



# DelaMensa

Volume 37, Number 3

March 2011

### Inside:

RVC Column	1
Letters	2
Birthdays	3
Election Ballot	4
Calendar	5

## From the Editor - March 2011

By: Keith Johnson, Editor

If you've been wondering if your name was dropped from the mailing list or something, wonder no more. Delaware Mensa missed a few issues of the newsletter, and we apologize. Like that other International Man of Mystery, your loyal editor temporarily lost his mojo. We're back, and looking forward to issues coming out on a regular schedule. As always, member articles, letters, poetry, fiction, reviews or whatever are solicited. And pictures, we need more pictures.

It's time for your annual reminder: all annual Mensa memberships expire on March 31. Don't let your membership lapse, renew now. (If you choose not to renew now, you'll always be welcome to reinstate, no re-test required, just keep track of your member number.) If you really hate dealing with this every year, you could become one of the 11.0 percent of members with a life membership.

Delaware Mensa is holding elections this year. The nominated slate of officers and your ballot are on page 4. Ballots must be received by April 1 to be counted. Write-in votes are allowed, and if past elections are any indication, you can capture any position on the ballot with five or so votes.

The DelaMensa newsletter is sent to all members of the group every month (or almost every month.) You have your choice of a paper copy, electronic delivery to your e-mail, or both. Advantages of the electronic version include earlier delivery; savings on paper, ink, and postage for the group; plus it is in color. If you'd like to try electronic delivery, just send a request, with the e-mail address you'd like

### Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	302-893-5118	legalady@magpage.com
1st Councilor	Cindi Basner	302-898-0093	lightintheclouds15@yahoo.com
2nd Councilor	Alexis Campbell	302-234-0563	alexis.campbell@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	302-892-2299	busydeee@comcast.net
Proctor Coord	Frances Joseph	302-994-6347	
Downstate Coord	<b>Vacant: Volunteer Needed</b>		
Editor	Keith Johnson	302-242-8201	keith.johnson@hughes.net
RVC-2	Marc Lederman	717-308-1221	RVC2@us.mensa.org

to use, to me. See the box in the upper right of this page for the address to send your request.

Another avenue for electronic communication you really should try is our Yahoo Group. You will need a Yahoo account (free) to sign up, then go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for DelawareMensa (with no space). There you will get the latest notices of events and activities within the group -- some are too short notice to make it into the newsletter. You will also have a chance to correspond with some of the more active Mensans in the group. Don't worry about being overloaded with messages -- the group averages about 30 per month. If you have trouble finding it, e-mail Maria and she will send you an invitation with a link.

And finally, CultureQuest will be in April. Teams are forming, and registration must be complete (and all team members must have renewed membership) by March 31.

DM

## Marc My Words

by Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

At the AMC meeting in November, the AMC voted to increase the dues rate for single-year membership to \$63 per year. Please stay with us and renew your membership.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** To assist with American Mensa's ongoing strategic planning efforts, our Web Services team is debuting an organizational dashboard that targets key measures of our strategic plan objectives. Visit [www.us.mensa.org/dashboard](http://www.us.mensa.org/dashboard) to get a first-hand glimpse of American Mensa's benchmarks and membership information. You'll find a summary page for our strategic planning measures, a page covering our membership, a snap-

shot of our members, and information on the progress of our testing efforts.

**NEW PUBLICATION:** The latest issue of Fred: The Magazine for Young Mensans is available at <http://www.us.mensa.org/fredmagazine>. Fred is a free quarterly magazine available to Mensa families, as a way for Young Mensans to connect and share their interests on a more regular basis. Please feel free to share Fred with families in your Local \Group. Families and members who would like to subscribe will find information via our Fred pages.

(Continued on page 2)

Please visit our Web site at <http://delaware.us.mensa.org/index.htm> for updates

**MINDGAMES:** Congratulations to Metropolitan Washington Mensa for being selected as the host group for the 2012 Mensa Mind Games competition. This will be the first time the event is hosted in our region. I hope to see many of you at the 2011 Mind Games in nearby Albany, New York.

**TESTING:** Beginning Jan. 1, 2011, American Mensa will release raw scores to candidates who test with American Mensa. Current members who tested between April 1, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2010, can request their scores at no charge by contacting [membership@americanmensa.org](mailto:membership@americanmensa.org) or by calling 888-294-8035 ext. 199. Speaking of testing, one problem several groups are experiencing is finding free locations to administer the Mensa test. If any of you have access to a free and quiet location, please let your Testing Coordinator or Proctor Coordinator know about it.

