



# DelaMensa

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May 2012

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## Steve's Corner

*By Steve Michel*

The end of last month saw the coming and going of Mind Games (MG), held at the Dulles Hyatt. What is MG? A weekend-long festival of game playing where the players don't play the game for the sake of winning or losing (yes, it is true...) but rather for game play, quality of instructions and aesthetics. The result of the weekend is the announcement of the five games chosen as Mensa Select. This year's winners, if you haven't heard, were Tetris Link, Iota, Coerceo, Mine Shift and Snake Oil. Next year's event will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. Check the American Mensa web site for more info at <http://mindgames.us.mensa.org>.

Coming up later this year will be our sixth annual Regional Gathering (RG). What is an RG? A weekend-long festival of game playing, chatting, speakers, food and drink, with some highlights such as speakers and karaoke. For the past three years we held it at the Howard Johnson's in Newark. We are in the process of negotiating a contract with a new provider that will move us to a larger and fairly recently renovated facility in Claymont – the Crown Plaza. The theme this year is Music, Music, Music. We are expecting three speakers (at the moment) to present, as well as music by Todd Chapelle, karaoke, and even a music-based game (details for the game are still being worked out, but one thing is certain: it will be a test to see how well you know your "cisum"). Details will be provided on the DEM website RG page.

### Directory of Local Officers

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If anyone has any ideas for any programs / gatherings / events, we'd love to hear about them! We currently have a Monday lunch, Tuesday trivia, Wednesday game night, a Chat 'N Chew on whatever night a speaker is available, and a Saturday afternoon tea. We've had people host games day in their home (the only requirement is that you have a home to host it – but light refreshments are appreciated) and used to have a philosophical discussion session as well. If someone wants to coordinate an outing to somewhere – anywhere – you are welcome to also. The earlier it is scheduled the better so that word can get out and the DEM website can be updated.

Lastly, don't forget at the end of the month to remember the veterans who gave their lives for the freedoms we are blest with today. And thank a veteran – past and current – for their service too.

## Mensa News

The national Nominating Committee (NomComm) is looking for qualified candidates to run for the elected positions on the American Mensa Committee, our organization's board of directors, in next year's national election. These positions include the Chairman, the First Vice Chairman, the Second Vice Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer and 10 Regional Vice Chairmen. If you're interested in running for any of these offices, follow these simple steps:

1. Review American Mensa's Bylaws, sections 3-6, below or at [www.us.mensa.org/policydocs](http://www.us.mensa.org/policydocs). These parts of our bylaws describe in detail exactly what qualifications are required in order to be an officer of Mensa. (If you're interested in the mechanics of the election, you'll also want to review the relevant Actions Still in Effect in the Elections section of that document.)
2. Review the job description for the position in which you're inter-

ested ([www.us.mensa.org/AMC](http://www.us.mensa.org/AMC), select Job Descriptions from the left menu), written by past and current officeholders for each of these offices.

3. Fill out a Candidate Information Form (CIF) available below. Most Mensans can write a lot about their accomplishments both inside and outside of Mensa, but please make note of the important space limits for each answer and prioritize your responses accordingly.

3. The Nominating Committee's preference is to receive copies of this form electronically. Save a copy of the CIF for your records and email Nominating Committee Chair Pat Coontz with a copy at [NomCommChair@us.mensa.org](mailto:NomCommChair@us.mensa.org). Forms must be received via email by 11:59 p.m., Central, on Aug. 15, 2012.

So fill out your Candidate Information Form and send it in! American Mensa needs YOU!

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!*

- Wed, May 2      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
- Tues, May 8      [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.
- Mon, May 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, June 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.

*Your event here!!*

DM

### Celebrations

#### A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Jenny M Reed	10-May
Maryanne P Bellman	10-May
Robert M Specter	12-May
Lloyd A Teitsworth Jr	15-May
Joan E Sorflaten	16-May
Glenn MacDonald	19-May
Morgan R Dean	27-May
Matthew T Eckman	29-May
Kristin Goodwin	31-May

*(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>
Dennis George Cripps	29
Jack Phillip Varsalona	26
James D Carroll	8
Alexandra Poletaev	6
John Daniel Coburn	6
Jason C Robinson	4
Glenn MacDonald	4

*And a warm Delaware welcome to new member Terence Daniels, of Bear, , and also Gerald E Lenis who just moved to Delaware*

### Marc My Words

by Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership. American Mensa ended the year with 56,219 members, 2.52% fewer than we had a year ago.

This year the Publications Recognition Program (PRP) has been expanded to allow members to vote in any and all categories they find interesting in order to determine the winners of the inaugural Members' Choice Awards. Everyone can participate in the program by voting online at <http://www.us.mensa.org/PRPVoting> through Thursday, May 31. PRP winners will be recognized at the Awards Luncheon Friday, July 6, at the 2012 Annual Gathering in Reno.

The AMC held their quarterly meeting March 31. The 2012-2013 budget passed, though I voted against it, as did 4 other AMC members. As part of the budget, the AMC suspended the \$150K Equity Restoration. This Equity Resto-

ration was implemented a few years ago so that American Mensa could replenish their savings after the Impharmatica lawsuit. I think it is premature to suspend this policy and we should have found other places in the budget to cut spending. All four of my motions on the agenda involving Annual Gatherings (AGs) passed. All future AG bids will require a neutral party hotel inspection. The AG bid guidelines have been revised and brought up to 2012 standards. Starting with the 2013 Fort Worth AG, AG registration rates will have an amount added to them to help offset National Office staff costs and processing fees.

