



Sunflower
SEEDS



**The monthly publication of
the Sunflower chapter of
American Mensa, Wichita, Kansas**

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MEEETINGS



24 ARBOR DAY

Pig Out Saturday, April 4, 12:45 p.m. at the *Chiang Mai Thai* restaurant at 3141 S. Hillside. You can get Yelp's opinion at: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/chiang-mai-thai-restaurant-wichita?osq=Thai+Food> or see their menu at <http://chiangmaithaiks.com/>

Program Meeting Saturday, April 11, 2:00 p. m. downstairs at *Watermark Books*, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver St.

A member of our group, Dan Gollub will share some of his insights on telepathic love. Dan is a psychologist and has had a couple of articles on that subject published. He may test our ability to transmit emotion telepathically as part of his presentation.

Food for Thought Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m. Downstairs at *Watermark Books*, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver Street. Food, drink available. A quiet place for easy going socializing.

Banter and Books Saturday, April 25, 7:00 p.m. *Barnes and Noble* bookstore cafeteria, 1920 N. Rock, Wichita. Food is served here, and your presence and opinions are welcome.

March's Program

Steve Lauder gave us information on how shamans around the world use drums to communicate with the spirit world, and how he makes drums from buffalo hide.

QUIZ

What numerical value consisting of three different numbers is pronounced the same both forwards and backwards?

Answer on p 7

National Election

American Mensa is having its national elections this year. The voting is from April 15 to May 31. You will be sent a ballot, either by email or snail mail.

There are five national positions to be filled: Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. There is one other that is very important to us, and that is our local Region 7 Vice Chair. Our current regional Vice Chair, Greg Kontz, is running for reelection – unopposed. So that one is easy. The rest are not so easy.

In addition, 13 amendments to our national Bylaws have been proposed. Some of them contradict another, so just saying “yes” doesn’t work. Reading these and forming an opinion would be good exercise for any aspiring lawyer. If any of you do, and wish to enlighten us, ask Larry or Bill for a chance to speak at our next meeting.

The candidates and amendments are all described on the national web site at: us.mensa.org. (At the top of the page is the button **LEAD**. Under that is **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**. Under that is **ELECTIONS, BOARD** and **BYLAWS**.)

The March **MENSA BULLETIN**, after page 28, also gives information on the candidates and amendments.

**Hi
Guys**

**Greg Kontz
Vice Chair
Heartland Region 7**

A National Executive meeting was held in Indianapolis March 21, with these results.



- * The monthly subsidy to Local Groups was increased from \$0.82 to \$0.85 per member, plus \$5.00 for each new member.
- * Next year's budget has an anticipated end of year surplus of \$77,000. We're expected to end this year with about \$15,000 more than was expected.
- * Membership stands at 56,143 – an increase of 1%.
- * Pamela L. Donahoo will continue employment as the Executive Director of American Mensa, Ltd.

You can read the 'mini minutes' on the website (Read – Board Meeting Reports).

National officers election time is upon us – please vote.

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

I don't believe in astrology.
Most of us Sagittarians are very skeptical.

WHY DO PEOPLE BELIEVE WHAT THEY DO?

If someone offers us new insight into some particular aspect of life, what determines whether we will accept it – or even consider it, or whether we will immediately reject it as nonsense never to be considered again?

One factor seems to be the source of our old beliefs the new insight will replace. There are two main sources for our beliefs.

One is our own personal observation. We see, we think, we conclude. The other is the teaching of other people. We have no knowledge of their truth. We simply accept them based on the reliability of the source.

When we are asked to change beliefs that came from our own observations, we feel free to do so, because we created them. When we are asked to change beliefs, which came to us from others, we do not feel free to do so. We did not create them, so how can we change them. To do so would be to discredit the source. That may be uncomfortable.

An example of this might be our opinion of restaurants vs. our opinion of politics. We have sampled a number of restaurants, and have formed our own opinions of them. Thus we feel free to change them. In politics those around us told us what to believe. For example, starting with our Elementary school teachers we were told an elected government is best. Today's news says the same thing. We could hardly even consider that Communism or Nazism might be better.

So, if you have some new insight into the restaurant scene you might change some peoples thinking. However, if you have some new insight into politics, you might as well talk to a brick wall.

Gordon Bakken

Holy Spirit Study

The local chapter of the Evangelical Christianity SIG will be having a theology study beginning on April 14th. All members of Mensa are welcome whether members of the SIG or not. The topic is "The Holy Spirit." It will be based on the 12-part DVD lecture series on the Holy Spirit by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson, a Scottish theologian having taught for many years at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and more recently at Redeemer Seminary in Dallas. We will also be using his book, *The Holy Spirit*. The class will meet on the second and third Tuesday evenings each month, beginning at 7:00 PM, in the northwest part of Wichita. For more information, contact Larry Paarmann at LDPaarmann@cox.net.

**It used to take me two days to do my income tax.
But now I have a computer, and I can do it
in a week.**

Quiz Answer: From p 3

3.14 (π) forwards is pronounced “pi.” Backwards it is **PI.E** (PIE) and is pronounced, “pie.”

3-14-15 (the first five digits of π) was a date last month. Some called it “pi day”. It only comes once every hundred years.

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I'm going to retire soon and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do the second week.



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