

the BRAINIAC



January 2017 Vol. 48 # 1



**THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEBRASKA-WESTERN IOWA
MENSA**

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There's always something happening on the list-serv.

Don't let it pass you by.

Local Website: www.nwim.us.mensa.org

Facebook page at Nebraska-Western Iowa Mensa

From the Editorby Tami Whitney 1

Happy holidays! We're gearing up for our annual holiday party. It will be Saturday January 14, 2017 at Johnny's Café in South Omaha (where we had it last year). This year lapsed Nwimensan Denny Rourke, who is a professional magician, will provide pre-dinner entertainment. He came to ex-comm to show us what he could do and we were all amazed. I think you will be too. Ex-comm is providing dessert and entertainment and party presents and paying for a portion of each dinner, so your cost is only \$20 a person. Our holiday party is generally popular and fun. Jill Nelson went shopping black Friday for our party presents for our exchange. The holiday party is always fun and a great opportunity to get together with your fellow Mensans. It's always good conversation and good food and this year it will be magic!

We're also gearing up for the local election. We have an election committee in place and if you're interested in running for a local office contact a member of the elec-comm. Be a part of our local governance and an active participant in the Mensa process. The ex-comm meets every month. Our main activities are the holiday party and the summer picnic and occasional other member activities. There is a certain amount of paperwork stuff that needs dealt with during the year. It's interesting and rewarding activity and it keeps the group running.

Make it your new year's resolution to be more active in Mensa. Run for ex-comm. Attend an activity like the holiday party or our monthly trivia game or our monthly dine-out. I treasure my Mensa connections. I've made some great friends through Mensa and enjoy our activities.

On a less positive note, the website changeover at national has not gone as smoothly as anticipated and there are still several areas that are not fully functional. This includes the newsletter upload and distribution. I will again email pdf to e-subscribers. The label distribution area has also been negatively affected and I did not receive a full set of mailing labels, so I'm not sure everyone will have access to the newsletter. I will send a pdf to every email address I have. I have a three month old member list and will make sure everyone on that list with no email address gets a print copy. Some people will get print copy and pdf. You should all go to the new national website and make sure your print/email preferences are how you want them.



Cool Stuff Mensans Are Doing

James Kulacz was appointed the chairman pro-tempore (vice-mayor) of the Village Board of Trustees of Broadwater, Nebr. on 5 December 2016 after reorganization of the village board following the election. James is now the senior-most member of the village board. Beth and James went on vacation to Sacramento, California December 8. The high point of their trip was a visit to the California State Railroad Museum, where Beth was able to drive a Japanese high-speed rail locomotive simulator. They also visited Donner Summit and the Bonneville Salt Flats.

Team Mensa: played trivia December 13. Frances Shefl ranked 82 in a countdown game. Mark Scobey got on the leaderboard with a rank of 10 in ShowDown! That ranked the bar as 9 and Terry Currey ranked 24.

Tami Whitney has written a reflection for the daily Mass reading for January 29 at www.creighton.edu/collaborativeministry/daily.htm .

In Memoriam

Chuck Wahl from Lincoln died October 6, 2016. He was 76.

NWIM Holiday party

Saturday January 14, 2017

Johnny's Café in South Omaha

Cost \$20 per person

Cash bar

Menu:

Rib-eye, chicken parmesan,

Salmon, or vegetarian

Pre-dinner entertainment by

Denny Rourke (former local member)

Rsvp to Jill Nelson by January 10

(see back cover for contact info)

With menu selection and

check for your dinner

Blue Shadows

by Karen Kozak © 2016

Blue shadows steal across crystal snow,
As December deepens into the Holidays,
Nightly, families light their hearth fires,
Anticipating warmth and welcoming visitors...
Good will spreads throughout the community,
While plans and parties flourish, everywhere.
Wouldn't it be wonderful if it all were lasting -
This atmosphere of celebration and generosity?



Solstice

By Tami Whitney

On this longest night
The world snuggles
Under a snowy down comforter
For the longest night of dreams.
The Yule moon,
Through a web of bare branches
With one lone feathered leaf,
Catches the bad dreams
And lets through
Dreams of snow swirls
Skating axels on ice
And lacy snowflakes
Suspended in the frozen air.
Dreams of spring are for a shorter night.
Tonight, everything waits
Holding its breath
In the blue moonglow
As if the icy pink glow
Announcing the shortest day
Will never come.

4 Ex-Comm Minutes by Morgan Whale

December 19, 2016

260 Regency Parkway Drive, Suite 200, Omaha, NE

Kirk called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm.

Members in Attendance: Kirk Johnson, President; Ron Kroenke, Vice-President; Wes Shaw, Proctor Coordinator; Mark Wooge, Calendar Editor; Tami Whitney, Communications Officer; Morgan Whale, Recording Secretary.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without change.

