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

Staff

Editor and Publisher

Tami Whitney
1609 Chaput Dr
Bellevue, NE 68005
402-964-2552
twhitney@cox.net

Calendar Editor

Mark Wooge
1016 N. 47th Ave #7
Omaha, NE 68132
402-403-3795
mwooge@cox.net

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From the Editorby Tami Whitney 1

The switchover to the new national website is still not complete and has necessitated many changes in many things. The one that concerns me the most is the newsletter delivery. The newsletter upload page is still not functional and so there is no link to send to e-subscribers. Also, with the switchover many people who wanted and had previously received print newsletters in the mail were switched to e-delivery — and of course there is no current platform for e-delivery anyway. You all really need to go to the national website and check your account and make sure your delivery settings are the way you want. If you want a print newsletter delivered to your home, you need to select print delivery. E-delivery is the current default, whether or not there is a valid e-mail address. I'm afraid there are people who won't receive a newsletter, and I want you all to get the newsletter in your desired form. If you want the link emailed to you (once they get the e-delivery system back up — right now I'm emailing pdf) then select e-delivery. If you want a print newsletter mailed to your home, select print delivery. This month again I will try to cross-check to make sure no one is left out, but I know last month a few slipped through the cracks. The national website really did need upgraded, but change is always hard. I know it has been a bigger deal and taken way longer than expected. I know not everything will be the way it used to be. That's part of the reason the print/e-delivery codes have changed. The default has been e-delivery for a while, but there were more code options. Now it's more important that you make sure your selection is appropriate so you don't default to e— and then not be able to access it. I hope the newsletter uploads and bulk e-delivery is restored or something soon. I am still committed to making sure the newsletter is delivered appropriately and in a timely manner.

The holiday party was lots of fun. Denny Rourke went table to table with some awesome sleight of hand. The food was delicious. The presents were great. I got popcorn and I'm enjoying it while watching movies. I'm not sure I'm going to go all out for Oscars this year, but I might. *La La Land* upset me so much it sort of put me off Oscar. I've seen about half of the nominated movies now, and I'm sure I'll do more, but I might not do it all. My favorite so far has been *Jackie*. It's a wonderful period piece set during the week of the JFK assassination all from the viewpoint of Jackie. It was really moving.

Cool Stuff Mensans Are Doing

Brett Eby has started his own business building custom homes, Absolute Customs, absolutecustoms.com.

Team Mensa: played trivia January 10 on an icy day. Mark Scobey ranked 7 in the nation and got on the leaderboard in Countdown. In another game Chuck Edwards ranked 101 and Frances Shefl was 132. Tami Whitney ranked 29 in another game. Elizabeth Thompson ranked 41 in Showdown and got on the leaderboard. We got a bar ranking of 45 and Mark Scobey ranked 96. Tami ranked 29 in a later game.



Tami Whitney has written a reflection for the daily Mass reading for January 29 at www.creighton.edu/collaborativeministry/daily.htm. My poem “The Worst Thing” is published in the January issue of the *Mensa Bulletin* (p. 38) as part of the monthly theme.

Charitable Project

We continue to collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald house. Bring your tabs to any Mensa event and Tami Whitney will take them.

Choose Mensa Educational and Research Foundation on [amazon](https://www.amazon.com)smile to donate with every amazon purchase.

Red

by Karen Kozak © 2016

Is she...is she? I don't really know...

They said that they found her,

Just like this, quiet, you know...

No bleeding, but, inside - we can't tell.

She was in her kitchen, soundless,

And her kitty was licking her hand.

Her hair is pure white, and soft as snow;

They say it used to be bright red -

Look! Did her eye-lids flutter?

Karen, when I was young, I never

Thought I would have a daughter,

Who was a writer, a red-haired poet!

Maybe, it was Alice's fierce Red Queen,

With those poor flamingo- croquet mallets?

Or Dorothy clicking her shiny red shoes?

Perhaps, some forgotten Russian relative

From long ago, walking in Red Square?

Red? Say it again - it means something:

Yes, she's back, now, squeezing my hand!

But, I wonder where she was, or if she knows.....

Shoveling Snow

By Tami Whitney

When we bought our big and beautiful house together

I was worried that it cost too much

But he said, "We can do it on my salary

and whatever you bring in is bonus."

I loved the yard, but it was a lot of lawn to manage

But he said, "I want a big yard. I love to work outside.

I'll take care of the lawn."

And I said, "It's a long driveway to shovel when it snows."

But he said that he would do it and not to worry.

And then he died.

