DelaMensa

Volume 39, Number 2 February 2013

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Steve's Corner

By Steve Michel

Happy Ground Hog's Day! As if that furry rodent really has an impact on the global weather system.

The new ExComm met and finalized the new by-laws. A copy of them should be enclosed in this newsletter as should a voting ballot. An on-line voting form will also be available (probably by the time you are reading this). A number of the changes were dictated by National while some others were our (the ExComm's) own doing.

One other item of discussion during the ExComm was the upcoming RG – our 7th. Already. The theme of superstition received the most votes, with Science playing a close second. One thing we are doing differently this year than in the past, is teaming up with another region in order to help spur attendance. We will be teaming up with Delaware Valley Mensa (DVM). Details are still being worked out.

The "big game" is coming up: Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers. We'll be rooting for the Pepsi ad. I mean the Ravens since they are closest to home. We'll see how that turns out. The weekend after will be the first in 22 weeks (if I counted right) that there will be no football on Sunday.

The weather has certainly been wacky recently – going from a series of days that temperatures never went above freezing to a day in the upper 50s. I am so looking forward to spring. I think the only good thing about winter is that the days are getting ever so slightly longer.

For the next couple of months, we still don't have too many ancillary activities planned other than the usual lunch bunch, trivia and tea. If you would like to participate in, host, or suggest some sort of social gather, please feel free to let me or any member of the ExComm know.

Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Steve Michel	302 832-2665	sdm1177@yahoo.com
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Marc My Words

by Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

Things are pretty quiet in Region 2 as we approach the middle of winter. Here's an update on upcoming regional and national events of interest.

Our region's next Regional Gathering is Central New Jersey's Snowball XXXIX RG (http://cnj.us.mensa.org/snowball.html), March 1 - 3 in Iselin, New Jersey. This is the oldest and one of the largest RGs in the country. Later in March, the AMC will be having their final board meeting of the term on March 23. The meeting will be hosted by MWM in Herndon, Virginia. Members are welcome to attend the meeting and join us afterwards in the hospitality suite. The agenda for this meeting should be online in early March. March 31 is the deadline to renew your membership and be eligible to vote in the upcoming American Mensa national election.

There are two national events coming up in April. St Louis will be the home for the 2013 Mensa Mind Games (http://mindgames.us.mensa.org/) event from April 19 - 21. This is your chance to play and evaluate more than 30 new games. The following Sunday April 28 is the CultureQuest XXIV competition, where teams of up to 5 Mensans compete for pride and scholarship money.

May brings us MWM's Matrix V: Superhero Edition RG (http://www.mwm.org/what-we-do/mwm-rg), May 17 - 19, in Herndon, Virginia.

In July, The Mensa Foundation presents Colloquium 2013: Between Science Fiction and Science (http://www.colloq13.us.mensa.org/), July 2 in Fort Worth, Texas. For the second consecutive year, the colloquium is taking place immediately preceding American Mensa's Annual Gathering (http://ag2013.us.mensa.org/). If you're planning to attend the Annual Gathering, come on out a day early and attend the colloquium as well.

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

Wed, Feb 6	6 to 8 pm, Games Night, at Traders Cove, Penn's Place, 206 Delaware St, Old New Castle. [Not a Mensa event] **First Wednesday of each month**. Bring a game, or just join the group. For info, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Mon, Feb 11	11:30—? Second Monday Lunch Bunch –New Location– Purebread Deli in Greenville, north of Wilmington on Rt 52, for lunch and stimulating conversation. Info: Dee Richardson at 302-892-2299
Tues, Feb 12	[NEW DAY] 6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Stewart's Brew Pub, Governor's Square, Route 40, Bear. **Now the Second Tuesday of each month**. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Steve at sdm1177@yahoo.com or call (302) 832-2665.
Sat, Jan 19	10 am to noon, Delaware Mensa ExComm meeting, Middletown Library. **All members welcome**. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Steve at sdm1177@yahoo.com or call (302) 832-2665.
Wed, Mar 6	6 to 8 pm, Games Night, at Traders Cove, Penn's Place, 206 Delaware St, Old New Castle. [Not a Mensa event] **First Wednesday of each month**. Bring a game, or just join the group. For info, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
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Your event here!! *DM*

