



DelaMensa

Volume 38, Number 7

July 2012

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Steve's Corner

By Steve Michel

Hope you all had a Happy 4th of July. Happy 236th Birthday America!

We continue to get closer to our next Regional Gathering (RG). More and more details are becoming finalized and things are falling into place nicely: Friday nights music is being provided by Todd Chapelle and a group call Hot Breakfast, three speaking engagements provided by two presenters courtesy of the Delaware Humanities Forum, the "Tune That Name" music game (rhyme unintended), karaoke, catered meals, 24x7 hospitality, games and conversation. For more details and continuous updates, refer to the dedicated RG page on the DEM website.

On to other upcoming business... this year happens to be an election year. We don't yet have an election chair, so if you are interested, please contact me or any other member of the ExComm. The requirements of the election chair are to gather the ballots (both paper and electronic), tally the votes, and report the results.

All offices are open for nominations. You may nominate yourself to run for an office. What offices are available? All of them: Local Secretary (aka Chairperson), Assistant Local Secretary (aka First Councilor), Membership Chair (aka Second Councilor) and Treasurer (aka ... Treasurer). Three of the four current office holders are planning on

Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Steve Michel	302 832-2665	sdm1177@yahoo.com
1st Councilor	Cindi Era	302-898-0093	lightintheclouds15@yahoo.com
2nd Councilor			
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	302-892-2299	busydeec@comcast.net
Proctor Coord	Nicole Perefegé	302-345-9526	perefegelaw@gmail.com
Downstate Coord	Duke Brooks	302-727-9868	dukebrooksled@gmail.com
Editor	Keith Johnson	302-242-8201	keith.johnson@hughes.net
RVC-2	Marc Lederman	717-308-1221	RVC2@us.mensa.org

running for the same or a different office – but don't let that dissuade you from running for an office if you are interested.

Hopefully, when the election ballots go out, there will also be a revised version of the DEM by-laws up for member approval as well. They are being finalized and need the blessing from National before they are put up for vote.

Our relatively new Downstate Coordinator – Duke – is starting to plan some activities downstate. These events are open to all members and guests (when permitted / appropriate). In August, there is a DAFB tour planned. Details are on the DEM events page.

As always, just a reminder that if you have any ideas for an event, please contact a member of the ExComm.

Next Month - Air Mobility Command Museum

The Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base has extended to Delaware Mensa a welcome to tour their museum on Saturday, August 11th, from noon to four pm.

It's a GREAT facility and this should be fun. Afterwards, we can all find some pizza in Dover, or perhaps hurl eggs at Legislative Hall. I would like to suggest that we meet at the museum at noon. The entrance is south of the base, exit #91 off Route 1. Go east and follow the signs to Hangar 1301; you literally can't miss it. I'll be waiting at the front entrance, which is near the control tower (a replica, but open to tours) at the museum. If you drive into a C-9 "Nightingale," you've driven through a barrier and onto the ramp.

I have asked the museum for permission to "borrow" both their B-17G "Sleepy Time Gal" and their Bell UH-1 helicopter so I can take my fellow Mensans for rides around the pattern; they're trying to work that out now with their insurance company. Don't hold your breath, though.

DATE: Saturday, Aug 11

TIME: 12:00, noon

PLACE: Dover AFB Air Mobility Command Museum

FOR INFO: Duke Brooks at dukebrooksled@gmail.com or call **302-245-0719**.

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

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

- Mon, July 9 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, July 10 [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.
- Wed, Aug 1 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.
- Sat, Aug 11 12 to 4 pm, Tour the Air Mobility Command Museum, Dover DE (enter off of Rt 9). For info, contact Duke Brooks, 302-245-0719, or dukebrooksled@gmail.com

Your event here!!

DM

Editors Note: Due to an untimely computer crash, the June issue of DelaMensa never made it into print, although the electronic version was distributed as usual. I apologize to our members who expected to receive a paper copy. Some information of enduring interest is repeated in the July issue.

