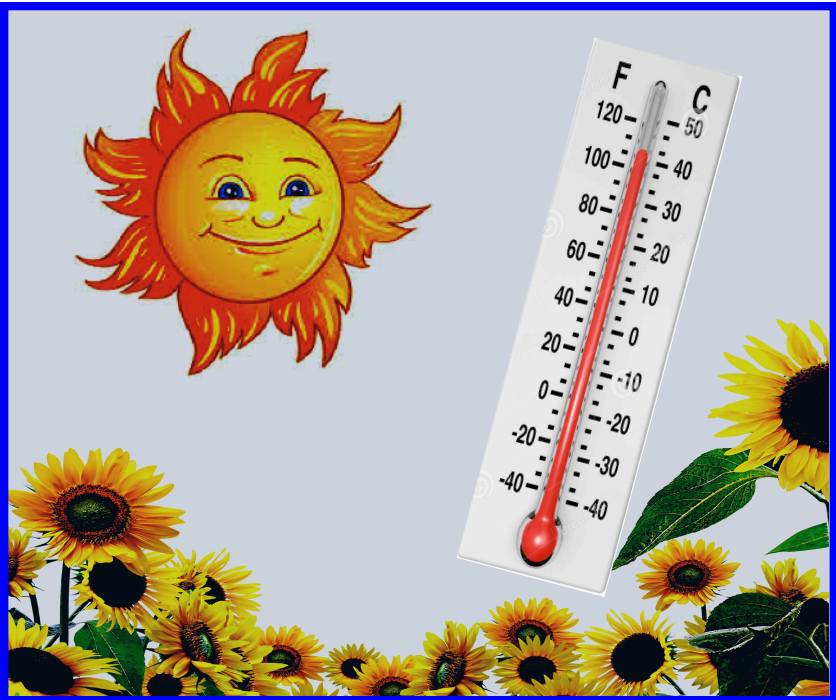


# Sunflower SEEDS



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

**August 2015**  
Volume 42 No.8



# MEETINGS



AUGUST

**Pig Out** Saturday, August 1, 12:45 pm. *Tanya's Soup Kitchen*, 1725 E. Douglas Ave., just west of I 135.

Would you think one could build a restaurant with soup as the main entrée? Well Tanya did it and her place became a Wichita icon.

<http://www.tanyassoupkitchen.com/>

**Cole Carland is in the hospital with stage four lung cancer. Mike Dickson will replace him as Pig Out SIG chair.**

**Program Meeting** Saturday, August 8, 2:00 p. m.  
downstairs at *Watermark Books*,  
4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver St.

George Gonzales will be giving a talk on his missionary work with the native Amazon Indians, and his experiences in the Amazon rain forest. He will have pictures and artifacts from his travels. In his 30 years there, George has gone as far back into the rain forest as anyone can go. He has an amazing story.

<http://amazonxpeditions.com/missionaries/george-gonzales/>

**Food for Thought** Saturday, August 15, 11:00 a.m.  
Downstairs at *Watermark Books*,  
4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver Street. Same location as our program meeting. Food available.

**Banter and Books** Saturday, August 22, 7:00 p.m.  
*Barnes and Noble* bookstore  
cafeteria, 1920 N. Rock, Wichita. All members and significant others are welcome.

**Fifth Saturday** Saturday, August 29, 12:45 p.m.  
*Wichita Art Museum, café.* Museum  
walk at 2:30. Admission is free. The museum is always interesting. This month there are a number of special exhibits. Check on them here:  
<https://www.wichitaartmuseum.org/exhibitions/current>

**GAME**

**MEETING**



## **Kansas Sunflower Mensa is starting a Game Night SIG.**

Game meetings are very popular in some Mensa groups. Heartland Mensa in Kansas City, for example, has many game meetings each month.

Our new games meetings will be open to anyone, including people of all ages, and also non-members, but will be sponsored by Kansas Sunflower Mensa. This will be a good place to invite your friends who may be interested in joining Mensa, and introduce them to other Mensans. It will also be an opportunity for you to meet and chat with other members of our group.

Though we are originally calling it a game “night,” we can meet anytime, night, morning, or afternoon. Give us your input, including your favorite games, times, places to meet, snack ideas and any other thoughts you may have. (For example, we could meet in areas other than Wichita.)

One of our first items will be to find Game Night coordinator(s). This is an opportunity for someone to take a leadership role in our Mensa group. Volunteer and send your other ideas to me at [grandledge@hotmail.com](mailto:grandledge@hotmail.com) .