Celebrations

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

Name	Birthday
February Birthdays	
Jeffrey Twardus	3-Feb
Patricia B Curlett	9-Feb
Steven M Allison	10-Feb
Ronald S Riebman	12-Feb
Cindi Renee Era	15-Feb
Althea M Gutteridge	16-Feb
Beverly Wright	19-Feb
Catherine R Scherer	20-Feb

(And also to those who don't wish to have their birthdays published)

Congratulations, and a Happy Mensaversary to these members who celebrate their Mensa anniversary this month:

Name	Years membership:
February Anniversaries	
James William Bishop	29
Lorelei Hunt	15
Coke L Westbrook	13
Anthony Eros	9
Cindi Renee Era	9
Terri Eros	9
Helen Ohlson	8
Gabriela Poletaev	7
Christine M Mastbrook	6
Harvey C Smith III	5
Lynda S Wright	1
Christopher Ohles	1
Michael K Wendeler	1
Edward J Stahl Jr	1

Proposed Changes to the Delaware Mensa By-Laws

The proposed by-laws for Delaware Mensa are shown, below. They have been prepared by the Delaware Mensa Executive Committee and reviewed and approved by the American Mensa LTD By-laws Committee. It now must be approved by our membership, by two thirds of members voting.

Votes may be sent by mail to the Election Committee, using the ballot printed in this newsletter or a facsimile. Votes may also be placed electronically on the Delaware Mensa website (http://delaware.us.mensa.org/index.htm). All votes must be received by May 10, 2013, to be counted.

This update to the bylaws has been in work for quite some time, as the last change to our bylaws was in 1989. Please read the bylaws, and place your vote today.

BYLAWS OF DELAWARE MENSA
EFFECTIVE _____

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

1. The name of this organization shall be Delaware Mensa.

2. Delaware Mensa is a Local Group of American Mensa, Ltd., and is subject to the Constitution of Mensa, the Bylaws of American Mensa, Ltd., and the resolutions adopted by the American Mensa Committee. American Mensa, Ltd. is herein abbreviated as "AML" and the American Mensa Committee as "AMC".

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of Delaware Mensa shall be open to all members of AML in good standing in the geographic areas assigned to Delaware Mensa by the AMC, or as otherwise assigned by AML.

2. Mensa members in good standing, including those who are not also members of Delaware Mensa, are welcome to participate in the social activities of the local group at the discretion of the host or hostess. The National Ombudsman, his or her surrogate, and members of the AMC shall be permitted to participate in the business affairs of the local group in the discharge of their official duties.

3. Delaware Mensa shall observe the preferences of members for data suppression and publication, as filed with AML, when publishing a local group roster or membership directory/register.

ARTICLE III.OFFICERS & DUTIES

1. The governing body of Delaware Mensa shall be an Executive Committee (“ExComm”), which conducts the business of the local group. The ExComm consists of the following voting members: four elected officer positions (President, Program Officer, Membership Officer and Treasurer), plus up to three appointed officers (Downstate Coordinator, Recording Secretary and Publications Officer). All local group officers, whether elected or appointed, must be current members in good standing of AML; an officer is defined as any person who is given a title with specific responsibilities. All voting members of the ExComm must also be current members in good standing of Delaware Mensa. The conflict of interest rules stated in the Bylaws of American Mensa for the AMC shall also be applicable to the local group and the ExComm.

2. The President shall be the chief executive officer of Delaware Mensa and the liaison with other local groups. He or she shall preside at ExComm meetings and shall be the chief point of contact between AML and the local group. The President shall endeavor to pass information to and from the local group in a timely fashion, and shall notify AML and the Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) for the local group of the results of any changes in the officers of the group during the term within two weeks of the change.

3. The Program Officer shall be responsible for arranging for local group activities, and shall coordinate with and advise the officers of these activities. Additionally, the Program Officer shall preside at ExComm meetings when the President is not available, and shall perform such other duties as delegated by the ExComm. The Program Officer shall immediately and automatically succeed to the office of President if that office becomes vacant. Additionally, the Program Officer shall assume the duties of the Membership Officer if that office becomes vacant.

4. The Membership Officer shall be responsible for publicity, public relations, testing, and recruitment and retention programs. Additionally, the Membership Officer shall preside at ExComm meetings when the President and Program Officer are not available, and shall perform such other duties as delegated by the ExComm.

