



**Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa
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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

May 23, 2020
Mr. Gus' Ristorante
6268 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery

June 27, 2020
Venditori's Italian Restaurant
2572 Hilton Garden Drive, Auburn

July 25, 2020
Mossy Grove Schoolhouse Restaurant
1841 AL Highway 87, Troy

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COVID-19 Quarantine-wise Special Edition

Words from Steve, our Loc Sec

Hello everyone!

This may be the shortest column I've written yet as LocSec considering we didn't have very good attendance at our last two meetings for obvious reasons. Yes, that's a bad attempt at humor. I hope everyone has been in good health and is coping with the situation from which we will recover and be stronger than ever.



Please keep your fingers, toes, legs, and eyes crossed that we can meet on Saturday May 23rd at 6:00 PM at Mr. Gus' Ristorante in Montgomery. Naturally, their business has fallen on hard times like so many others; however, I spoke with their General Manager recently who said they're going to be fine. Their take-out and curbside business has been good. The tentative plan is to have our Saturday June 27th meeting at Venditori's in Auburn and our Saturday July 25th meeting in Troy at the Mossy Grove School House. I'll post the remainder of our 2020 meetings in the next newsletter. I had to juggle the schedule slightly to avoid football games in Auburn and Troy this autumn. Both schools cooperated with us by scheduling "bye" weeks on our normal meeting dates in September and October. Isn't that nice of them?

We still need someone to fill the role of Assistant Local Secretary. It requires very little time and effort. If you are interested in serving—and you know you are—please let me know. Our thanks again to Ken Sullivan for transitioning into our "The Wire" newsletter editor position—a position that Bob Akin has beautifully performed for several years. We can't thank each of you enough!

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed three new members and two renewals into Montgomery Wiregrass Mensa. As of this writing (4/23/2020), we have 97 members!

We hope to see many more of you at our monthly dinner gatherings once they resume. Please watch our Montgomery Wiregrass Mensa Facebook group. If you're not on Facebook and would like updated meeting information as warranted, please call or text me at 636-346-3522 or email at swknuckles@aol.com.

That's it from here for now.

Take care!

Loc Sec Steve

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

This COVID-19 Special Edition is being distributed only by electronic means. Quarantine requirements make it impractical to do otherwise. When all travel restrictions and need for PPE have been lifted, travel to Office Depot for printing and to the post office for mailing will again be a consideration. In the interim there will be no distribution using USPS facilities.

This issue of "The Wire" is being sent to all members who have registered an email address with American Mensa even if they expressed a desire to receive printed copies.

When the new editor takes the realm decisions concerning personal safety will be his, not mine.

Robert Akin, editor.the.wire@gmail.com

GIFTED YOUTH

No input received for this newsletter

**OUR RVC (NANCY CAMPBELL) SPEAKS**

There is an ancient Chinese curse that goes, “May you live in interesting times!” Well, these last two months can certainly be called “interesting,” and I think that the next two will be “interesting,” too. I’m referring to the pandemic COVID-19, of course. The widespread practice of quarantine has been met by different people in different ways. Italians are gathering on their balconies, singing and encouraging each other across the narrow streets. Here in my neighborhood, as the weather warms, more and more people are sitting out on their porches, waving and chatting to those who walk by, carefully sitting six to ten feet away if they choose to stop and chat for a few minutes. Neighbors say, “I’m going to the grocery store. Can I pick up anything for you?” We seem to have found a camaraderie in getting through this together. Myself, I look at this as a Gift of Free Time! There are so many little projects that I have put off because I was too busy – and suddenly, there are no events to go to, no appointments to keep, no mind-numbing meetings to sit through. Think I’ll take a walk and see how that cute new neighbor on the porch three houses down is doing <grin.> Mensa is an all-volunteer group. From the Chair of the Board, through your LocSec, all the way down to the gal who hosts the monthly restaurant meeting, we are all volunteers (not counting the twenty-some people who slave away in the National Office, so that our newsletter labels get printed, the rosters stay updated, etc.) That means this, folks: if you have even the slightest urge to help out on the local,



regional, or national level, please let someone know. position is vacant in your local group. Volunteer as the local program chair, or proctor trainee, or whatever position is vacant in your local group. Just as important, if there is some event you would like to see happening in your local group, such as a games night, trivia night, gourmet group, Opera SIG, etc., then volunteer to host it. Make it happen! This “social isolation” thing will not last forever. There is something really special about face to face time with other Mensans. If you haven’t attended a local event in a while, make yourself a Post-Pandemic promise to venture out again. Perhaps you live on the fringe of your local group. As a member of Mensa, you’re welcome in every local group, so check out what neighboring groups have to offer. Their newsletters, complete with listings of events, are available to you on the Mensa website. Go to www.us.mensa.org, click on the “Read” tab, and click on “Local Group newsletters.”

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, Robert Akin, 104 Windwood Lane, Enterprise, AL 36330.

MEMBERS: Send address changes to American Mensa Ltd., and include your **new** phone number, *even if it is the same as the old one.*

RUM CAKE

Before you start, sample the rum and check the quality. Good, isn't it?

Now go ahead. Select a large mixing bowl and a measuring cup and check that rum again for quality. It must be just right. Try it again..

With an electric beater beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat it again. Meanwhile, make certain the rum is of the very best quality.

Add two large eggs and two cans of dried fruit and beat until very stiff. If fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it out with a screw driver..

Sample the rum again, checking for consistency. Sift two cups of baking powder, add a pinch of rum, one teaspoon of soda and one of pepper, or maybe salt. Anyway, don't fret. Just taste the rum again. Zowie!

Next, sift in half pint of lemon juice, fold in chopped buttermilk, and add strainer nuts. Sample rum again..

Now add one tablespoon brown sugar, or whatever color is around. Mix well.

Grease oven and turn on cake pan to 350 degrees.

Now pour the whole mess into the oven and oops! Where did I put that mop?

On second thought, and also third and fourth, forget the oven. Throw out the cake. Check the rest of the rum and go to bed.

Lifted from AMEN, newsletter of Alabama-Mississippi Mensa, who lifted it from BEACON, newsletter of Boston Mensa, Gene McMahon, editor. Not sure where he got it.

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