Marc My Words

by Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

We're just a few days away from American Mensa's Annual Gathering (AG). We're expecting more than 1600 people to join us in Reno, Nevada. There are more than 330 events on the schedule. You can check out the AG website, <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>, to find out about the program, meal plan, tours, and pretty much anything else about the AG that interests you. There are a few events I would like to bring to your attention.

The AG programming kicks off on Wednesday July 4 at 3:00 PM. In the very first time slot, Metropolitan Washington Mensan Jared Levine will be conducting a Governance Discussion to discuss any amendments which are being brought before the membership for approval to be placed on the next referendum ballot. Of particular note this year are five bylaws amendments submitted by Cleveland Area Mensan Shawn Kenney. Shawn's amendments cover such topics as eliminating the Second Vice Chair of the AMC; taking away voting rights from AMC appointees and reducing the number of Past Chairs on the AMC; detailing the role of the RVC; adding a LocSec representative to the AMC; and changing the number and method of election of RVCs. If a majority of the voters attending the ABM vote in favor of an amendment, it will be put on the next American Mensa ballot, currently scheduled for spring 2013. Following Jared's program, I'll be conducting a Region 2 Meet & Greet at 4:30 PM. This is an informal program for people in and around the region to meet one another. This is not

meant to be an intense discussion of Mensa, but I'll be there to answer any questions people have.

The AMC will be holding their quarterly board meeting on Thursday July 5, starting at 9:00 AM. You can find the agenda for the meeting on the AML Website by clicking on the Meeting Reports quick link, and selecting the 2012-07 Reno meeting. That afternoon at 4:30 we will have our Annual Business Meeting (ABM). You can find the agenda for that meeting at the same location as the AMC meeting agenda. As I mentioned in the last paragraph, we have five bylaw amendments to discuss and vote on during the meeting. If you plan to attend the AG, please attend this event.

Delaware Mensa will be holding their sixth annual Regional Gathering (RG) from September 21 - 23, at the Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts in Claymont, Delaware. Their theme is Music, Music, Music! Please check out their website <http://delaware.us.mensa.org/rg12.htm> for more information on this event.

After serving several years as Region 2 Scholarship Chair, John Williams, from Tidewater Mensa, has decided to retire from this position. I've appointed Ellen Bauer, from Delaware Valley Mensa, to replace John. Ellen recently retired after teaching for more than 30 years, and is eager to help both Mensa and the Mensa Foundation any way she can. I'd like to thank John for all he has done for us, and thank Ellen for taking on this important role.

Celebrations

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Steven M McClure	5-Jun
Shawn Elliott Hale	11-Jun
Richard Schneider	14-Jun
Michael K Wendeler	15-Jun
Ronald W Baldwin	16-Jun
Susan Novellino	1-Jul
Peter L Terry	5-Jul
Scott Schreiber	5-Jul
Margie Bookout Bleier	8-Jul
Shirin Skovronski	9-Jul
Sherwood T Brooks	11-Jul
Alan Charles Emsley	24-Jul
Carrie Upreti	31-Jul

(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>Years membership:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Years membership:</u>
<i>June Anniversaries:</i>		Peter L Terry	19
Shawn Elliott Hale	23	Daniel T Furlong	17
Ann Iona Warner	21	J J Beh	15
Joan E Sorflaten	18	Hope S Freeman	9
Todd E Hauser	1	Morgan R Dean	8
<i>July Anniversaries:</i>		Jason Nomura	5
Diane Richardson	45	Gregory E Moore	4
Raymond S Pusey	40	Jennifer R Johnson	3
Carl G Moore Jr	31	Catherine R Scherer	2
Margie Bookout Bleier	30		
David Adam Klein	21		
Alan Bleier	19		

Making Optimism Work for You

From an article by Jane E. Brody, NY Times

Elaine Fox, a psychologist at the University of Essex in England and author of an informative new book on the science of optimism, "[Rainy Brain, Sunny Brain](#)," says positive thinking is not the main thing about optimism. "What really makes the difference is action," she says. "If you sit back passively, you won't get the result you want."