5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for financial matters of Delaware Mensa, including the finances of the newsletter, and shall submit to the ExComm a semi-annual financial report that shall also be published in the newsletter. The financial report shall contain schedules of income, expenses, and balances for all funds under the control of the local group, including Regional Gathering, scholarship, and other special funds. The Treasurer shall ensure that the local group complies with all federal financial reporting requirements. The Treasurer shall also maintain a listing of all equipment owned by the local group. The Treasurer shall, if necessary, assist the Publications Officer in the preparation and submission of any postal forms that might be required. At least quarterly, the Treasurer shall submit to the President or his or her designee, statements from banks and any other institutions where the group's money is deposited, or shall cause a statement to be sent directly to the President or his or her designee (who must also be a voting member of the ExComm). All accounts must be separate accounts in the name of the local group, and shall have more than one signatory so that funds can be accessed in the temporary absence of the Treasurer.

6. The Downstate Coordinator shall assist with the coordination of events to be held in Kent and Sussex Counties, and shall perform such other duties as delegated by the ExComm.

7. The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for the taking of minutes at ExComm meetings and shall perform such other duties as delegated by the ExComm.

8. The ExComm shall publish a printed newsletter at least quarterly. If an electronic version of the newsletter is created, the local group shall observe the preferences of members regarding how their newsletters are to be delivered (electronically or printed), as filed with AML. The ExComm may, at its discretion, send printed copies of the newsletter in addition to the electronic version to members who would otherwise get only the electronic version. The Publications Officer shall be responsible for the newsletter. The Publications Officer shall, at a minimum, publish notices of meetings and programs, required ballots, results of ExComm meetings and elections, amendments to the bylaws and related discussions and ballots, the semi-annual financial reports, and shall prepare and publish Post Office forms if required.

9. The ExComm shall appoint an Ombudsman, who shall serve as mediator for disputes within the local group and shall be an arbitrator available to serve as a representative to a Regional Hearings Committee. The Ombudsman shall also perform such duties as may be required of all local group ombudsmen by American Mensa. The Ombudsman may not be a member of the ExComm. The Ombudsman, and the National Ombudsman, may submit material to the Publications Officer marked "for publication" that relates to his or her official duties; anything so marked shall be given the highest practicable priority for publication in the newsletter.

10. Appointed positions of the local group may include, but are not limited to, Downstate Coordinator, Recording Secretary, Publications Officer, Webmaster, Ombudsman and coordinators for other activities as deemed necessary.

11. The terms of office of elected officers shall be two years from January 1st of the odd-numbered year to December 31st of the even-numbered year, or until installation of a properly qualified successor, except in the case of resignation, succession to higher office, or removal from office.

12. Except as otherwise stated herein, the term of office for all appointed officers and positions expires at the end of the term of office of the current elected officers. Appointed officers, positions, and committees, including the position of committee chair, are appointed by the President with the approval of the ExComm, and may be removed from office by majority vote of the ExComm unless otherwise stated herein.

13. Elected members of the ExComm may be removed from office for cause by unanimous vote of all other members of the ExComm or by recall election. A recall election may be called by a petition citing the reason for such action, signed by at

least 10% of the membership of the local group as listed on the most recent membership roster provided by AML, and presented at a regular or special meeting of the ExComm. The balloting provisions of a regular election shall apply, except that a recall election must be held within 60 days of presentation of the petition, and the dates set forth in Article V shall be adjusted appropriately.

14. Any voting member of the ExComm may be removed from office for three consecutive unexcused absences at ExComm meetings, by a majority vote of the remaining members. A majority of the remaining members may excuse an absence.

15. The ExComm shall select a replacement for any ExComm member, other than the President, who resigns, or is removed, or is recalled, or moves up to the position of President in accordance herein, or creates a vacancy in any other way. A replacement for an elected officer is considered to be an elected officer whose term of office ends with the next regular election.

16. All elected and appointed officers shall turn over all files, equipment, and materials pertaining to their offices to either their successor(s), to the current President, or to another member of the ExComm no later than four weeks after leaving office unless otherwise stated herein.