**TASK FORCE:** Prior to the November AMC meeting, the Governance Task Force released a very lengthy report. You can find a copy at <http://www.us.mensa.org/meetingreports>, select 2010-11 Meeting Reports, then Governance Task Force Report. The AMC has been discussing several aspects of this report, figuring out which suggestions to send on to the next task force. If you have any questions or comments on this report, please let me know.

Back in January, the AMC held a teleconference to take care of some business that couldn't wait until the March meeting. An Annual Gathering Task Force (AGTF) was created to review and update the model for selection, hosting, and management of the Annual Gatherings. I was appointed Chair of this Task Force.

A Governance Blue Print Task Force (GBTF) was created to craft a list of specific, concrete recommendations for governance structure changes along with necessary motions and bylaws amendments. The GBTF will develop an implementation and communication strategy and timeline. Robin Crawford was appointed Chair of the GBTF. Committee structures and powers, the nomination and petition process, representative segmentation, appointment of skill-specific officers, and continued voting presence of past chairs are some of the areas being discussed by the AMC and task force. If you have thoughts on any of these top-

ics, start or join a thread in the AML forums or contact me or the GBTF chair. The position of National Testing Officer was created. The National Testing Officer is charged with development, encouragement and support of Admissions Testing activities at the local level. The position helps facilitate training of new proctors, assists local groups with ideas for marketing and promoting testing, supports new proctors and testing coordinators in finding testing locations and promotes national testing day. The position will be filled in July, so please let me know if you have any recommendations for this position.

**EVENTS:** The AMC will be meeting the weekend of March 25-27 in Atlanta. The agenda should be online by mid-March. Please contact me if you have any comments or questions on the agenda once it is available. One of the main items on the agenda will be approval of the budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Our region's next RG is Central New Jersey's Snowball RG, March 4-6 at the Hilton Woodbridge in Iselin, New Jersey. This is the longest running and one of the best attended RGs in the country. You can find the latest information at their website [cnj.us.mensa.org/snowball.html](http://cnj.us.mensa.org/snowball.html). I look forward to seeing many of you at this gathering. On Saturday morning at 10:30, I will be leading an RVC Rap Session, followed by a Meet The Candidates program where you can meet several candidates in the upcoming AMC election and get the chance to ask them questions.

The 2011 CultureQuest® competition will take place on Sunday, April 10th. Rules and registration forms are available for download at [www.us.mensa.org/eventregistration](http://www.us.mensa.org/eventregistration). Registration and changes can be made until March 31, 2011.

Gatherings are a key part of the Mensa experience, and now you can get information on Mensa's biggest events gathered into one email. American Mensa is debuting Events Register, a quarterly events eNewsletter in which you'll find all the latest information about all of our national events, including the Annual Gathering, Mind Games®, CultureQuest® and more. Then scroll to the end of the newsletter for a snapshot of upcoming regional events for the next 90 days. To subscribe, visit [www.us.mensa.org/profile](http://www.us.mensa.org/profile) and select eNewsletters from the left menu.

DM

## LETTERS

### Jared Levine for Secretary of American Mensa

As the American Mensa Committee (AMC) Secretary, I will provide swift mini-minutes, less than one week after AMC meetings, so that the membership, in a timely manner, can keep abreast of the results of issues that were considered by the AMC. I will draft and make available Annual Business Meeting (ABM) minutes less than one month after the ABM is conducted. This will enable attendees to have a fresh recollection of what occurred and who said what, for attendees to provide any relevant suggestions for changes they might choose to submit well in advance of

the subsequent year's ABM at which the minutes are voted on. Not only does the incumbent frequently take several weeks or longer to provide mini-minutes, she has also continued the practice of not providing draft ABM minutes until approximately a month before the meeting where they need to be approved, i.e., 11 months after the meeting they are recounting, when memories are hazy.

Not only do I differ from the current Secretary in the functional ways above, but we are also quite different in our views on some major policy-oriented items. I have advo-

(Continued on page 4)

## Celebrations

As of January 31, we had 172 members.