After Thomas Edison unsuccessfully tried more than 10,000 different ways to develop an electric lamp, Dr. Fox wrote, "he famously proclaimed: 'I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.'"

In an interview, Dr. Fox said: "The important thing is having a sense of control over your life, your destiny. When you have a setback, you feel you can do something about it."

Or, as she wrote: "Optimism is not so much about feeling happy, nor necessarily a belief that everything will be fine, but about how we respond when times get tough. Optimists tend to keep going, even when it seems as if the whole world is against them."

Retraining Your Brain

Dr. Fox has shown that while brain circuits vary from person to person, it is possible to strengthen what she calls the "sunny" brain and weaken the "rainy" brain.

Among the science-based "retraining" methods she describes in her book are these:

- Face your fears head on. Step outside your comfort zone to help eliminate fear, anxiety and negative thoughts that can stand in the way of success.
- Re-evaluate events in your everyday life. Tell yourself that maybe things aren't so bad.
- Practice mindful meditation. Allow feelings and thoughts to pass through your mind without judging or reacting to them; that helps create a sense of detachment from negative experiences.
- Take control over how you feel instead of letting feelings control you. A sense that you control your destiny can help you bounce back from setbacks and maximize your enjoyment of life.
- Laugh. Use positive feelings to counter negative ones.
- Be fully engaged. Get involved in activities that are meaningful to you, whether it's a career, hobby, sport or volunteering. Do it, then learn how.

Winning Words From Past National Spelling Bees

From an article by KEVIN LAMARQUE/Reuters/Landov

On May, 14-year-old Snigdha Nandipati won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling the word *guetapens*, which means “ambush.” To celebrate Nandipati’s impressive achievement, here are a few interesting words from the Bee’s 87-year history.

1. **Gladiolus**, 1925. The word (a type of flower) is notable not due to its complexity, but because it was the first-ever winning word.
2. **Albumen**, 1928. The white part of an egg. Who knew?
3. **Promiscuous**, 1937. I just like the idea of an eight-year-old asking the judges to use it in a sentence.
4. **Crustaceology**, 1955. The study of crustaceans, of course. Doesn’t it roll off of the tongue nicely?
5. **Syllepsis**, 1958. “A figure of speech in which one word simultaneously modifies two or more other words such that the modification must be understood differently with respect to each modified word.” How about an example from Dorothy Parker: “It’s a small apartment. I’ve barely enough room to lay my hat and a few friends.”
6. **Smaragdine**, 1961. Of or pertaining to emeralds, or having the color of emeralds. “What beautiful smaragdine eyes you have.”
7. **Esquamulose**, 1962. Not covered in scales or scale-like objects. Can we bring this one back? “Hey, Jessie. You’re looking especially esquamulose today.”
8. **Maculature**, 1979. Paper waste and printed materials not intended for reading, AKA junk mail. You might consider those five Oriental Trading catalogs you never signed up for maculature.

9. **Elucubrate**, 1980. To produce by long and intensive effort, especially in reference to literary work.

10. **Odontalgia**, 1986. The next time you have a sore tooth, impress your dentist by telling him you’re suffering from odontalgia. It’s just a fancy word for toothache.

11. **Antediluvian**, 1994. Ancient, antiquated or supremely dated. Have a friend who’s hitting a milestone birthday soon? Up the ante by referring to them as “antediluvian” instead of the totally overdone “over the hill.”

12. **Vivisepture**, 1996. The act of burying someone alive. Famous people terrified of being buried alive (also known as taphephobia, another great spelling word): Hans Christian Anderson, George Washington and Frederic Chopin.

13. **Euonym**, 1997. A name well suited to a person, place or thing.

14. **Chiaroscuro**, 1998. Chiaroscuro is a style of monochromatic shading used in art, but I like it because it makes me think of [Trogdor](#).

15. **Succedaneum**, 2001. A substitute or replacement for something else, especially in reference to medicine.

16. **Prospicience**, 2002. Foresight.

