



DelaMensa

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July 2006

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EXCOMMunication - July, 2006

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

As I write this, we are in a break between storms during the rainiest week I can recall in ages. Anyone know how to build an ark? Seriously though – I know the southern part of our state was hit especially hard by these storms, and if it keeps up, some of the northern areas will be flooded too. If anyone has been affected by these storms, and needs anything, please let me know. We've got a vast group of contacts in Delaware Mensa, and I'm sure we'd be willing to help.

The countdown's begun for the World Gathering in August – I can't emphasize enough what a tremendous time you will have if you are going. There's just so much going on! It's a once in a lifetime event – you simply must be there!

We're moving the NTN Trivia night around the state – in July we will be in Dover and in August we'll be in Lewes. If you've been thinking of coming out, now's a good time. Enjoy a cold, frosty beverage, and whip the behinds of the other bar patrons with your trivia bra-

vado!

We're got a few national and regional events in the works too. As you might have seen in the minutes of the ExComm meeting last month, we are discussing hosting a Regional Gathering at the beach. Anyone interesting in working on that project, please contact me. Additionally, we are going to make another run at Mind Games, to be held in April 2008. If you are interested in serving on that committee, please let me know.

DM

Marc My Words

By Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

Region 2's Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) took place in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, on May 12 and 13. It was our first LDW in more than a dozen years and, judging from the enthusiasm from the attendees, we won't be waiting 12 years for the next one. There were 34 attendees, representing 9 of the 10 groups in our region, who showed up for our Saturday programs, and many came in early Friday night to join us for pizza. Our morning programs included Yvonne Brownlee and Sallie Banko presenting the basics of your proctor network and testing program; Allen Neuner talking about how to deal with problem members; and Margaret Scherbina and Jan Foley teaching us how to run successful Regional Gatherings. We then broke for lunch in the hotel dining room. Many people raved about the hotel's lunch buffet. Don Pendley kicked off the afternoon with an interactive session on developing Mensa publicity tools, followed by Sallie Banko talking and quizzing us about ExCom basics, and Dave Remine capping the day with a powerpoint presentation on getting involved at the regional, national, or international level. The attendee evaluation

forms were overwhelmingly positive.

Several members made this a successful event by assisting with the hotel negotiations, hospitality, program selection, and speaker selection. I'd especially like to thank Yvonne Brownlee, Pat Horsley, Elaine Brody, Jere Lull, and Sallie Banko for their help in these areas.

In August, American Mensa will be celebrating Mensa's 60th birthday in Orlando at the World Gathering (WG). At last count, 1,739 people have registered, and more than 350 programs have been scheduled. Every local group from our region will be represented, and several of our members will be giving programs. I hope to see many of you there, August 8-13, 2006, at the Coronado Springs Hotel. More information about the WG can be found at our website, <http://wg06.us.mensa.org/>.

DM

You can get much farther with a kind word and a gun than you can with a kind word alone.

Al Capone

Notices

HELP WANTED - PROCTORS

Delaware Mensa currently has only two proctors to serve the 16,000 potential members in our area. If you have a bachelor's degree and would like to be the first contact with potential new members, read on. Training is simple: if you have a background in giving standardized tests, you simply need to be approved by the National Office. Otherwise, you would need to observe two tests being given, and be observed while giving two tests, before being approved by National. You can schedule tests at your convenience any time of day, and can put in as many hours as you want - the testing sessions generally last about 2-3 hours. For more information, please contact Maria at 302-893-5118 or legalady@magpage.com

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We are still searching for a volunteer to be Member Profile Editor. If you think this is a worthwhile feature, and if you want to help it continue, contact Keith, at 302-242-8201 for information.

