registration, please contact
[Local-
Groups@americanmensa.org](mailto:LocalGroups@americanmensa.org)



CULTURE QUEST
NOW!

BENEFITS SPOTLIGHT: TRAVEL TIME!

Planning to attend the AG, Colloquium or any other Mensa event this year? Or do you have a new year's resolution to get out more? American Mensa has partnered with the YTB Travel Network to provide an entire Web site, www.us.mensa.org/travel, to handle all of your travel-related needs. At this fully integrated site, you can:

- Book your flight, hotel and car for any trip;
- Search for cruise deals,

international vacation packages and last-minute getaways;

- Process online flight check-in;
- Track traveler health advisories, passport requirements and airport delays;
- Sign up for a weekly "deals & steals" e-newsletter;
- Purchase flowers and concert tickets; and even
- Set up a honeymoon travel registry.

Created to cater specifically to the needs of association members, the YTB Travel Network is a subgroup of a large, internationally known travel Web site. And here's a great side benefit: Not only can you take care of all your travel arrangements in one location, but every time something is purchased through www.us.mensa.org/travel, American Mensa receives a portion of the commissions paid. So when you need to travel, now you know where to start. Enjoy your trips!



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JOIN MENSA IN JANUARY AND ENJOY 15 MONTHS OF MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PRICE OF 12

You read that correctly. If you join or rejoin Mensa now through March 31, you'll pay the yearly dues (\$63) and enjoy your Mensa membership through March 31, 2013! Beyond the networking and friend-

ship opportunities, Mensa offers members continued learning opportunities; exclusive events, talks and gatherings; and discounts on everything from travel to magazine subscriptions. You can actually save

money by joining! Join or rejoin today by visiting www.us.mensa.org/join or www.us.mensa.org/renew, respectively, or by calling **888-294-8035, ext. 199**.

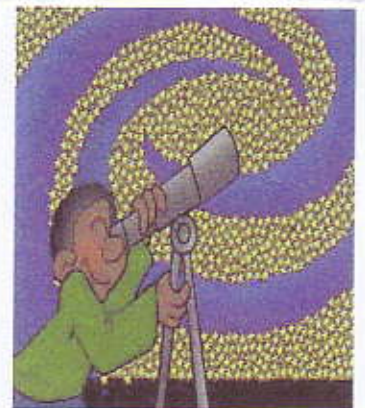
BE SURE TO LET YOUR FRIENDS KNOW NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER OF MENSA!

Who is currently identified as gifted in the United States? - The Huffington Post

Today, lots of different definitions of giftedness exist. This wasn't always the case. Prior to 1972, practically every school used one criterion and one criterion only to identify giftedness: an IQ cut-off of 130. This criterion was heavily influenced by the pioneering work of Lewis Terman, who equated high IQ

with genius. Then the first federal definition of giftedness came along in 1972, which was undoubtedly an important step forward. Noting that only a small percentage of the 1.5 to 2.5 million gifted school children were actually benefiting from special education services, former U.S. Commissioner of Educa-

tion Sidney P. Marland, Jr. proposed a broadened definition that went beyond just IQ to also include specific academic and creative aptitudes. That report was important in its broadening of giftedness. *More...* http://www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-harry-kaufman/who-is-currently-identifi_b_1184076.html



**UPCOMING
WIREGRASS
EVENTS**

**JANUARY 28
AT 6:00
ASIA BISTRO,
MONTGOMERY, AL**

**FEBRUARY MEETING
IN AUBURN, AL**

**DATE AND TIME TO
BE ANNOUNCED**

**VALENTIME RG
FEBRUARY 10-12
IN DESTIN, FL

HOSTED BY
NORTHWEST
FLORIDA'S
MENSA**

**2012 CultureQuest®
competition
Sunday, April 29
Destin, FL**

WIREGRASS MENSA

From The RVC by Bob Cox

I have just returned from Huntsville where North Alabama Mensa held a Leadership Development Workshop. It was very well organized and presented thanks to Christina Hinkle and Shirley Sims-Shepard. About 30 people attended. Our Local Group leaders and future leaders need training if we are to have vital groups. I hope we can have two more LDWs during my term. Ideally, one should be in the northeast and one in the southwest of the region, to allow the greatest number of members to attend.

We have some new officers in our region. Scott Stevens has taken over from Jason Wishnant as LocSec of French Broad Mensa. Shirley Sims-Shepard is the new LocSec of North Alabama Mensa as Kelly Mc Cauley steps down.

In October we celebrated Mensa's 65th Anniversary, which we called Mensa Brill-

iant. There was a competition among groups involving the number of test sessions and related activities during the month. The results are out and we had a number of winners in Region 5. The Diamond level winners were Memphis Mensa, Mensa of Eastern North Carolina, and Middle Tennessee Mensa. Those groups each received \$65.00 and their promotional team got special edition "Brilliant" T-shirts. Piedmont Area Mensa was one of only three groups to win a Gold level award. They got \$50.00. Mississippi Mensa received \$25.00 and a Silver award. Congratulations to these groups.

It is time to be getting your teams together for CultureQuest®. The competition will be on Sunday, April 29. Registration and team changes must be received by March 31. Go to www.us.mensa.org/culturequest to download rules and

registration forms. CultureQuest® is trivia on steroids and sometimes called "our annual humiliation." Teams are of up to five members and you can have as many teams as you like. There is a \$40.00 team fee which the local group pays. The money is shared between the 20 highest scoring teams. Give it a try this year and you will be hooked.

There is still time to get to Destin for Northwest Florida Mensa's ValenTime RG February 10 -12. Contact Registrar John Mochan at [850-585-3194](tel:850-585-3194) or jmochan@cox.net.

Some of the regions have a Regional Facebook. Region 5 does not. If you would be interested in leading one, please contact me. Enjoy Mensa.

DECEMBER MEETING IN TROY



We had a great time and welcomed some new folks.

Be sure to join us at the Asia Bistro in Montgomery on the 28th of January at 6:00 p.m.

<http://www.asiabistroal.com/>



Asia Bistro has great lettuce wraps!



BE SURE TO SEND ME PHOTOS, ARTICLES, STORIES AND OTHER THINGS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

BARBARA