### A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
David Brady	12/2
Terrance Blanch	12/7
Harvey Smith III	12/8
Jason Robinson	12/9
Paul Seodti	12/11
Walter Crowe	12/15
Lawrence Laporte	12/25
Gregory Moore	12/25
Regina Barry	12/31
Alexis Campbell	1/10
Geoffrey Weyer	1/13
James Carroll	1/14
Thomas Desmond	1/14
Michael Ross	1/19
Maria Sawczuk	1/20
Judith Armstrong	1/21
Jodi Walker	1/30
Jeff Twardus	2/3
Steven Allison	2/10
Ronald Riebman	2/12
Cynthia Basner	2/15
Beverly Wright	2/19
Pamela Lamb	2/19
Ward Gaisor	2/20
Michael Kamps	2/27

*(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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>		
<i>December</i>		Terrance Blanch	2004
		Thomas Keane	2004
Robert Busche	1994	Francis Murray	2004
Lidia Epps	2000	James Lee	2006
Carol Schumann	2000	<b>(5 YEARS!)</b>	
Sonia Combs	2003	Kathryn Canavan	2010
Christopher Gee	2003	Thom Hawkins	2010
Ronald Reibman	2003		
John Proctor	2004	<i>February</i>	
Federick Bryner	2006	Joyce Stevenson	1982
<b>(5 YEARS!)</b>		James Bishop	1984
Paul Altiero	2008	Lorelei Hunt	1998
Scott Schreiber	2008	Coke Westbrook	2000
Robert Specter	2009	Don Braid	2001
		Cynthia Basner	2004
<i>January</i>		Anthony Eros	2004
Judith Armstrong	1966	Terri Eros	2004
<b>(45 YEARS!!)</b>		Helen Ohlson	2005
Robert Abel	1979	Gabriela Poletaev	2006
George Majors	1980	<b>(5 YEARS!!)</b>	
Richard Hartland	1984	Jeffrey Billion	2007
John Carson	2003	Christine Mastbrook	2007
Kari Goral	2003	Harvey Smith III	2008
David Moak	2003	Blyth McManus	2008
Michael Wendeler	2003	Fred Wiley	2009
Harry Albert	2004		

## CULTUREQUEST 2011

Culturequest 2011, the annual Mensa contest of cultural knowledge, will be April 10, the second Sunday. Do you know the answers to some of these questions from a past edition?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>a. On a fine art print, what do the initials "A/P" mean in the lower margin?</p> <p>b. The cloaca is a chamber at the end of a bird's large intestine. What is or was called the "cloaca maxima"?"</p> <p>c. Identify the cities and/or country where the following stock exchanges or indices originate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hang Seng</li> <li>-CAC 40</li> <li>-DAX</li> <li>-FTSE 100</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nikkei 230</li> <li>-Bolsa</li> <li>-Sensex</li> </ul> <p>d. What four countries border the Golan Heights?</p> <p>e. What two countries are linked by the Khyber Pass?</p> <p>f. What ubiquitous contribution to medical science was made by Dr. Georgios Papanikolaou?</p> <p>g. Based on astronomers' detecting ethyl formate in the dust cloud there, what flavor is the center of the Milky Way?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you knew the answers to ANY of these questions without consulting reference material, we desperately need you on our next team!</p> |
|---|--|

# ELECTION BALLOT

Delaware Mensa has four elected offices, listed below.

- ⇒ We have one person nominated per office. Please vote for someone for each office by circling the name.
- ⇒ Completed ballots should be sealed in an envelope, with your membership number written on the outside of the envelope (if you wish to vote anonymously – the envelope will be destroyed and not connected with your vote,) or on your ballot (if you don't care about secrecy.) Either way, we need to be able to verify membership.
- ⇒ One vote per member. Facsimiles will be accepted.
- ⇒ Ballots must be received by the Election Committee no later than April 1, 2011 to be counted.
- ⇒ Mail completed ballots to:

Election Committee  
309 Atwood Rd  
Wilmington DE 19804

LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	other: _____
1st Councilor	Cindi Basner	other: _____
2nd Councilor	Alexis Campbell	other: _____
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	other: _____

*LETTERS (Continued from page 2)*

cated RVC replacement methods that would provide the full Regional membership a say; not only would electing an alternate simultaneously provide the membership that say, so would allowing a Special Election of the full Regional membership once a vacancy occurs. The incumbent, however, voted in favor of allowing only LocSecs that vote when the measure was before the AMC – a measure which, to many, is of dubious compliance with NY state law. I have supported bylaws amendments which would have explicitly provided for the AMC's ability, and even requirement, to review the decisions of the National Hearings Committee when there is any sanction recommended, rather than just the mandatory review when expulsion or suspension is recommended; the incumbent has voted against such measures. I authored and championed the bylaws amendment approved by the membership in 2009 which set the National Ombudsman's term of office to six years and revamped the procedure by which he is chosen. The incumbent favored changing that procedure before the inaugural election of the National Ombudsman was even finished.

Look to my blog – <http://boxmasterscorner.blogspot.com> – to see my views on other matters that have come before the AMC and even on local Metropolitan Washington Mensa matters. Also feel free to write me with your questions.