Notices—part 2

HELP WANTED - PUBLICITY COORDINATOR

Delaware Mensa is growing by leaps and bounds, and we want the world to know! We need someone to coordinate the publicity for the organization. This does not necessarily mean you will need to speak to the press (I can handle that); but we need someone with organizational and writing skills to:

1. Draft press releases and public service announcements (we can provide forms to assist you);
2. Keep track of deadlines for media outlets
3. Send out press releases and coordinate responses
4. Think of new ways to publicize Delaware Mensa

I think this task will take no more than 10 hours a month. If you think you can help us out, please call Maria at 302-893-5118, or email legalady@magpage.com.

Coming Events

Have we got some great events planned for the summer! Come on out and have some fun with Delaware Mensa. Get your daybook out (and stay tuned for some great speakers to come in the fall).

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2006: Games Day/Crab Feast

Leah and LD Kinder invite you to their home in Felton for a day of games, food and fun, from 2:00 pm until we get hungry. Then we are going to head to a nearby crab shack (Seafood City) for all-you-can-eat crabs! House favorites include Beyond Balderdash, Cranium, Scrabble and Trivial Pursuit, or bring your own game, if you have a special favorite. Snacks and soft drinks will be served. Contact Leah at leahkinder@gmail.com for directions, and to let her know how many people to expect.

DATE: Sunday, July 9, 2006

TIME: 2:00 p.m. til' ?? (If you want to join us for crabs only, please call Maria at 302-893-5118 and we'll let you know what time we'll be there)

PLACE: Leah and LD Kinder's house, Felton. To RSVP and for directions: E-mail Leah at leahkinder@gmail.com and bluepointjive@gmail.com or call 302-222-2357.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2006: Maria's Half-Birthday Party

Come on out and celebrate the best narcissistic event of the year: Maria's Birthday – but instead of having a party in the winter, I'm having it in the summertime, and joining forces with L.D. Kinder's uncle Sam – who owns a great space in Smyrna, and throws a heckuva blast. Bring your polka shoes, and get ready to dance the night away to the sounds of Walt Wagner's 10-Piece Polka Band.

There's a \$15 entry fee, to cover the cost of the band (\$5.00 for children under 12). We'll provide food, soft drinks, and beer. If you want to bring anything in particular, feel free. Contact Maria for the address and directions.

DATE: Saturday, July 22, 2006

TIME: 6:00 p.m. til' 10:00 p.m.

PLACE: Sam Kalb's house, Blackbird Forest, Smyrna. To

RSVP and for directions: E-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com, or call 302-893-5118

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2006: Beach Blanket Bingo Returns!

Grab your beach gear, pack the car, and head down to Tower Road (Delaware Seashore State Park) for a day of sun and fun at the Delaware Beaches! Delaware Mensa is meeting on the beach at Tower Road, just south of Dewey Beach on Delaware Route 1, for sun, food and fun. Bring a picnic basket, some beach playthings, and work on your tan with us.

We'll be at the beach starting around 10:00 am (Look for something obviously Mensa, a balloon, a sign, I'll try to make it conspicuous, but look for me near a cute lifeguard). Tower Road is a state-run beach, with shower facilities and a small food stand. Kids and guests are more than welcome.

We'll pack up around 6:00 or so and head to the Rusty Rudder for their FANTABULOUS seafood buffet! Plus, there's usually some live music playing on the deck. (If you only want to meet us for dinner, let me know.)

DATE: Saturday, August 19, 2006

TIME: beginning around 10:00 a.m. at the beach; around 6:00 p.m. for dinner.

PLACE: Tower Road State Beach; then Rusty Rudder on Route 1 in Dewey Beach for dinner. No RSVP necessary, but for more information, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. (I'll look for you if you call me to let me know you're coming)

Directions to Tower Road: Follow Delaware Route 1 past Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches. You'll see the signs for Tower Road just south of Dewey Beach (a left turn). Parking is \$2.50 for Delaware-tagged vehicles, \$5.00 for out-of-state vehicles, free with Delaware State Park Annual Pass sticker.

