



**Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa  
Contact Information**

Local Secretary (LocSec) & Proctor: *Christiane Robinson*  
[germantrans1@roadrunner.com](mailto:germantrans1@roadrunner.com) (334) 389-0363

Deputy Local Secretary: *Laurel Akin*  
[laurel36330@gmail.com](mailto:laurel36330@gmail.com) (334) 347-5336

Newsletter Editor and Treasurer: *Bob Akin*  
[bob36330@gmail.com](mailto:bob36330@gmail.com) (334) 347-5336

Webmaster: *Brent Howard Gourley*  
[bgryl@comcast.net](mailto:bgryl@comcast.net) (334) 792-0354  
<http://www.montgomery-wiregrass.us.mensa.org>

Testing Coordinator and Proctor: *Bob Akin*  
[bob36330@gmail.com](mailto:bob36330@gmail.com) (334) 347-5336

Scholarship Chair: *Charles Anderson Hightower*  
[alwrite.charles@gmail.com](mailto:alwrite.charles@gmail.com) (334) 271-5576

Assistant Scholarship Chair: *Carter deShazo*  
[carterdeshazo@gmail.com](mailto:carterdeshazo@gmail.com) (334)332-8207

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

August 27 — *Venditori's Italian Restaurant*  
2575 Hilton Garden Drive, Auburn, AL  
September 24 — *Taj Indian Restaurant*  
3102 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan, AL  
October 22 — *Venue To Be Determined*

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**DO YOU LIKE COLOR**

This issue of *The Wire* is being delivered by USPS in living Black and White. It is also available in millions of colors (Microsoft's term, not mine) on the MWM Web site, <http://www.montgomery-wiregrass.us.mensa.org>. The 45 MWM members who opted for electronic delivery are receiving a full color email copy. Other members can have this service by advising American Mensa at <http://www.us.mensa.org> that they elect to receive Electronic Communications.

**Words from Christiane, our Loc Sec**

Greetings fellow Mensans,

We're in the midst of Alabama's hottest summer weather. Don't melt in the heat And stay safe everybody!



As of July 31, our group had ninety-two members. Two new members joined our Chapter in July. Welcome to our group, Christian and Joel, and we hope to see you at one of the monthly dinner meetings.

Speaking of which, our usual meeting time and place is the fourth Saturday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at places yet to be determined, usually in Troy or Montgomery, occasionally elsewhere. Check our website (<http://www.montgomery-wiregrass.us.mensa.org>) or our Facebook page for updates.

In other news, we hosted a testing session on June 18 at the Enterprise Public Library. Thank you, Bob, for administering the admission tests. Also, Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa is going to continue to participate in the Mensa Foundation scholarship program. The Mensa Foundation scholarship program is an essay contest that is open to all students who reside within the boundaries of a participating Local Group of American Mensa and who are enrolled in a U.S. college or university in the academic year following the award. Applicants write 550-word essays that describe their educational and/or career goals. Scholarship Chair for Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa in the 2016-2017 Scholarship Program is Charles Hightower. Assistant Scholarship Chair is Carter deShazo. Thank you, Charles and Carter, for taking on this role!

As you may be aware, American Mensa is changing one of the admission tests used to qualify candidates for membership. In the near future, American Mensa will be retiring the Mensa Admission Test (MAT) and adopting the Reynolds Adaptable Intelligence Test (RAIT). Both of the proctors of Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa, Bob Akin and I, have completed the training, passed the quiz, and are now certified to administer the RAIT exam.

We are going to have a Mensa Game Day on Saturday, September 17th, from 4-6pm. One of our members, Mandi Buckalew, generously offered to host this Game Day at her

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**EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER**

Opinions expressed herein are those of the writer — not of Mensa nor the editor unless he is the author. Anyone with an opposing or supporting view is encouraged to respond, and to include any other submissions to [editor.the.wire@gmail.com](mailto:editor.the.wire@gmail.com), Robert Akin, 104 Windwood Lane, Enterprise, AL 36330.

MEMBERS: Send address changes to American Mensa Ltd., and include your new phone number,

**OUR RVC (BAKER RING) SPEAKS**

I'm writing this as I am on a train leaving the San Diego Annual Gathering. This AG was the largest one ever. The last number I heard was around 2500 people. They may change a bit, but, nevertheless, it was a lot of folks. For many people, this was their first AG and it was spectacular. In addition to the large number of programs, this year there were 3 speakers of note.

The Sunday Brunch speaker was Richard Lederer, a noted author and monthly Bulletin columnist. Richard's talks are always amusing and enlightening. Friday nights banquet speaker was actor Wil Wheaton; whose son is a Mensan. Wil talked about being a nerd and how it affected his life. He also discussed his struggles with depression and anxiety and reminded people that if they had these issues that they needed to seek assistance and that they were not alone. So true.

Thursday night's speaker, Walter O'Brien, spoke to a full house on the Ballroom. He was entertaining and informative. As you may know, Walter is the person behind the TV series "Scorpion". Walter was great to talk with one on one and getting to meet him gives me a new appreciation of the show.

The Awards presentation brought a few our way. The Culture Quest team from Charlotte/Blue Ridge took 4<sup>th</sup> place, Mensa of Eastern North Carolina, placed 12<sup>th</sup>, and Piedmont Area Mensa tied for 15<sup>th</sup>. Bertie Clarke of Mensa in Georgia, received the Proctor of the Year Award! South Mississippi Mensa received an award for retaining the most members (97%). Congratulations to each of these winners.