17. An annual financial review shall be conducted each year at approximately twelve-month intervals. The ExComm shall appoint someone to conduct the review who was not involved in the issuing or collecting of money during the period being reviewed. The review shall include viewing statements from banks and any other institutions where the group's money was held during the period being reviewed.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Regular meetings or activities may be held at such times as may be appropriate; however, a regularly scheduled meeting of the ExComm and a membership activity must be held at least once a quarter. Notice of meetings and activities shall be published in the newsletter or otherwise sent to each member and the RVC. A simple majority of all voting members of the ExComm constitutes a quorum to transact business.

2. Special ExComm meetings may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the ExComm, and shall be called upon receipt by any member of the ExComm of a petition made in writing signed by at least 10% of the membership of the local group as listed on the most recent membership roster provided by AML. The date, time, place, and purpose of the special meeting shall be announced in the newsletter (or by direct mail to each member and the RVC) if practicable, and shall be reported in the newsletter afterward. No business other than that indicated in the notice calling the meeting may be acted on.

3. Any one or more members of the ExComm may participate in a meeting of the ExComm by means of telephone, on-line conference, or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other at the same time; participation by such means constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

4. All meetings of the ExComm shall be held within the geographical limits of the local group as assigned by the AMC.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

1. No later than July 1st of each even-numbered year, the ExComm shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least one member which shall, no later than the deadline for the September issue of the newsletter, nominate one or more candidates for each elected seat on the ExComm. The membership of the local group shall be notified of these nominations in the September issue of the newsletter or by mail posted no later than September 15th.

2. No later than July 1st before the election, the ExComm shall appoint an Election Committee of at least one member who shall be responsible for conducting the election, receiving and counting the ballots, and certifying the results. The term of the Election Committee expires on January 31st following the election. The Election Committee shall determine those election rules and regulations not covered by these bylaws, and shall cause them to be either (a) published in the September issue of the newsletter or (b) mailed by post or electronically to all members of the local group no later than September 1st. In so doing,

the Election Committee shall strive to maintain the anonymity of voters. If a voter does not follow the rules for submitting ballots in such a way as to compromise confidentiality, but the ballot is otherwise acceptable, the ballot shall be accepted and the voter shall be deemed to have waived confidentiality.

3. No member of the Nominating Committee or Election Committee may be a voting member of the ExComm or a candidate in the upcoming election. The Nominating and Election Committees may be comprised of the same members.

4. No later than October 1st, additional nominations may be made by petition signed by ten (10) members of the local group and delivered to the Election Committee chair.

5. Ballots shall contain the names of all nominated candidates, whether nominated by the Nominating Committee or by petition, and a space for a write-in candidate for each elected seat on the ExComm. Ballots shall be printed in the November issue of the newsletter, including in the electronic version of the newsletter if such is available, made available on-line or mailed by post or electronically to all members of the local group, but in any case posted no later than November 1st. Ballots must be returned to the Election Committee chair and received no later than November 30th to be valid. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted. Ballots may be returned by mail, electronically if such option is available, or in person, but all members must be allowed to participate by postal mail at all stages of the election process if they so choose. The Election Committee shall meet in public no later than December 7th to count the ballots. A plurality of valid votes cast for each ExComm position shall constitute election. Votes that are tied shall be determined by the Election Committee chair by a flip of a coin. The Election Committee chair shall certify the results of the election to the President and shall have the election results published in the next possible issue of the newsletter.

6. Any challenges to the election must be made in writing to the Election Committee chair and received by January 15. Any such challenges must be ruled on by January 31. Any actions by the ExComm while a challenge is pending are not affected by the outcome of any such challenge.

7. The outgoing President shall notify AML and the RVC for the local group of the results of the election within two weeks of the election.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by the ExComm or by a written petition signed by twenty (20) members of the local group and received by any member of the ExComm. Such proposals shall be submitted first to the AMC for its approval to ballot. After approval to ballot has been received, the proposed amendment(s) shall be published in the next issue of the newsletter. A mail ballot shall appear in the issue of the newsletter that follows publication of the proposal or made available on-line and shall be sent by post or electronically to every member of the local group. The balloting deadline shall be no less than 90 days following the first publication of the proposed amendment(s) in the newsletter. To become effective, an amendment to these bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of those casting valid ballots, as well as final approval of the AMC and filing of revised bylaws with the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee will tell the local group the effective date of the bylaws as amended.