DM

Mind Games Results

This year's Mind Games competition was held April 21-23 in Portland, Ore. One hundred ninety-eight players from every corner of United States reviewed the 62 game entries. During the event, Mensa members also filled out thousands of comment cards, which will be returned to the manufacturers. Suggestions from the comment cards are often used to improve the games.

"You don't have to be a genius to enjoy these games — you just have to enjoy a challenge," said Pam Donahoo, executive director of American Mensa. "This year's winners include something for everyone — strategy games, a word game and a party/trivia game. They've earned the Mensa Select seal because they are well-designed, original and, best of all, fun to play!"

Mensa Select winners are chosen annually at the Mensa Mind Games® competition. During the competition, Mensa members play and rate new board and card games. The five games that rate the highest are named Mensa Select and may display the Mensa Select seal on their packaging.

After a 40-hour game-playing marathon, members of American Mensa named five new games as Mensa Select®. In alphabetical order, this year's winners are:

Deflexion – Players alternate turns moving Egyptian-themed pieces with mirrored surfaces. At the end of each turn, the player fires a built-in laser in hopes of illuminating the opponent's pharaoh. (Deflexion, www.deflexion.biz)

Hive – Nature's chess game. The object is to surround the opponent's queen bee. Each player gets 11 tiles of five different insects. Each insect's move is different. (Smart Zone, www.smartzonegames.com)

Keesdrow – Identify words within a maze of letters using three different colored pegs. Earn premium points by building on opponents' words or by using a letter more than once within your own word. (Pywacket, www.pywacketgames.com)

Pentago – Create a row of five marbles, any direction, on a game board that consists of four twistable game blocks. (Pentago,

(Continued on page 4)

Celebrations

As of May 31, we have 149 members (please remember to renew!)

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans with a birthday this month:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Don Braid	7/3	Robin Roland	7/9
Peter Terry	7/5	Alan Emsley	7/24
Margie Bleier	7/8		

And also those members who do not wish to have their birthdates published

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>
Dee Richardson	1967	Alan Bleier	1993
Raymond Pusey	1972	Peter Terry	1993
Carl Moore, Jr.	1981	Mark McHugh	1994
Margie Bleier	1982	Daniel Furlong	1995
Robert Vincelette, Jr.	1986	Ward Gaisor	2003
David Klein	1991	Morgan Wood	2004

And a warm Delaware Mensa welcome to new members
John Coburn of Newark, and
Shauneen Hutchinson of Wilmington

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

- Mon, July 10 11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (Every 2nd Monday) Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347
- Sun, July 9 2:00 to ?, Games Day at Leah's house, followed by Crabs at Seafood City. Contact Leah at leahkinder@gmail.com and bluepointjive@gmail.com or call 302-222-2357 for directions, or call Maria at 302-893-5118.
- Wed, July 19 6 to 8 pm, NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, on Route 8 (Bay Rd), Dover DE. Every 3rd Wednesday. For info, call Maria, 302-893-5118.
- Sat, July 22 6 pm to 10 pm, Maria's Half-birthday Party, at Sam Kalb's house, Blackbird Forest, Smyrna. To RSVP and for directions: E-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com, or call 302-893-5118
- Sat, Aug 19 10 am to ?, Beach Blanket Bingo. Mensa goes to Tower Rd Beach on the Delaware shore. A day at the beach followed by dinner at the Rusty Rudder. For info, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
- Thur, Sept 7 7 pm, ExComm Meeting at *Where Pigs Fly*, in Dover. All members are welcome. For info, call Maria, 302-893-5118.

Your event here

DM

Treasurer's Report For the period ending 12 June 2006

Submitted by Dee Richardson

YES!!! The steps that we've taken to get control of our finances have started working!

- We have switched to using Staples to print our newsletters.
- Our plan to send as many newsletters as possible electronically was initiated last year.
- We recovered the "full mailing" reimbursement that was "lost in the shuffle."
- Our RVC, Marc Lederman, provided us a \$100 support bonus.