Bill Barnett

**Hi  
Guys**

**Greg Kontz  
Vice Chair  
Heartland Region 7**

Here's what been happening:

There were lots of appreciation / recognition awards for Region 7 people/groups (of course) at our Annual Gathering (AG). Following is a list of some of them:



- **Christa Novelli and Belinda Torres-Mary** received the Chairman's Service Award – they're both Gifted Youth Coordinators from Denver
- **Peggy Pannke-Smith** (former RVC) got a National Certificate of Appreciations Award for her Mensa contributions – she's from Boulder/Front Range
- **South Dakota** got Honorable Mention in the Prolific Owl competition
- **Christa Novelli and Belinda Torres-Mary** from Denver got Chairman's Service Awards.
- The **High Mountain High Brows** placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Culture Quest competition, and the **Denver Frontal Lobe Rangers** placed 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Eleven Local Groups** in Region 7 achieved either Sapphire or Emerald in the Jewels Program.
- **Tony Jackowski** from Mid-America is now the Communications Officer.
- **Marie Mayer** from Iowa is now the Director of Science and Education.

To everyone who has given of their time, talent, and treasure for Mensa and its concepts – thank you. Congrats, guys - ya did good. Not bad for a region with half the population of most, not bad at all.

The new AMC (board) was seated – it's now 15 voting members, not 21. There are lots of new people, and there is a feeling of 'change' in the air. It'll be interesting to see how it all evolves.

The weapons policy from 2013 was effectively canceled. At all future events, we will defer to the rules of the venue itself and the applicable municipal, state, and federal laws.

A motion to expand the ExComm from 5 to 6 to include an RVC was tabled until next meeting.

There will be research into how to better define the parameters regarding the “Mensa has no opinion” part of our organizational policy.

Sean McCormick (Plains and Peaks) has been Regional Scholarship Chair for Region 7 for the last couple of years. He’s ready to let someone else have a turn. I need to appoint someone in the next couple of weeks. If you have an interest, or would like to recommend someone, please contact me.

Later – Greg Kontz, [grjk@fisherind.com](mailto:grjk@fisherind.com), 701-290-0743

PS - Last Chance - August 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> is the RG in Mandan, North Dakota – presentations, tours, shared meals, socializing – hope to see you there. Wanna see where the government elite are going when the Zombie Apocalypse hits? That would be the underground shelter tour – been there – kinda interesting. Could come in handy someday. That’s just one of the tours. Following is the link: [http://www.ndrg2015.org/?page\\_id=57](http://www.ndrg2015.org/?page_id=57)

**Question: What do you call an intelligent, good looking, sensitive man?**

**Answer on p 7**

**July Program meeting: Josiah Barnett’s story inspired a host of comments from the group on a host of subjects. That was not surprising when considering the subject was the idea inspiring science fiction writer, Isaac Asimov.**

## Reports from the 2015 Annual Gathering in Louisville

There were 1,950 attendees, 160 speakers, and 250 meetings of various kinds. At times as many as 11 events were taking place at the same time. Bill Barnett, Larry Paarmann and Diane Powel from our group attended.

The Hospitality Room was open all day with salads, snacks, good cold beer (Sam Adams, Blue Moon, Dos Equis, Shock Top), wine, ice cream, and lots of good conversation, all free. Three meals a day were also provided, not exceptional, but free. The hotel itself had five restaurants if you wanted an upgrade.

Larry

Paarmann

Two thousand Mensans, free food, free beer and wine, interesting speakers, thousands of games. How could it not be fun! The only down side was there was not enough time to do it all. This was my first Annual Gathering and I was not disappointed in any way. Its a gotta do thing for Mensans.

My favorite talks were *Coping With a Mind That Never Turns Off* (I have a friend who cannot sleep at night because his mind will not stop.), *Dark Energy, string theory, etc.* (that left me hungry for more) and *Modern Mind Control: A Look at Contemporary Cults*. The Mensa Runners met every morning and ran to Indiana and back. Made a friend there.

Bill Barnett



## Did a Mensan design this?



### OFFICERS



**President:** Larry Paarmann, 316-209-3752, ldpaarmann@cox.net

**Vice President:** Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330, grandledge@hotmail.com

**Treasurer:** Diane Powell, 316-617-8423

**Voting Member at Large:** Lucille Campbell, 620-221-0304

**Program Chair:** Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330, grandledge@hotmail.com

**Publications Chair, editor:** Gordon Bakken, 316-687-9402, g-j-b@usa.net

**Recruitment and Testing Chair and Proctor:** Jane Johnson, 316-200-9090  
(leave a message), janeel004@hotmail.com

**Proctor:** Dan Gollub, 316-322-3087, dangollub@aol.com

**Ombudsman:** Cole Carland, 682-2466

**Region 7 Vice Chair:** Gregory Kontz, 701-290-0743, grjk@fisherind.com

**American Mensa Ltd.:** Nichole Sorensen, 888-294-8035 x 5524

**Answer from page 5: A rumor**



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