This month features our region's last RG until the fall - Metropolitan Washington Mensa's Maytrix 4: A Renaissance Affair. You can join more than 200 of your current and future friends at the Hyatt Dulles Hotel in Herndon, Virginia, May 18 - 20. They will have lots of programs, ample hospitality, a royal banquet, and a copy of each game from the 2012 Mind Games event.

## 17 Holidays in May You May Not Know About

By Laura Turner Garrison (reprinted without permission from *mental\_floss* magazine)

If you remember nothing else from this article, remember that Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th. Go ahead and buy the card now. Once that's taken care of, here are 17 much wackier holidays to keep it fun this month.

**May 2: Scurvy Awareness Day** - The preferred disease of pirates has its own international holiday, and an entire website to boot! [Limestrong](#) with citrusy cocktails, curvy-not-scurvy pin-ups, and drop some (citric) acid into your bloodstream.

**May 3: Hug Your Cat Day** - Not to be confused with Hug Somebody Else's Cat Day. (Some celebrate Hug Your Cat Day on June 4th. Feel free to celebrate both.)

**May 4: Star Wars Day** - May the fourth be with you.

**May 5: Cinco de Mayo** - The 5th of May in Spanish means a 5th bottle of Corona in the United States. It actually holds its roots in the Mexican state of Puebla, when the Mexican army defeated the better-equipped French army currently occupying their land. As far as the addition of excessive drinking as part of the holiday, all signs point to America as the culprit.

**May 6: National Nurse's Day** - National Nurse's Day kicks off National Nurse's week which concludes on the O.G. nurse Florence Nightingale's birthday. According to the reliable sources at Hallmark, there are currently 3.1 million registered nurses in the United States. Hallmark also alleges to be the first card company to invent, errr publish, National Nurse's Day cards (in 1992). They now offer more than 20 different options, for males and females. At least they practice equality with their fake holidays.

**May 9: National Lost Sock Memorial Day** - Today we honor the past, and we let go. It's time to admit that one red argyle sock has gone to washing machine heaven, turn the partner it left behind into a rag or a sock puppet, and buy a new pair. It's what it would have wanted.

**May 10: Clean Up Your Room Day** - Also known as one of every child in America's least favorite day of the year, right behind Eat Your Brussels Sprouts Day and Do Your Homework Week. For the adults, this is just in seasonal time to finally tackle that whole spring-cleaning thing.

**May 11: National Twilight Zone Day** - There is a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to man. It is a dimension as vast as space and as timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition, and on the fourteenth of May, plan on confronting the pit of your fears and the summit of your knowledge. Today is the day to celebrate the dimension of imagination, known as the Twilight Zone.

**May 13: Frog Jumping Day** - One of Mark Twain's first short stories introduced the image of the "jumping frog"

into the collective consciousness of America. How this ties to this specific date is unclear, but do you really need a clear reason to jump around like a frog?

**May 14: National Dance Like a Chicken Day** - Call up your local oom pah band, because today we Vogeltanz until we drop. Or, gather all the *Arrested Development* fanatics you know and start a round of your worst chicken dance impersonations. Or introduce your own interpretation of how a chicken might dance. All of the above apply, as long as your moves are fowl.

**May 17: National Pack Rat Day** - There's a fine line between holding on to nostalgia, and being a candidate-in-waiting for an episode of *Hoarders*. But just for a day, you can openly cherish the growing stack of Signals catalogs piling up in your basement sans any judgment of concerned family and friends. Who knows? Maybe your Beanie Babies will become collectibles again, and the joke will be on us.

**May 20: Be a Millionaire Day** - The holiday powers that be may want to consider changing this holiday to the day of Facebook's IPO.

**May 22: National Buy a Musical Instrument Day** - Treat yourself to that baby grand you've always wanted. Don't know how to play guitar? No problem! On this particular day in May buy now, learn later!

**May 23: Lucky Penny Day** - Keep your eyes glued to the ground, because what better day than today to be your lucky one! Just make sure you see the face of Abraham Lincoln staring back at you, before you pick the penny up!

**May 26: Sally Ride Day** - As the first American woman in space, Dr. Sally Ride rightfully earned a full day dedicated to her honor. Remember when space was a thing?

**May 29: End of Middle Ages Day** - Barkeep, we'll have a pint of your finest grog! Because today in 1453, the official Middle Ages allegedly ended, ushering in the Renaissance and other subsequent influential periods in European history. You gave us Arthurian lore, you gave us a plague of Bubonic proportions, and you gave us *Game of Thrones*. For that — mostly the last part — we thank you.

**May 30: My Bucket's Got a Hole in It Day** - Somewhat inspired by a folk song of the same name, My Bucket's Got a Hole in it Day, or MBGHD, does not dictate any formal observational traditions. We suggest putting a positive spin on the crisis, and taking the day to reflect on how things could be worse. Unless of course you're a bucket.

Read the full text here: <http://www.mentalfloss.com/blogs/archives/125469#ixzz1uerdIF4z>

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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.

# May 2012

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