

July, 2013
Vol. 3, No. 2



Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa



The Wire - the Newsletter of the Montgomery-Wiregrass Group of American Mensa, Ltd.

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Calendar

Monthly meetings on the fourth Saturday at 6 pm at the usual place, Montgomery's Asian Bistro. Check the website and/or Facebook for occasional changes. July or August may well be elsewhere!

August 9 - 11, Central Alabama Mensa hosts the RG Owlabama Blast at the Embassy Suites in Birmingham. Check the website for a link to the flier, or in recent email.

Election Results: Chair – Daniel Burg is declared elected with 59.6%. 1st Vice Chair – Heather Miller Poirier is declared elected with 64.5%. 2nd Vice Chair – LaRae Bakerink is declared elected with 41.7% and 53.9%. Secretary – Brian Reeves is declared elected with 56.2%. Treasurer – Nicholaus Sanford is declared elected with 69.6%. Finally, RVC 5 – Baker Ring is declared elected 52.1%. Both Bylaw amendments succeeded by comfortable margins.

LOCSEC : A warm welcome to our new member, Jared Morris of Montgomery who met with us at the Asia Bistro on the 22nd. At this meeting we discussed various other possible meeting places in the southern parts of the state. A scouting party will check out possibilities in Enterprise and Dothan.

From The RVC by Bob Cox

This will be my last RVC column. My term ends on July 1st. I don't know who will write next month's column. That will be up to you. The ballots must be in by the end of May. I have enjoyed being your RVC, serving on the AMC and writing a monthly column, but I am ready to retire. By my calculation, I have written 261 monthly columns either as Editor, LocSec or RVC.

Mensa has lost a dear friend. Gary Porter, better know to us as Skinner, founder of Hells Mensans, passed away in April. There won't be as many awards given at the Annual Gathering this year. A Task Force is working on revamping many of them and they will be back next year. One award has already been presented. The Margot Award is the only award given by the AMC and is the highest award given by AML. This award is not given every year. There have only been 37 recipients. The Margo Award was presented to Skinner shortly before his death.

There will be two new scholarships next year. One will be the Skinner Hell's M Memorial Scholarship. The other will be the Charlotte Duggar Memorial Nursing Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a nursing graduate going for a higher degree and will only be for Region 5. Bunny Warsh of South Coast Mensa has given funding for this award in memory of her mother. However, with current low interest rates, more will be needed for it to be given in perpetuity. Please give to these two scholarships and to the Foundation in general. Donations are tax deductible.

We have some new LocSecs in our region this month. Les Bays takes over Upper East Tennessee Mensa from Pat Goyle. Barbara Ward heads North Alabama Mensa as Shirley Sims-Shepard steps down. My thanks to these volunteers and all the others I have worked with over the past two years who make Mensa better for all of us.

Enjoy Mensa.

From the Editor: After seeing on the MS website, that the latest (cheapest) version of MS Office will not include Publisher, and hearing from another group of the difficulty this presents (.pub files won't import into Word), your editor decided he would have to learn to produce the newsletter using Word. It's an issue on this XP machine because I will have to update by next spring and Office 2003 will not run on Windows 7. You've probably heard how much I despise Word, my being an old WordPerfect afficianado. So, a reformat and much research later, we are underway again. For the time being, the format will much simpler.

Now to determine the method of hard copy publishing. One service will print, fold, label but won't deal with the post office. One does not want anything but bulk rate work (not us – not enough of us). Another won't copy and wants twice as much, plus postage.

Did you know you can read the newsletters of other groups on the U.S. Mensa website? Some of them are quite ambitious operations. Did you know that website has a how-to manual for the production of newsletters? I have built a format for this newsletter that includes everything required and recommended for newsletters. My scheme is to build the .pdf online and email version first with any photos and graphics therein. Then I will take out graphics to make a lesser expensive version for mailing. The newsletter handbook dates from 2003 but explains well the purposes of the newsletter. In times before internet, the local newsletter and the national magazine were the only methods to communicate with the members. Even now, local groups are required to regularly publish a printed newsletter to each member who does not opt for an email version.

Here and There: The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is excited to announce its U.S. scholarship winners for 2012-2013. More than 9,400 applications were received from students in the first year of online scholarship submissions, with students competing for 176 scholarship awards worth more than \$78,000.

The Mensa Foundation's college scholarship program is unique in that it bases its awards solely on applicant essays. **The next application period opens on Sept. 15.**

Volunteers with 97 Mensa Local Groups participated in the scholarship program, and each of their local winners will receive a Karen Cooper or Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$300. In all, winners came from 43 states including Alaska and Hawaii. The top states in number of winners were California, Florida, New York, Texas and Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to all of the winners for their scholarship awards and to the Mensa volunteers for their time and efforts. To view the winners, go to <http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships>, click on the Scholarship Winners link and then access the U.S. submenu.