



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

February 2015
Volume 42 No. 2



MEEETINGS



Pig Out Saturday, February 7, 12:45 p.m. at the *Mediterranean Grill*, located at 335 S Town East Mall Dr. This is near Target in the Town East Mall.

The Head Pig asked the table for somewhere nice to host us in February. Bill Barnett recommended the Mediterranean Grill.

<http://www.urbanspoon.com/r/329/1415487/restaurant/Mediterranean-Grill-Wichita>

Program Meeting Saturday, February 14, 2:00 p. m. downstairs at *Watermark Books*, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver St.

Travis Neil will be our speaker this month. Travis is a KC135 pilot at McConnell, a member of Sunflower Mensa and the treasurer of our group. He will speak on “Command Voice Leadership.” This is a communication and leadership technique that he learned from the Air Force.

Food for Thought Saturday, February 21, 11:00 a.m. at *Watermark Books*, 4701 E.

Douglas Ave, at Oliver Street. Food, drink and access to the world’s wisdom for free. (The wisdom is free, that is.)

Banter and Books Saturday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. at *Barnes and Noble* bookstore cafeteria, 1920 N. Rock, Wichita.

January’s Program

Sarah Bagley gave us an informative picture of the entire book business, from author contracts to retailing.

**Of course I talk to myself,
sometimes I need expert advice.**

January Board Meeting



A board meeting was held after the Program Meeting on January 10. Four officers were appointed.

1. Recruitment and Testing Chairman (responsible for publicity, public relations, testing, and recruitment) – Jane Johnson
2. Program Chair (responsible for arranging programs and other group activities) – Bill Barnett
3. Publications Chair (responsible for group communications) – Gordon Bakken.
4. Ombudsman (Mediator of internal group disputes) – Diane Powell.

The first three appointments become members of the board. The Board now consists of Larry Paarmann, Bill Barnett, Travis Neal, Lucille Campbell, Jane Johnson and Gordon Bakken.

Gordon appointed himself SEEDS editor and Larry Paarmann Web host.

It was agreed that our group should get more publicity. Bill Barnett volunteered to spearhead an effort to accomplish that. Recruitment Chair, Jane Johnson concurred. The Board voted to authorize up to \$200 for his expenses.

Our President, Larry Paarmann will take responsibility of notifying the National organization of our new officers.

Grammar Quiz

Wikipedia says there are thirteen punctuation marks in English. Can you name them?

Answer on page 6

**Hi
Guys**

**Greg Kontz
Vice Chair
Heartland Region 7**

Been home sick for a few days – got nailed by the flu – just been a great week. At any rate, I do have a couple things to throw out there. Here goes.



We've got more and more social media sites and email threads where Mensans can opine. I don't do a great deal of talking on them, but I do observe a lot. The following comments are not about any specific conversations or opinions, just something I'd like to put out there.

- The reason I care about Mensa is because I love the conversations, and what I gain from them. Here's a statement about Mensa in general: If there is to be only one place on the face of the earth where light is valued over heat, where sequential logic and the free exchange of ideas rule the day – it should be this place.
- We all come from our own perspective, therefore our own perception, therefore our own reality. The fact that someone does not agree with you should not be surprising or infuriating. It does not mean that they're stupid, evil, or that they have an agenda. That's not to say it can't be one of those things – but you should not automatically assume it is.
- You don't have to abandon your core values to be willing to listen to someone who does not share them. Whether they do the same in return is not guaranteed. What is pretty much guaranteed is that they won't if you don't.

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- It's OK to disengage sometimes. It does not mean that you agree or that you've conceded. Some things just are not worth major effort. One of the things my son in law stated after my granddaughter died was that he wasn't going to "pole vault over mouse turds" anymore.
- Things that need to change, especially things involving large organizations, are changed when people start to think differently – not when individuals 'win' or 'lose' after a battle of wills. There's an old saying: "When all you've got in your toolbox is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail". Concentrate on adding more tools, not on swinging the hammer more forcefully.
- Realize the value of expanding your perspective/perception. Another saying I read: "Most people are standing knee deep in a running brook, dying of thirst".

There will be a Regional Gathering in North Dakota this summer – "heRitaGe2015". It will be August 7-8-9 at Bismarck. It's sure to be a good time.

Do you remember that awesome feeling of getting into bed, going right to sleep, sleeping all night, then waking up refreshed and ready to take on a new day?

Me neither.



PUNS

1. She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.
2. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
3. When the cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
4. A hole has been found in the nudist-camp wall. The police are looking into it.
5. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
6. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
7. A lawn sign at the drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
8. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
9. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turned to the other and said, 'Dam!'
10. Two hydrogen atoms met. One said, 'I've lost my electron.' The other said, 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

I thought these would make my wife laugh, but no pun in ten did.

Answer to grammar quiz, from p 3:

Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets (parenthesis, braces), slash, and ellipsis (....).

"Honey, what setting do I use on the washing machine to wash my football jersey?"

"What does it say on the back of it?"

"Patriots."



**SUPER
BOWL
XLIX**



OFFICERS

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

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

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SUNFLOWER MENSA FINANCIAL REPORT

Lucille Campbell, Treasurer

October 2014 to December 2014

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Balance Oct. 1, 2014 | \$ 3,633.27 |
| SEEDS printing * | - \$ 39.20 |
| SEEDS postage * | - \$ 96.04 |
| Program speakers | - \$ 40.00 |
| National Funding | + \$ 312.96 |
| Balance Dec 31, 2014 | \$ 3,770.99 |

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Sunflower SEEDS



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