



Sunflower
SEEDS



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

January 2015
Volume 42 No. 1



MEETINGS



Pig Out Saturday, January 3, 12:45 p.m. at the Cooper Oven Café Bakery, Indian Hills Shopping Center, 2409 West 13th St N, Wichita.

Program Meeting Saturday, January 10, 2:00 p. m., downstairs at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver St. Sarah Bagley, owner of Watermark Books, will give a talk on the Watermark bookstore. It has a significant place in the history of Wichita, and has been the meeting place for many groups including Mensa, as well as hosting book signings and other events.

Board Meeting Saturday, January 10, after the Program Meeting at Watermark Books. All members are free to attend. The board must appoint a program Chair, a Publications Chair, a testing Chair and take care of other items that may arise.

Food for Thought Saturday, January 17, 11:00 a.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver Street. Food, drink and verbal bull shit.

Banter and Books Saturday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. at Barnes and Noble bookstore cafeteria, 1920 N. Rock, Wichita.

Blue Moon Saturday, January 31, 12:45 p.m. at the Wichita Art Museum, Café.

This is the second of our “New Moon” (5th Saturday) events at the Wichita Art Museum. They have good food, and the museum is free on Saturdays. This month they feature the 82 best of the Nelson Adkins collection of 6,500 daguerreotypes (early silver photographs) collected by Hallmark Cards.



Daguerreotype
1850



Welcome to our new officers

Local Secretary, President – Larry Paarmann

Deputy Local Secretary, VP – William Barnett

Treasurer – Travis Neil

Member at large – Katherine Lucille Campbell

One of their first items of business needs to be to fill the appointed positions. Those offices, and current appointees are: (* appointees who become board members)

- * Program Chair – William Barnett
- * Testing Chair – Jane Johnson
- * Publications Chair – Gordon Bakken
 - SEEDS Editor – Gordon Bakken
 - Web programmer – Larry Paarmann
- Ombudsman – Open



The Kansas Sunflower chapter of Mensa now has a **Facebook** page called: **Kansas Sunflower Mensa**. It is open to all Sunflower Mensa members to join.

**Hi
Guys**

**Greg Kontz
Vice Chair
Heartland Region 7**

Here's a summary of the December 6 meeting in San Diego:



- Rejected a motion to raise yearly dues from \$70 to \$73.
- Passed – motion to allow non-Mensa parents of young Mensa members to attend Mensa functions that their child is at – including testing sessions (they can't have access to testing material, though).
- Equity restoration for 2015-2016 fiscal year was set at \$25,000.
- 5 international candidates were nominated for international offices.
- There was a presentation regarding some of the Mensa programs.
- There was a presentation regarding finances.
- There was a presentation regarding insurance coverage.

Other news: (Check out the upgraded website www.mensaforkids.org) Lots of good things for Mensans and non-Mensans. If you've got gifted kids (or grandkids), it's well worth taking a look at. Teachers for gifted programs at your school can use lesson plans and other resources – worth touting.

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Learned about a web program from a Mensa email thread the other day. I was very impressed by it – give it a try (free) www.batchgeo.com – you can copy/paste an Excel list – get an (almost) instant Google Map generated. You can go up to about 300 locations at once for free.

There will be an RG in Bismarck, North Dakota on August 7 – 9. “heRitaGe2015” will include presentations, tours, meals and socializing. More info will be on the North Dakota Mensa website in the near future.

Later,
Greg Kontz, 701-290-0743

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The people below have a birthday in January or February. Congratulations to all of you.

JANUARY

Ronnie Ingle	10
Chris Nelson	13
Stephen Kerwick	14
Ronald Peden	15
Daniel Gollub	22
Larry Zollars	30

FEBRUARY

Geoffery Todd	2
Larry Paarmann	3
Linda Shriver	12
Thomas Chase	13
Larry Miller	19

MENSA TESTIMONIAL

Why I joined Mensa

By Bill Barnett

When I was in elementary school they gave us a test. The principal told me I had the highest score in the school, and was at the 99.9% level. By my junior year, school was something to sleep through. I did solve an “unsolvable” math problem in 6th grade, and was fascinated by the math of space travel. I also had a learning disability in writing, but that was overcome by the end of my senior year of college.

After finishing college I was contacted by someone who wanted me to do math for rockets. I declined, as I was busy with other things, mostly because my life was upside down and inside out from not fitting in. Always an outsider and never acknowledging it, I finally found a place in aerospace engineering. I also found an understanding of theology and philosophy after earning a degree in theology.

After two accidents, which landed me in the hospital, I had time to rethink life. Among other things, I found Mensa. That offered the hope of meeting interesting people to fit in with. There was not much of a spiritual rebirth at this time, as that had happened earlier, but the debates in Mensa did help sharpen my understanding of spiritual things, and helped me to explain them better to others. At first I was a bit intimidated and did not know what to think of the new people there, but they were welcoming and soon I fit in.

Primarily, I joined for the meetings and am happy with them and the people I meet there. I do not understand the purpose of Mensa without the meetings unless someone just wants the card.

Three cheers for MENSA!

OFFICERS

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

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

Treasurer: Travis Neil, 918-633-1424

Voting Member at Large: Lucille Campbell

Program Chair: Open

Publications Chair: Open

Testing Chair, Proctor: Open

Ombudsman: Open

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

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SOME PEOPLE REALLY HATE SNOW



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