Loc Sec Report: Merry Christmas to all!

Committee Reports:

Tami has not been receiving mailing labels or member information needed for *Brainiac* distribution. AML is taking a very long time to get its new website to be fully functional.

We did not have any candidates attend the regularly scheduled test session last Saturday. Beginning in 2017, the regularly scheduled test day will be on the second Saturday of each month at the Abrahams Branch of the Omaha Public Library. Morgan proctored a test for one of his former students using the new materials which include the Reynolds Adaptable Intelligence Test.

Old Business: Plans for the holiday party at Johnny's Cafe on January 14th are complete. Denny Rourke will be contracted for entertainment during cocktails. Conversation and drinks will begin at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served a little after 7:00. Menu choices will be the same as last year offering ribeye, chicken, salmon, or vegetarian. The cost to members will be the same as well at \$20 per person.

Kirk adjourned the meeting at 5:28 pm.

Our next ExComm meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2017.

Treasurer's Report by Jill Nelson

STARTING BALANCE NOVEMBER 1, 2016		\$6,483.10
DEBITS		
1-Nov	AP BANK OF THE WEST-FEE	\$10.00
20-Nov	261 OH K PRINT	\$76.24
21-Nov	262 JILL NELSON-POSTAGE	\$9.40
21-Nov	263 WES SHAW-POSTAGE	\$21.45
21-Nov	264 POST OFFICE-POSTAGE	\$100.00
TOTAL DEBITS		\$217.09
CREDITS		
1-Nov	AD BANK OF THE WEST-REFUND	\$10.00
118-NOV	AD AMERICAN MENSA	\$247.55
TOTAL CREDITS		\$257.55
ENDING BALANCE NOVEMBER 30, 2016		\$6,523.56

RVC Report by Greg Kontz

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Hi guys – Here's what's been happening:

- We had a board meeting December 10 in New Orleans. Susan and I got there at 10:00 Friday night instead of 2:00 in the afternoon because we were delayed getting out of Dickinson, ND. The de-icer solution they use on the plane was only rated to -25 degrees – it was -26. We had to wait for it to warm up to -25 before we could de-ice and leave... Anyway, board meeting outcomes:
- We passed a motion to make an official yearly calendar available to everyone that shows all planned meeting/event dates, due dates for various reports, requests, etc. Election information regarding dates will also be provided.
- Passed a motion to make Local Group websites officially permitted.
- Passed a motion to require all agenda items to state their relationship to the Strategic Plan.
- Passed a motion to increase dues from \$70 to \$79 effective July 1, 2017. The last raise was in 2011. The raise from \$70 to \$79 basically matches the inflation from 2011 to 2017. This will be voted on for the second time at the April meeting. If it passes then, it's a done deal.
- There is a new requirement for people running for the board – whether you're running for RVC position or another one. If you run for RVC, you must accumulate 100 signatures on a petition. These can be accumulated either electronically or in writing. I intend to run again. You access the petitions by going to the National website and: CONNECT > BOARD CONTACTS > ELECTIONS > 2017 BOARD ELECTIONS > SIGN CANDIDATE PETITIONS. Then, if you are so inclined (and a Region 7 member), you can sign my petition. If not, you can at least see who is running for the various positions. If you wish, you can use the link below to get to the site quicker (you'll have to sign in). **us.mensa.org/petition?id=123**

Our next Board meeting is in Hollywood, Florida on April 1.

Later, Greg Kontz, grik@fisherind.com, 701-290-0743

Quote for the month:

No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.

Albert Einstein

ELECTION REPORT

Candidate List: The following candidates for NWIM office were nominated by the Election Committee.

President:	Kirk Johnson
Vice President	Ron Kroenke
Recording Secretary	Morgan Whale
Treasurer	Jill Nelson

Nomination by Petition: If you were not nominated by the election committee but are interested in running for election there is still time for nomination by petition. **If you are interested in running for any of the above offices, you must submit a Petition in substantially the format shown at the end of this notice. The Petition must be received by the Chairman of the Election Committee, no later than 5:00 p.m., January 23, 2017.** The Petition *must* contain the names, signature and membership numbers of at least **five** (5) current members of NWIM. If you need contact information for Mensa members to sign your petition contact Kirk Johnson. His contact information is in the monthly issue of the Brainiac and on the NWIM website,

Ballot: There is currently only one candidate for each office. Therefore no ballots will be cast *unless a candidate petition is received by the January 23 deadline*. If a valid nominating petition is received by the Chairman of the Elec-Comm by the January 23 deadline, a ballot and voting instructions will be printed in the February 2017 newsletter.