Overall our income was up only a little more than the RVC bonus, but our expenses were cut in half (\$1146.35 in the second half of 2005 and \$572.87 in the first half of 2006). That makes me a happy camper!

	Balance on Hand 12 December 2005	\$276.78
Income:	Local Group Funding	\$786.46
	Test Revenue	\$102.50
	Full Mailing Reimbursement	\$96.85
	Private Subscriptions to DelaMensa	\$0.00
	RVC Support	\$100.00
	Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income:		\$1,085.81
Total Funds Available		\$1,362.59
Expenses:	Printing Newsletter	\$315.47
	Mailing Newsletter	\$257.40
	Mailing Tests (certified)	\$0.00
	Total Expenses	\$572.87
	Balance on Hand 12 June 2006	\$789.72

Dee

DM

RG Virgin (Continued from page 5)

At 1:30 p.m. it was the scheduled last activity: a Special Business Meeting where I, as well as 16 others of our leadership, handled important matters at hand, including setting up Nominations for Officers, and getting the Scholarship Awards program lined up for this year's awardings. These are our good representatives who handle all the matters that come up. That done, the final cleanup was in motion, and leaving was 4:30 p.m.

I thought coming would be traumatic. No, it was leaving! Why can't we have these RG things once a month???

DM

No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country.

George S. Patton

MIND GAMES (Continued from page 3)

www.pentago.com)

Wits & Wagers – A trivia game you can win without knowing any trivia. How? By betting on answers provided by your friends. (North Star Games, www.northstargames.com)

northstargames.com)

DM

If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.

Sir Isaac Newton

	2		9		5		3	
				7				
6		9	2		4	5		7
		8		9		2		
	5	6				3	1	
		3		4		7		
3		5	4		8	9		1
				5				
	8		3		7		2	

Number Puzzle

The game board is made up of nine blocks of nine cells, each of

which should have one number in it. This puzzle is solved by finding the right combination of numbers to have one each of the numbers 1 to 9 in each row, column, and small block of nine on the board.

Use logic, deduction, and all your powers of observation to find the right solution. Save guessing and trial-and-error for a last resort—they're "poor form," and not needed for this puzzle.

(This puzzle is reprinted from the Sally Hemings Memorial Newsletter (Thomas Jefferson Mensa), March, 2006.)

Adventures of an RG Virgin

by Walter Wakefield [Reprinted from *Momentum*, newsletter of New Hampshire Mensa, April, 2004; Claire Natola, Editor]

For more years than I can remember (some won't believe that!), I have been graciously invited to RGs. My Type A work ethic has always kept me busy six or seven days a week, going back to when I opened a store in 1973, so hearing of weekend fun always sounded like something I could "always do," but didn't. I don't want to imply that I'm an old fuddyduddy by being a workaholic -- I know how to take my relaxation; and, I give as much as I take, as that active crowd can attest.

At the never-missed Appetite For Discussion in Portsmouth August 22, I learned Lynn Pina had singlehandedly decided to create an RG for 2004 after many had felt it just couldn't feasibly happen for that year. I saw her iron will to make this experience happen for the Mensa Family (the capital F is not a mistake), no matter the cost to her. She and Sue Barnes entreated me to participate, so I saw this was really going to be something worthwhile; and, not to miss another opportunity, I agreed. Since I'm not known to break my word, this was a contract as strong as any could be. So, I dutifully sent off my money when the announcements were made, giving me a reason to relate to another dear Mensa Friend (again, the capital F is not a mistake), Registrar Deb Stone, who encouraged my participation.

I arrived at the 12th Floor of the magnificent venue in Manchester, NH, after trepidation for closing early and on a Friday (This was traumatic!). Right off, Deb Stone was there at the greeting desk, issued my artistic name-tag and let me pick my "approach label" of green/yellow/red. Next I received my surprise "goody" shopping bag. I have seen these given out at Oscars and wondered if I had actually struck it rich with exotic jewels, clothing, essences... But no -- practical stuff only, to which much thought had gone beforehand I quickly found: a local map, a program for the RG, a sturdy cloth carry bag, a pretty decoration like you'd get in Hawaii, etc. Got my buffet and brunch tickets, too, and I was all set.