17. **Pococurante**, 2003. Apathetic or indifferent. Even though you’re not studying for the SATs anymore, maybe you should be a little less pococurante about expanding your vocabulary.

Read the full text here: <http://www.mentalfloss.com/blogs/archives/128643#ixzz1x6zldTjL>

MENSA NEWS - The Pattern Behind Self-Deception

The July 15 American Mensa’s online Community Symposi-M is on “The Pattern Behind Self-Deception” by psychologist and *Scientific American* columnist Michael Shermer. Participation is easy, but the opportunity to obtain new knowledge and perspectives could be profound.

Shermer, a psychologist, argues the human tendency to believe strange things — from alien abductions to dowsing rods — boils down to two of the brain’s most basic, hard-wired survival skills, which can get us into trouble. In this 19-minute video, he describes belief as a “default object,” and characterizes how every belief, from the wild to the mundane, shapes individual ideology and the processes behind human interaction. Watch it at www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/michael_shermer_the_pattern_behind_self_deception.html and then attend the live Mensans-only online discussion at 3 p.m., Central time, on Sunday, July 15, in the General Chat room of the American Mensa online Community (www.community.us.mensa.org). Please note this is a week later than the Symposi-M usually takes place in order to accommodate the Annual Gathering. Further, if you need login help, you will need to contact the National Office in advance, during regular business hours.

Even if you can’t be online during the Symposi-M, you can still participate! Following the chat session, a dedicated online discussion thread will be created in the Events section of the “Mensa and You” forum in the Mensa Online Community to continue discussions and to allow those who are not able to attend the chat to participate.

Plan now to attend the Aug. 12 Community Symposi-M on “The Hidden Influence of Social Networks” by Harvard professor and medical doctor Nicholas Christakis.



Music, Music, Music

Delaware Mensa's Sixth Annual RG

September 21 to 23, 2012

*A long long time ago, I can still remember how
That music used to make me smile
And I knew if I had my chance,
That I could make those people dance
And maybe they'd be happy for a while*

But, ... you know, you will have that chance, when we have Karaoke on Saturday. And if you don't feel the need to sing, maybe you'd enjoy listening to some music - Todd Chapelle is coming back Friday night- or talking about music, or talking about listening to music. All of that stuff, plus food, yeah, food like you've never seen before (unless you go to Mensa RGs a lot.) And games, and old friends, and new friends. How could you even think of missing this gathering, and it's in a new location, too.

And we'll be singing: Bye bye Miss American Pie ... oh, and there will be pie too – cant miss this one!

Sixth Annual Regional Gathering
Claymont, Delaware
September 21-23 2012

RG Registration fees:

- ◆ Up to and including August 31: \$60 (Sat only \$50)
 - ◆ Through the event and at the door: \$70 (Sat only \$60)
- Rooms include:
- ⇒ Free wireless internet
 - ⇒ Free Continental Breakfast
 - ⇒ Refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker in all rooms
 - ⇒ Pool, fitness center
 - ⇒ Handicap Accessible rooms available

NEW LOCATION:

(Make your room reservation separately—Tell them you're with Delaware Mensa!!!)

**Crowne Plaza -
Claymont DE**
630 Naamans Rd
Claymont, DE 19703
302-792-2700

Rooms are \$89

Pictures may be taken during the RG. If you choose to not have your picture taken, please inform any person with a camera.

-----Detach and send with registration-----

Make checks payable to: Delaware Mensa. **Send registration form and checks to:** Dee Richardson, 3101 Duncan Road, Wilmington DE 19808

For more information, or to register online, go to www.delaware.us.mensa.org/rg12.htm !

Name: _____ Local Group: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of people registering: _____ Amount included: _____

Name(s) on badge(s): _____

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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.

July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Full Moon	6	7
AG 2012						
8 AG 2012	9 Lunch Bunch	10 Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night-Bear	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 New Moon	20	21
22	23	24 DelaMensa Deadline	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Games Night at Trader's Cove			

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