Term of Office: The officers elected for the new term (whether elected by ballot or not) will serve from April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019.

Petition Requirements/Sample Petition: A petition may be downloaded through the links available on the Yahoo list-serve. Select the link at the bottom of any list serve email that says "To visit your group on the web" or type the URL into your browser. The link is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mensa-nwim/>. On the group page, select "Files" in the vertical bar at the left of the page. Then select the folder titled "NWIM Documents." The first document is entitled "Ballot Petition." That is the petition document that may be used. You may also copy or recreate a petition in the form shown below:

The Petition must be received by the Chairman of the Election Committee *on or before January 23, 2017 – NO EXCEPTIONS.*

Diana J. Vogt
 3504 N. 58th Street
 Omaha, NE 68104
 phone: (402) 981-4012 alternate phone: 402-390-1112 (office)
 fax (office): (402) 390-1163
fidgetydjv@gmail.com

PETITION FOR INCLUSION ON NWIM ELECTION BALLOT 7

(To be completed by any candidate for NWIM elective office not nominated by or desiring nomination by the Election Committee)

I, _____ (print), declare my intention to run for the office of _____ of Nebraska/Western Iowa Mensa (NWIM) in the upcoming election of officers for the Executive Committee.

Signature (required): _____

Home address: _____

Phone number: (____) _____

E-mail address: _____@_____

Mensa member number (required): _____

We, the undersigned members of NWIM in good standing, endorse the candidacy of the petitioner for the aforementioned office:

Mensa member number (required): _____

Name (print): _____

Signature (required): _____

Mensa member number (required): _____

Name (print): _____

Signature (required): _____

Mensa member number (required): _____

Name (print): _____

Signature (required): _____

Mensa member number (required): _____

Name (print): _____

Signature (required): _____

Mensa member number (required): _____

Name (print): _____

Signature (required): _____

(Although only five valid signatures are required, additional members in good standing may be collected in the manner shown above, using the back of this form or a separate sheet of paper.)

Membership changes

I do not have current membership changes from national

Membership Total: don't have current info

Happy birthday to:

If you have not given your birthdate to national and released that information, your **birthday** will not show up here

1/01 — **Andy Boell**
 1/07 — **Mark Dougherty**
 1/08 — **Walt Thomas**
 1/09 — **William Herron**
 1/13 — **Norris Swan**
 1/17 — **Charles Barringer**
 1/20 — **William Kavanaugh**
 1/26 — **Earl Stuart**
 1/28 — **Margaret Kendall**
 1/26 — **Deborah Mardock**



Mensa-versaries

Mensa-versies are terms of continuous membership. If your membership has lapsed for over a year, the anniversary date is from your most recent renewal

Shelley Beard — 5 years
 Kerin Bunstock — 34 years
 Berta Daugherty — 1 year
 Michelle Drahota — 1 year
 Jill Engelstad — 13 years
Casey Garrigan — 30 years
 Naomi Getty — 37 years
 Chuck Grubb — 17 years
 Bill Heine — 14 years
 Stephanie Horn — 1 year
Linda Katalenich — 5 years
Jeanne Kern — 30 years
 James Kulacz — 7 years
 Richard Loutzenheiser — 24 years
 Richard Muldar — 37 years

Reuline Nightingale — 4 years
 Maureen Olsen — 3 years
 Charisa Player — 14 years
Vicki Pratt — 10 years
 Alexandria Rana — 2 years
 Christopher Rathburn — 11 years
 Stephanie Rathburn — 11 years
 Dan Smith — 1 year
 Mara Spilovoy — 1 year
 Philip Steier — 8 years
 Elizabeth Thompson — 4 years
 John Van Huffel — 2 years
 Paul Weiss — 6 years
 Daniel Yamamoto — 3 years

What's Happening in January

All activities in Omaha unless otherwise noted. To sponsor an activity and have it listed on these pages, send the name of the activity, its date, time, location, and a few descriptive sentences regarding the event to The Brainiac Calendar Editor no later than the 2nd Friday of the month preceding the publication month. Include a phone number. E-mail to mwooge@cox.net or send in legible written or typed form to Mark Wooge, 1016 N. 47th Ave, #7, Omaha, NE 68132.

Saturday, January 7th, Lincoln proctored Mensa qualifying exam, 1 to 4pm at the Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library, 6701 South 14th Street, Lincoln. Handicapped accessible, free parking. All test-takers must be at least 14 years old; written permission needed if 14-17 years old. Younger applicants (and everyone!) should inquire about using previous test scores as prior evidence. Signs will be posted for the conference room but if you get lost, or need information about admission using prior evidence or for testing information, call Jane Hanson, Proctor, at 319-621-6013, or email at janejanielou@gmail.com. Fee is \$40. The preferred method of payment is to pre-pay online at www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher. Download and print the voucher and remember to bring it to the test session. Please, contact Jane and let her know if you, or someone you know, plan to test.