ARTICLE VII. MENSA LOGO & NAME

American Mensa, Ltd. (AML) has granted a royalty free, non-exclusive license to Delaware Mensa for the use of the mark "Mensa" and a logo, consisting of a globe over a stylized "M" within a border, in connection with the non-commercial uses of Delaware Mensa. AML retains full ownership of the mark and logo and all statutory and common law rights in the mark and logo.

ARTICLE VIII. AUTHORITIES

1. The Minimum Standard Bylaws for Local Groups of AML are implicitly included in these bylaws. The minimum requirements are enforceable even if they are not explicitly contained in these bylaws. If there is a conflict between these bylaws and the Minimum Standards, the Minimum Standards take precedence.

2. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition, shall govern the local group in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Delaware Mensa Ballot

Delaware Mensa has proposed a new set of by-laws to govern operation of our local group. A Yes vote of two thirds of all members voting is required to accept the changes. Please indicate your vote below, either Yes or No. **Votes must be received by 10 May 2013**.

On the question of whether to accept the proposed new Delaware Mensa By-Laws, I vote:.

☐ **YES** OR ☐ **NO**

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Member Number: _____

You've Got Options

1. Mail a paper copy of your ballot, with your name or member number on the outer envelope, to:

   Election Committee
   148 Killoran Dr.
   New Castle DE 19720-

OR

2. E-mail your vote, with subject: Attention Election Committee, and with your name or member number in the body, to:

   legalady@magpage.com

OR

3. Vote electronically at the Delaware Mensa website:

http://delaware.us.mensa.org/index.htm

News from National

Ready for a CultureQuest?

It's time to start assembling your team for CultureQuest XXIV, scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 28. There are two divisions:

- Classic is open to all members regardless of age. Each team member must be a dues-paid Mensa (U.S. or Canada) for the 2013-14 membership year before April 1, 2013.
- The Next Generation is the youth division. Entrants must have been born after April 29, 1995. Only the youth division team captain must be a current Mensa member.

Register your own team at www.us.mensa.org/culturequest , or contact any ExComm member to join team Delaware.

Did You Know:

Member Benefit: Discount on VPI Pet Insurance

VPI pet insurance is affordable health coverage that helps pay the treatment costs for your pet's accidents, illnesses and routine medical care. Coverage is available for dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles and other exotic pets. Your coverage pays for diagnostic tests, treatments, office visits, lab fees, prescriptions, hospitalization, X-rays and surgical procedures. You are free to use any licensed veterinarian anywhere, even when you're away from home.

Premiums for the VPI Superior Plan start at less than $19 per month for dogs and $12 per month for cats and are based on the species, age of your pet and the plan you select. Optional vaccination and routine care coverage is also available to help you maintain the health of your pet. **Mensans get a 5-percent group discount on base policy premiums**.

Member Benefit: Discount on Subscriptions to *mental_floss* magazine

American Mensa members can subscribe to *mental_floss* and get one year (eight issues) for just $19.97 at www.mentalfloss.com/brilliant. Further, our members can take an extra 15 percent off *mental_floss* merchandise at www.mentalfloss.com/store; just enter the coupon code "brilliant" at checkout.

Mensa is an international society whose sole membership requirement is a score in the top two percent of the general population on an approved intelligence test. It is non-profit, has no religious or political affiliations, and promotes no official positions. Send address changes and requests for information to: **American Mensa Ltd., National Office, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington TX 76006-6013, 817-607-0060, e-mail:** AmericanMensa@mensa.org. DelaMensa is the official publication of Delaware Mensa, local group number 197 of American Mensa Ltd. *Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and should not be construed as official opinions of either American Mensa Ltd. Or Delaware Mensa*. Manuscripts and letters are welcome, but must be original and unpublished. Reprints will be considered if accompanied by written permission from the copyright holder. All submissions must be signed, although the name of the author will be withheld upon request. Deadlines are shown on the calendar included in the newsletter. All submissions should be sent to the Editor at the address listed in the directory on page 1.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

This newsletter is sent to members of Delaware Mensa each month (more or less), but is also going out to prospective members who have qualified for membership. If you are one of those prospective members, allow me to add another invitation to you to join Mensa. The organization is both big and small, you can enjoy it at whatever level suits you.

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Games Night at Trader's Cove	7	8	9
10 New Moon	11 Lunch Bunch	12 Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night-Bear	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 DelaMensa Deadline	23
24	25 Full Moon	26	27	28		