Leaving me with a big mortgage on my small and inconsistent salary

And a big yard to mow

And a long driveway to scoop.

I can't count how many people at the funeral said,

"I'll take care of the yard. You don't ever have to worry."

But here I am

Alone

Shoveling snow.



Ex-Comm Minutes

January Ex-comm was cancelled due to the ice storm.

Treasurer's Report by Jill Nelson

STARTING BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2016		\$6,523.56
DEBITS		
1-Dec	AP BANK OF THE WEST-FEE	\$10.00
18-Dec	265 OH K PRINT	\$76.24
26-Dec	DC WALMART-PARTY	\$7.49
26-Dec	DC WALMART-PARTY	\$5.18
TOTAL DEBITS		\$98.91
CREDITS		
1-Dec	AD BANK OF THE WEST-REFUND	\$10.00
20-Dec	AD AMERICAN MENSA	\$250.10
TOTAL CREDITS		\$260.10
ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016		\$6,684.75

La La Land Movie Review by Tami Whitney

For those who criticize my role as a movie critic because I like all movies and rarely write a bad review, here's one. I went into *La La Land* excited to see it. It was getting good reviews and people were liking it. There was a ton of Oscar buzz. And I started out loving it. It stars Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling and they're adorable. There's awesome singing and dancing. It's an homage to *Singin' in the Rain*. There are references to *Casablanca* and old Hollywood. I started out thinking it might be my favorite movie of all time. I was writing the glowing review in my head while I was watching the film I was smitten. I was in awe. I was in love.

And I should have left before the end. If I had left about ten minutes before the end, this would be a very different review. If you go, I recommend leaving when they're sitting on the park bench. I really wish I had. It's hard to write this without spoilers since the problem I have with the film is the ending, and even though I am advising you not to see the ending I still don't want to give the ending in the review. But the ending upset me so much it ruined the rest of the movie for me, ruined the Oscars for me, may have ruined all movies for me. The movie that I loved for two hours became a movie that I hate. The reason I'm not going full out on the Oscars (as is my custom) is because of this movie. It has 14 nominations. It swept the Golden Globes, and every mention of it is upsetting me again.

I will say that the ending does not appropriately resolve the film. The whole movie was a lead up to something else that wasn't the ending. It felt like a betrayal. I felt cheated, and it affected me negatively and deeply.

Holiday Party 2017 by Tami Whitney 5

The holiday party was lots of fun. It was a really nice night. There had been worrying weather reports but the ice storm held off until the next day and there was no trouble travelling.

There were 26 people attending. Former NWIM member Denny Rourke amazed us all with his table magic before dinner. The food was great. I had the vegetarian special and enjoyed it. I sat near Wes Shaw who had the rib-eye — Johnny's is famous for steak— and said it was great. Jenni Schlossman was at my table and she enjoyed the chicken. I also heard good reports about the salmon. Ex-comm paid for dessert and we had a choice of cheesecake, pie, or carrot cake. I had the oreo cheesecake and loved it. The carrot cake looked amazing. No one had anything bad to say about the food.

We played our annual door prize tag — when your name is drawn you pick a wrapped present and unwrap it. The next name drawn can choose a wrapped present or steal one already chosen. Jill Nelson shops for great presents. I am enjoying my popcorn. There were lots of great presents. I had a hard time deciding what I wanted to steal! I also considered some cute owl cereal bowls or a sparkly owl t-shirt.



Quote for the month:

There is only one happiness in this life,
to love and be loved.

George Sand

ELECTION REPORT by Diana Vogt

REPORT OF ELECTION COMMITTEE NO BALLOT ANNOUNCEMENT

The NWIM Election Committee (“Elec-Comm”) received no nominating petitions. Therefore the final slate of officer candidates for NWIM’s 2017 biennial election is printed below:

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

As provided by Article V paragraph 6 of the Bylaws, because no offices are contested there will be no ballots prepared or cast in this election.

The ElecComm. Chairman will certify the above list of candidates as the duly elected officers of NWIM in writing on or about **March 1, 2017** by transmitting the list of officers to the current NWIM president who shall notify AML and the RVC of the results within two weeks of the certification. Results of the election will be published in the **April** newsletter as required by Article V paragraph 5.

Article V paragraph 7 of the Bylaws requires that, **any challenges to the election must be made in writing, to the Chairman of the ElecComm no later than April 15, 2017 and ruled on no later than April 30, 2017.**

Any challenges to this election, therefore, must be in writing and sent or delivered to: Diana Vogt, 3504 N. 58th Street, Omaha, NE 68104, (402) 981-4012, fidg-etydjv@gmail.com, by April 15, 2015. The challenge must state specifically the nature of the challenge and the grounds for the challenge. Challenges to election results do not affect any actions taken by the newly-elected ExecComm during the pendency of the challenge.