My longtime friends were there to greet me, and many new ones soon to be had. (Is this an emotional experience for others, too?) I found a closet for my greatcoat and doodads, more convenient than at home! Right away, I was tempted by the cooking of shrimp chowder, venison stew, endless treats and drinks of every kind imaginable (Jim Barnes: How did you learn to make coffee BETTER than Dunkin' and Starbucks?), all capably produced and provided by Sue and Jim Barnes, who worked from long-before beginning to end to make this gatherin' nice for all these people, some 170+ I later learned!

There was no pressure to do anything, but there were temptations to join in conversations and fun activities all around. I never felt even one moment that I was in the wrong place. Old Friends and acquaintances from decades past appeared in my purview to catch up with; some, truly, in mystical and magical encounters that won't be forgotten. This went on until what I came to find was 1:45 a.m., which seemed like "just getting started." Tired? Not me! This was the common experience. I had to run errands and wanted to process a roll of film I made this evening, to bring back five sets the following day. For Saturday, 21 February, the anticipated buffet time came; we met there in the special room set up for this, with lots of round (Mensa) tables just for us and a really good meal, for both the vegans and the carnivores.

Afterward, Auctioneer (man of MANY hats) Joe Zanca (he also ran the Mensa Boutique from his hotel room for us, where I found TOO many goodies to resist, going away with two bags full and a thinner wallet) took out a \$5 U.S. currency note and said it was to be auctioned. The money was to go to Mensa scholarships. This was going to be a good thing. But how much would someone feasibly pay for \$5? About \$132, actually. Someone had apparently also donated some rare and unusual books, etc. (and an antique XXX video featuring John Holmes) at the last moment. They were sold, too, but the \$5 bill generated the most capital

gain. The video was a tough sell; in protecting buyers' identities...by the way, Eileen, was it a good flick? There was one rare book our own Claire Natola wanted to buy, an 1870s tome on the history of New Hampshire with a folding original hand-colored map. She bought it and immediately re-donated it for auctioning again! There was also a fun book sale in a room, and a silent auction of many 11 desirable goodies, all of which ended up bringing in some \$750 for the scholarships, and fun for all participants.

Some people liked the movie room, some found the games more than adequate, and all the kids seemed to be having at least as much fun in their activities as the more subdued parents. I found people everywhere I could talk to, to relate with, using good words and arcane language without having to carry around dictionaries.

Where did the time go? It got to be 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning, and we had our very own intrusion by three street punks who somehow got into our domain, where quick thinking intelligence soon subdued them to slink away from us in defeat. There was a whole lot more to this, but I can say that this "event" gave me my BEST opportunity to contribute to the weekend, to keep everyone safe. After good conversations in the wee hours with Richard Schwartz and John McGondel as Sentinels, my time came to shower and shave and get 1-1/2 hours sleep, only to be awakened by friendly sounds of activity renewed.

Continental breakfast had been set up; life was percolating as only we could wish it to every day, not just at this Shangri-La. Oh, it's Sunday morning! I had a date with Deb Stone and John Bauman for brunch, where we found round tables again, in the breakfast area of the Inn, enjoying a few hours of abundant food and quiet conversation. I got to meet fine people from not just New Hampshire, but from all over New England and further! The people had heard of, or been past participants in, our fine RG hospitality. I was Waltercome-lately, but now really felt part of the Family.

(Continued on page 4)

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: AmerMensa@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 below.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

JULY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9 Games/Crabs Day	10 Full Moon Lunch Bunch	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 NTN Trivia Night	20	21	22 Maria's HBD Party
23	24	25 New Moon	26 DelaMensa Deadline	27	28	29
30	31					