In the Jewel Awards, Emerald Awards went to: Mensa in Georgia and South Mississippi Mensa. A Ruby Award went to South Coast Mensa, and Sapphire Awards were awarded to: North Alabama, Middle Tennessee, and Smoky Mountains Mensans.

**Happy Birthday Wishes.**

Lawrence A. Gobrecht	August 7
Matthew Adcock	August 11
James M. Nelson	August 24
Dr. James P. Golson	August 29
Barry McKnight	September 1
Amanda Buckalew	September 14
Laurel O. Akin	October 5
Matthew G. Thompson	October 8
Michelle L. Waters	October 22
Ellen Rotfeld	October 26
Riley Durant	October 29

List may be incomplete because 37 MWM members have restricted information as to date of birth.

**Membership Anniversaries in August**

Robert B. Eaton	1 year
Jason Karnes	4 years
Henry John Kravec	30 years
Hunter Savell	1 year
Michele L. Waters	1 year

**Membership Anniversaries in September**

Jason B. Grice	1 year
SSgt Onastasia Gunlogson	7 years
Margaret Shannon Hollis	33 years
Casimir Christian Lukjan	11 years
John Simmons, Jr.	1 year

**Membership Anniversaries in October**

Laurel O. Akin	13 years
Dr. James P. Golson	21 years
Brent Howard Gourley	14 years
Jay Lewis, Esq.	1 year
Christopher S. Morgan	2 years
Jared Morris	4 years
Jack Patel	2 years
Taj Patel	3 years

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## Words from Christiane, our Loc Sec

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bakery Cakeapotamus, at 2213 Pepperell Pkwy in Opelika. The event is open to ALL members of Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa and their families, the young AND the young at heart. The bakery has tables and chairs for 20 people and there will be plenty of toys around for littles. Thank you so much for hosting the event, Mandi, and can't wait to meet you and your family.

If you haven't done already, please consider joining us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/125746080857981/>. We usually announce specifics (date/location) of our monthly meetings on our FB page as well as other news and tidbits related to (and sometimes not so related to) our group.

Please consider joining us for our monthly dinner meetings.

Take care everybody and hopefully see you soon.

Christiane Robinson  
Loc Sec

## REPEATED APPEAL FROM OUR LOC SEC

We are still looking for a member to fill the position of Gifted Youth Coordinator. Please let me know if you're interested in this position. There are many services Mensa and the Mensa Foundation offers Young Mensans. Additionally, many of the benefits for Young Mensans are available to the children of Mensa members. As we parents of gifted children well know, there are also numerous other Mensa non-related programs out there to help our children learn and grow. I have extensive personal experience with regard to the following programs and organizations: Davidson Institute of Talent Development (<http://www.davidsongifted.org/>), Duke Talent Identification Program (<https://tip.duke.edu/>), Stanford University Education Program for Gifted Youth (<http://epgy.stanford.edu/>), and SENG Supporting Emotional Needs for the Gifted (<http://sengifted.org/>). Please don't hesitate and ask me questions about these programs and organizations.

## OUR RVC (BAKER RING) SPEAKS

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Join us at the end of September in Atlanta as we show up for the Peachtreat 2016 RG, September 23-25 in Atlanta. Check out at: <http://georgia.us.mensa.org/RG2016/RGinfo.html> for more information and a registration form. This year's theme is "A2Z" "Zombie to Apocalypse".

October is Mensa Testing Month and most of our local groups will be conducting testing. During October, the cost of testing is \$20. Half off the regular price! If you know someone, or have a family member who is interested in taking the test, this is the time to do it. If you've ever considered being a Proctor, contact your local group's Testing Coordinator and find out what you need to do to get certified.

Thank you to Bertie Clarke, of Mensa in Georgia for agreeing to serve as Region 5 Scholarship Chair again. That is a huge job and I appreciate Bertie and all of her crew for the work that they did last year. The Scholarship program is an important part of Mensa's mission. More than \$87,000 in scholarships are awarded each year. This year, many of the scholarships have increased in dollar amount. Scholarships are available to students who are seeking a college degree. There are some scholarships for members of Mensa and their dependents. Scholarship applications are available September 15. You can find more information at: <http://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>

If you read this before August 31, you can still register for the 2017 AG at the Early Bird rate. If it's September, the rate will have increased by just \$15. This rate is good until Jan. 31, 2017. Remember, in order to register at the beautiful host hotel, The Diplomat Resort, you must be registered for the AG. Hotel registration will open November 1.

New Orleans Mensa will be hosting the December AMC meeting in conjunction with their RG, NORGY 2016. It takes place December 9-11. If you attend, you get an RG and an AMC meeting, two for the price of one! As a bonus, it's in New Orleans!

I will be attending the AMC meeting in September in Dallas and will report on it in next month's newsletter.

ADVENTURES OF TWO OF OUR OWN — TAJ PATEL and CARTER deSHAZO

Competing in Grand against seven competitors at the Gulf Coast Karate Classics - Mississippi Karate Association - Taj Patel won the 2016 Youth Grand Champion award. He won his first Black Belt and was also awarded the Junior Male competitor of the Year distinction at the Isshinryu Hall of Fame Awards banquet.

Carter deShazo represented all of us at the 2016 Annual Gathering in San Diego, California. She generously provided some photo she took. A few are reproduced here.



**American Mensa Ltd**  
**1229 Corporate Drive West**  
**Arlington, TX 6006-6103**

**Newsletter Editor**  
**Bob Akin, 104 Windwood Lane**  
**Enterprise, AL 36330-8260**  
**bob36330@gmail.com**