Your Mileage May Vary by Wes Shaw

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My son is planning a visit from Denver and wonders about how much it will cost in gas... So I told him about gas mileage.

On the EPA ratings on new car stickers, there's a city rating and a highway rating. They drive an imaginary (maybe it exists somewhere) course of controlled speeds, equipment running, controlled vehicle weights, environmental conditions so that anyone can get similar results. Of course the car manufacturers have to show their testing methods to come up with these figures. But there's a way to beat them... The test course outcomes are reduced by 20% so they come closer to what real drivers get instead of the professional ones trying to get the very best mileage for their cars can do. I have some ideas that will cut your gasoline bill without making you unsafe on our streets and highways. I'm going to give you three ideas that you may or may not have heard of. I'm going to bypass the simple ones like keeping your tires inflated and bikes and luggage off the roof, and keep the unnecessary weight out of the trunk. What you're engaging in is simple energy management.

1) Any braking you do will turn that energy into heat instead of going somewhere. Avoiding that will extend mileage. If you think of accelerating as you do on a bicycle and mete out the power as gingerly as if you had to create the motion from conversion of your breakfast, you'd be getting ahead by not accelerating up-hill to a stop sign. Decelerating massively to round a corner burns off energy as well so you should decelerate gradually as you approach a known slow-down or stop situation.

2) Cruise control (CC) works well if the terrain is flat. When CC comes to a hill (either up or down) it does the wrong thing for best mileage. It accelerates too much to maintain speed going up and keeps speed up too long when it will just have to dissipate it when you approach a decline.

The roller-coaster method 3) is a way to look at how fast you should go to conserve energy. Not withstanding safety, the most energy efficient speed to take is the one you have plus or minus how an unpowered vehicle (roller coaster) would act. A roller coaster is using 0 energy input other than the initial potential energy from the grind up the first plateau. During the ride it just trades potential and kinetic energy until it's done. You can get some of the benefit from that as you negotiate hills and valleys.

I thought the simple math would help...he has a truck that only gets 16mpg highway and the vast majority of the trip would be that so I sent him a message saying that (after looking up the gas price in North Platte, NE) that every 100 miles would take 6.75 gallons (100/m16mpg) and 6.75 gal would cost 2.10×6.75 is around \$14.82. That makes trip planning easy. 600 mile trip cost around \$89.00 so I'm glad I don't drive a truck and that's enough math.

If you're still interested in gas mileage, I highly recommend a good book on the subject, It's by a MENSA member. https://www.amazon.com/Great-Gas-Mileage-Money-Spending/dp/141379954X/ref=sr_1_1?s=home-garden&ie=UTF8&qid=1485746992&sr=8-1&keywords=great+gas+mileage+wes+shaw

Membership changes

Todd Blacksher, Lincoln, renewing

Membership Total: 239

Happy birthday to:

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

2/02 — Gary Benson
 2/04 — Tim Schlegelmilch
 2/05 — Noah Albrecht
 2/05 — Gary Clark
 2/06 — Joan O'Connor
 2/07 — Subhash Parthibhan
 2/10 — Roger Fowler
 2/11 — Christian Nelsen
 2/11 — Maureen Olsen
 2/11 — Mark Scobey

2/15 — Amelia Hartman
 2/18 — Edmund Schneider
 2/20 — Erica Best
 2/20 — Robert Warner
 2/28 — Aurilla Walker



Mensa-versaries

Mensa-versaries are terms of continuous membership. If your membership has lapsed, the anniversary date is from your most recent renewal

Linc Beaumont—39 years
 Gwen Brubaker — 16 years
 Jamie Chambers — 7 years
 Rick Christenham — 3 years
 Thomas Dorwart — 24 years
 Brett Eby — 13 years
 Stephen Grenier — 32 years
 Scott Hebblethwaite — 6 years
 William Herron — 23 years
 Sonya Irons — 11 years
 Cynthia Kai — 1 year
 Erin Kindred — 2 years

Madeleine Lee — 4 years
 Brooks Mason — 1 year
 Christian Nelsen — 12 years
 Jill Nelson — 14 years
Dennis Nun — 5 years
 Joan O'Connor — 8 years
 Camille Oliva — 34 years
 Georgia Plotkin — 29 years
Sandy Tracy — 10 years
 Marilyn Westenhaver — 39 years
 Ann Wittwer — 18 years

What's Happening in February

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, February 11th, Omaha, monthly proctored Mensa qualifying exam, Abrahams Public Library, 5111 No. 90th St. (just south of 90th & Fort St) conference room. 10:30 to 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, February 11th, 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

Tuesday, February 14th, 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).