Sincerely,  
Jared Levine  
Candidate for AMC Secretary  
[locsec@mwm.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@mwm.us.mensa.org)

## Dan Burg for First Vice-Chair of American Mensa

The job of First Vice-Chair is free-form. It is what the occupant makes of it. Various First Vice-Chairs have interpreted the same words differently over the years. “[A]ct as substitute during the Chairman's absence or inability to serve” – that's easy to discern. “In the case of vacancy in the office of Chairman . . . the [First Vice-Chair] shall move up” – that's easy to discern too. But what does “assist in the discharge of the Chairman's duties” mean? To me, it means that the Chairman and the First Vice-Chair should act as a team. I provide informal advice and historical perspective and act as a resource to the Chairman and to other individuals and to the AMC as a whole. I'm also currently on eight national committees, including two as chair, and gather member input on issues important to them. I help people write motions whether I agree with the content or not; I do this because think it is important that ideas get discussed without technical issues standing in the way.

Representing American Mensa internationally is another important part of the First Vice-Chair's job. The First Vice-Chair traditionally serves as one of American Mensa's national representatives to Mensa International. The international board meeting last fall was my ninth, the most of anyone currently in the American delegation. This experience has let me find solutions that are beneficial to both American Mensa and international Mensa.

Representing American Mensa internationally is another important part of the First Vice-Chair's job. The First Vice-Chair traditionally serves as one of American Mensa's na-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## EVERY MONTH EVENTS!

Join Delaware Mensa this fall at one of our many fun events. Time to pull out those calendars!

You've probably seen NTN Trivia at a favorite bar or restaurant. It's a nationwide trivia network, with rounds of games played 24 hours a day. If you've never played before, it's highly addictive! Come out and see what it's all about, and challenge your fellow Mensans.

### FIRST TUESDAY Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

TIME: 6 to 8 pm

PLACE: Buffalo Wild Wings, 680 South Bay Road (Route 113), **Dover** (across from former Blue Hen Mall). **Currently on hiatus.** Call if you would like to host.

### SECOND THURSDAY Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

TIME: 6 to 8 pm

PLACE: Buffalo Wild Wings, 2062 Limestone Rd, **Wilmington** (near Kirkwood Hwy). To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. CHECK

WEBSITE or YAHOO GROUP FOR POSSIBLE MOVE TO NEW LOCATION AND DAY.

### THIRD WEDNESDAY Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

TIME: 6 to 8 pm

PLACE: Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, **Bear**. To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

### SECOND MONDAY Lunch Bunch

The Delaware Mensa Lunch Bunch will meet from about 11:45 to 1:15 at Purebread Deli in Greenville, north of Wilmington on Rt 52. 302-571-9041. Meet us there for lunch and stimulating conversation.

For further information, contact Dee Richardson, 302-892-2299, [busydeee@comcast.net](mailto:busydeee@comcast.net)

## Delaware Mensa Calendar

### *Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!*

Thur, Mar 10	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, 2062 Limestone Rd, Wilmington. <b>Second Thursday of each month.</b> For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Mon, Mar 14	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
Wed, Mar 16	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, Bear. <b>Third Wednesday of each month.</b> For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

*Your event here!!*

*DM*

LETTERS (Continued from page 4)

representatives to Mensa International. The international board meeting last fall was my ninth, the most of anyone currently in the American delegation. This experience has let me find solutions that are beneficial to both American Mensa and international Mensa.

Representing American Mensa internationally is another important part of the First Vice-Chair's job. The First Vice-Chair traditionally serves as one of American Mensa's national representatives to Mensa International. The international board meeting last fall was my ninth, the most of anyone currently in the American delegation. This experience has let me find solutions that are beneficial to both American Mensa and international Mensa.

Representing American Mensa internationally is another important part of the First Vice-Chair's job. The First Vice-Chair traditionally serves as one of American Mensa's na-

tional representatives to Mensa International. The international board meeting last fall was my ninth, the most of anyone currently in the American delegation. This experience has let me find solutions that are beneficial to both American Mensa and international Mensa.

**You got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there.**

*Yogi Berra*

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.



Editor:  
Keith Johnson  
181 Proctors Purchase  
Hartly DE 19953

**Postmaster: Send change of address notification to:  
American Mensa Ltd.  
National Office  
1229 Corporate Dr. West  
Arlington TX 76006-6103**

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.

## March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 New Moon	5
6 National Frozen Food Day	7	8	9	10 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	11	12
13	14 Lunch Bunch	15	16 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19 Full Moon Nat'l Quilting Day
20	21	22	23	24	25 DelaMensa Deadline	26
27	28	29	30	31		