Tuesday, January 10th, Omaha, 5pm, Trivia Night SIG at Buffalo Wild Wings Bar & Grill, 205 No. 76th St. (between Cass & Dodge St.). We are having one fixed night per month for NTN Trivia. If you want to meet on an additional night, e-mail or call other Ms on an ad hoc basis. Come and enjoy some highs (and lows) as your particular knowledge areas are probed (or not). For more information, contact Tami Whitney (see front cover).

Saturday, January 14th, Omaha, monthly proctored Mensa qualifying exam, Abrahams Public Library, 5111 No. 90th St. (just south of 90th & Fort Sts) conference room. 10:30-1:00. Handicapped accessible, free parking. All test-takers must be at least 14 years old; written permission needed if 14-17 years old. Younger applicants (and everyone!) should inquire about using previous test scores as prior evidence. For information about admission using prior evidence or for testing information, call Wes Shaw, Proctor Coordinator at 712-298-0109, or email at wes.shaw.us@member.mensa.org. Testing Fee is \$40. The current method of payment is to pre-pay online at www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher. Download and print the voucher and remember to bring it to your test session. Please, contact Wes and let him know which date you plan to test. We may be able to arrange other possible dates and times at an alternate location. www.nwim.us.mensa.org/MensaTesting.html.

Saturday, January 14th, Lincoln: The Poker SIG. Usually the second Saturday of every month, 7:00 pm - 12:00 am, but call to make sure, at Frank's place: 7724 Ringneck Drive, Lincoln, NE. Phone: 402-483-6965

Saturday, January 14th, 6pm, the NWIM Post-Holiday Party at Johnny's Cafe, 27th and L (4702 South 27th St.), Omaha. Cocktails and conversation at 6, dinner at 7. This merry-making event is always fun and a great chance to meet members you know and new ones you don't.

This year we will provide some entertainment during the cocktail party at 6. Former NWIM member Denny Rourke is an accomplished magician, and he will be there to mingle with the crowd and perform tricks, including card tricks, for groups of people.

Join us for great food and festivity! When you RSVP, choose a rib eye steak, chicken parmesan, salmon, or vegetarian. Cost will be only \$20 per person (some of the cost is being subsidized by the chapter). To reserve your spot send a check and dinner choice and number of attendees to Jill Nelson, 11643 Willow Park Drive, Gretna, NE, 68028, 402-659-9063. The deadline is Friday, January 10th, to insure your menu choice. For questions contact Kirk Johnson (712)323-1454 or captknirko@cox.net. Directions: come from the west on 'L'. Johnny's will be just before the Kennedy Freeway. Turn south (right) into the parking lot.

Monday, January 16th, Omaha, 5pm, NWIM Ex-Comm Meeting, at 260 Regency Parkway Drive.
DIRECTIONS: We are in the Regency Professional Plaza, Suite 200, 2nd floor. From the north, take Regency Parkway south. You will pass Whole Foods, the Regency Shopping Center, Fleming's Steakhouse and the Enterprise Bank building. Just south of the Enterprise Bank building is a driveway on the right which will take you directly into the parking lot. From the south, take Pacific to Regency Parkway, then turn right on Regency Parkway and get in the left lane. Go past the first stoplight and there is a left turn lane at the next intersection. US Bank will be on your left. Turn left onto Regency Parkway Drive and then immediately right and follow Regency Parkway Drive to the building. (Note: some GPS maps have the building on the wrong side of Regency Parkway, so use these directions.) You should enter using the outside door on the north side of the building. If you come in the south side of the building just follow the hallway through the building until you get to the elevator/north staircase. Office suite 200 is on the second floor. If you arrive late and the office suite door is locked, phone someone in Ex-comm to be let in. For more information, contact Kirk Johnson, 712-323-1454, cell phone 402-659-4154, captknirko@cox.net.

Listserv Subscription Commands:

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 Messages posted to: mensa-nwim@yahoogroups List Owner address: mensa-nwim-owner@yahoogroups.com

Website Address: www.nwim.us.mensa.org

January

Your problem is another person's solution.
 Your solution will be their problem.

All events in Omaha unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7  Lincoln
8	9	10 	11	12	13	14 Lincoln Poker SIG Omaha Mensa Exam Post Holiday Party (Omaha)
15 	16 Martin Luther King Day Ex-Comm Meeting (Omaha)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24				NWIM Post Holiday Party, January 14th.
29	30	31				

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grjk@fisherind.com

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