February Dine Out, February 18, 6pm, Salt 88, 3623 N. 129th Street, Omaha.

Salt 88 is one of my favorite restaurants which is why it is a repeat dine out. Its menu focuses on fresh local ingredients and dishes that tilt slightly toward Italian. Appetizers at Salt start at \$5 for bread service (really good bread) and include Tuscan Frites or Parmesan edamame for \$6, Salt and Pepper Calamari for \$9, and meatballs or crab cakes for \$11. My favorite is the avocado egg rolls (\$8). Additional appetizers include steamed mussels for \$14, goat cheese rangoon for \$7 and warm fresh mozzarella served with tomatoes and a baguette for \$10.

The entrees feature rainbow trout with hazelnut breading (\$24), plank fired Scottish salmon (\$26) and "Chicken Terra" \$15. The dinner menu also features pasta dishes including "Pesce Arrabiata" which is chipotle shrimp with spaghetti and parmesan (\$17), Amatriciana, grilled chicken with cavatappi and red sauce (\$14) and Ravioli Artesa, buffalo mozzarella ravioli and roma tomatoes in a sauvignon blanc cream sauce (\$16). There are also dinner salads including a chicken Caprese salad (\$14), a Mediterranean salad and "The Greens," (snow peas, golden beets, watercress, yellow squash and lemon dressing) both \$13. They also have a variety of brick oven pizzas which range from \$13 to \$16.

For lots more interesting details, check out Salt's website at www.salt88.com. Salt is located in the east end of the shopping center at 132nd and Maple on the south side of Maple across the street from the Super Target.

Please RSVP to Diana Vogt no later than FRIDAY February 17, 2015 at 5pm. You can call or text me at 402-981-4012 or email to fidgetydjv@gmail.com.

Monday, February 20th, 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, captnkirko@cox.net.

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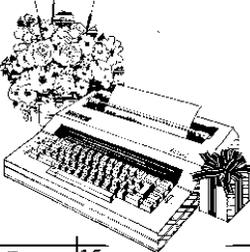
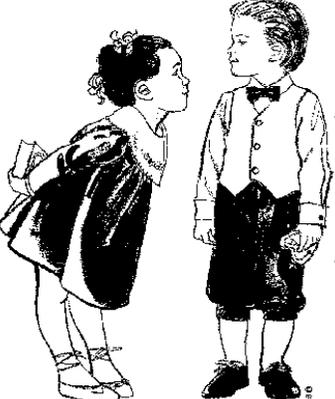
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February

I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.

All events in Omaha unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7		9	10	11 Mensa test, Omaha Lincoln Poker SIG
12 Lincoln's Birthday 		14 Valentine's Day Trivia SIG  Omaha	15	16	17	18 
19	20 President's Day Ex-Comm Meeting (Omaha)	21	22 			25
26	27	28				

REGION 7 VICE CHAIR

Greg Kontz
701-290-0743
grjk@fisherind.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

S.I.G.H.T. CO-ORDINATOR

Ron Kroenke
4672 William St.
Omaha, NE 68106
402-618-5660
ronkroenke@cox.net

TREASURER

Jill Nelson
11643 Willow Park Drive
Gretna, NE 68028
402-659-9063
jill.m.nelson@nebraska.gov

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Sherri Levers
7930 Bauman Ave
Omaha, NE 68122
sk3759@msn.com

LINCOLN PROCTOR

Jane Hanson,
2929 Porter Ridge Rd
Lincoln, NE 68516
janejanielou@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Andy Boell
2442 Westside Ave
Fremont, NE 68025
(402) 380-6024
andy.boell@gmail.com

PRESIDENT

Kirk Johnson
400 Wendy Heights Rd
Council Bluffs IA 51503
712-323-1454
captnkirko@cox.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

PROCTOR

Morgan Whale
Omaha, NE
mcetacean@outlook.com

MEDIATOR

DINE-OUT SIG

Diana Vogt
3504 N. 58th Street
Omaha, NE 68104
402-981-4012
fidgetydjv@gmail.com

LINCOLN AREA COORDINATOR

Kerin Bunstock
Lincoln, NE
402-315-8838
kerin.bunstock@gmail.com

PROCTOR COORDINATOR

Wes Shaw
2724 N 124th Cir
Omaha, NE 68164
712-298-0109
Wes.shaw.us@member.mensa.org

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