

A decorative title graphic for 'Sunflower SEEDS'. The text 'Sunflower' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and 'SEEDS' is in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a rectangular frame. The frame is composed of a gold-colored, braided or chain-link pattern. At the corners of the frame are yellow sunflowers with dark centers. Along the top and bottom edges of the frame, there are several brown, oval-shaped sunflower seeds.

Sunflower SEEDS



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

November 2016

Volume 43 No. 11



November Meetings

Pig Out Saturday, November 5, 12:45 p.m. at the **Bocco Deli**, 3010 E. Central Ave. This is a small place, but has an interesting menu with a variety of soups, salads and sandwiches – about the amount you would want at lunch. The menu can be seen at: <http://www.allmenus.com/ks/wichita/409774-bocco-deli/menu/>. Their phone is: 316-618-0404.

Program Meeting Saturday, November 12, 2:00p.m. downstairs, at **Watermark Books**, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver St.

Glen Schrandt will speak on *greening your business and home*. Glen formerly worked for Super Green Solutions and is starting his own business. *Green* means saving money by using less energy and keeping the environment clean. He will explain the technology and practical application. He will have show and tell products.

Food for Thought Saturday, November 19, 11:00 a.m. Downstairs at **Watermark Books**, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver Street. This is the same location as our program meeting. There is a cafeteria here, so food and drinks are available.

Banter and Books Saturday, November 26, 7:00 p.m. **Barnes and Noble** bookstore cafeteria, 1920 N. Rock, Wichita. Food and drink are available. Members and guests are welcome. Good conversation.

October Meeting. Victor Lamar gave a very interesting insight into his experiences as a young Black male in Wichita. Especially he talked about the experience of being Black in predominantly White schools. He had stories to tell of how things were both before and after the institution of what we call *Bussing*.





Quiz:

What is wrong with this picture?

Answer on page 6

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Progress is being made toward our December election of new officers. So far, the nominating committee, consisting of Igor Ponomarev, Chairman (683-1118), John Prechtel (686-7401), and Mike Dickson (651-4707) has nominated a slate of candidates. They have nominated only one candidate for each office, and they are all the same as the currently serving officers. They are: President – Larry Paarmann, Vice President – Bill Barnett, Treasurer – Diane Powell, Member at large – Lucille Campbell.

Members are free to nominate additional candidates, if they wish. The process for doing that is to get 10 signatures on a petition stating the nominee, and submitting it to the Nominating Chair by November 15. The Chair is Igor Ponomarev. He can be called at 683-1118 or emailed at: iponomarev@cox.net.

If any office has more than one nominee, a ballot will be printed in the December SEEDS, to be submitted by mail.



Hi
Guys

Greg Kontz
Vice Chair
Heartland Region 7

The annual Mensa International meeting was in Otsu, Japan October 14 – 16. Outcomes:



- The LEAP program has been discontinued. It might return later on, in a revamped version.
- U.S. component (contribution) remains at 7%.

We are, by far, the largest contributor.

- An interim committee will oversee efforts for China to become a national Mensa.
- The international elections will have an option for electronic voting this year.

2017 and 2018 meetings will be held in Nice, France and Budapest, Hungary.

In domestic news:

- The new software (AMS) conversion is proceeding well
- RAIT (the new test – replacing MAT) has been distributed to proctors. MAT was in place for decades. This is a big change.
- Renewal rates are doing well nationally – AMC is at about 52,500 right now (late October). Others: British Isles – 20,000, Germany – 11,000, Sweden -- 6,000, Netherlands – 5,000. Worldwide membership was over 121,000 in June 2016.
- Our next Board meeting is in New Orleans, December 9th and 10th.

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

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

With the 58th presidential election coming up, it is worth looking at the document that started it all. We often hear comments about our Constitution. These remarks can be of pride and respect, questioning or, sadly, sometimes very negative. The Constitution was finished on September 17, 1787.

It became official when the 9th state, New Hampshire, ratified it on June 21, 1788. It was declared that it would be in effect starting March 4, 1789. That was a great day.



People were much the same in those days as they are now. Not everyone, even the Constitution writers, agreed on the precepts and formulation process. In general, most Americans were afraid of a central government and preferred that most power remain with the individual States. Thomas Jefferson, even though he wrote the Declaration of Independence, did not want to sign it. Patrick Henry, a famous patriot, refused to sign. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest signer, and cried as he signed it.

The document took 100 days to write, an amazing feat, considering how many people were involved.

The original constitution did not address voting. Generally the states only allowed male property owners to vote. Indians, Blacks, and women got the right to vote much later.

The Constitution consists of the main body, containing 7 Articles, and (at this time) 27 amendments. The first 10 are called the Bill of Rights. Amendments must be approved by 2/3 of the House and Senate, and approved by ¾ of the states.

America was unusual at the time for having a Constitution. Later many other nations used it as the inspiration for their own constitutions.

Thanks to Lucille Campbell for her input to this article

OUR SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of our respected past member, Cole Carland, our group has offered a \$1000 Scholarship to someone living in the Kansas Mensa area.

The award was to go to the person who wrote the best impromptu essay in Derby on October 15. Eight people turned out to write the essay. Bill Barnett has distributed the essays to the judges and they are near the time of making their decision. The winner must show up at one of our meetings to receive the prize. We should be able to tell you who that is next month.

Answer from page 3

There is a mouse on one of the donuts.

Most women only notice the donuts. Most men don't even notice those.

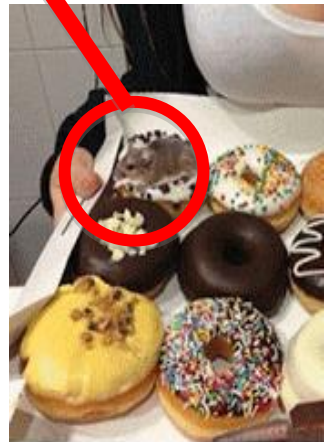
SUNFLOWER MENSA FINANCIAL REPORT

Diane Powell, Treasurer



July 2016 to Sept. 2016

Balance July 1, 2016	\$4,166.50
SEEDS printing	- \$37.80
SEEDS postage	- \$88.83
Projector rental	- \$32.25
Speakers	- \$120.00
National Funding	+\$342.05
Scholarship funding	+\$700.00
Balance Sept. 30, 2016	<u>\$4,929.67</u>





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Google “Wichita Mensa,” to find our web page, or go to:

<http://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org>

We also have a Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460>

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses.

She started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks you're stupid, stand up!"

After a few seconds, Little Johnny stood up.

The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Little Johnny?"

"No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"



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