

Sunflower **SEEDS**



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

May 2017

Volume 44 No. 5



Pig Out Saturday, May 6, 12:45 p.m. This month we have a chance at Mediterranean. The place selected is Meddys at 2300 N. Greenwich, #100. (425-6871)

Program Meeting Saturday, May 13, 2:00 p.m. downstairs, at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver St.

Our speaker this month will be one of our youngest, Charles Heminway. He is a recent high school graduate and the winner of our \$1000 scholarship contest. The judges selected him because of his fine writing skills, so surely he will be a good speaker.

He is liable to speak on a number of subjects, but he says one of them will probably be a project he worked on for the York Museum Trust.

Food for Thought Saturday, May 20, 11:00 a.m., downstairs at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas Ave, at Oliver Street. We try to engage in the kind of conversation that Mensa is famous for.

Banter and Books Saturday, May 27, 7:00 p.m., Barnes and Noble Bookstore Café, 1920 N. Rock. Drinks and snacks are available here. Join us for congenial socializing. Significant others are welcome also.

April Program Meeting

Debbie Johnson has led an interesting life. She has worked at helping people live a more rewarding life using many methods, including hypnosis. We meditated, but she did not hypnotize us.

MENSA NATIONAL ELECTION

Now is the time for our national election. There are about 15 offices on the ballot, but we can vote for only three: First and Second Vice Chair and our own Region 7 vice Chair, plus international candidates. There are also 6 national referendums to vote on.

Everyone should have received a ballot either in the mail or by email. If not, you can call: 1-817-607-5512 or email elections@americanmensa.org. Additional help is also available at: 1-952-974-2339 or email: support@directvote.net. The voting deadline is May 15 for international offices and May 31 for National offices and the referendums.

Statements from the candidates for Region 7 Vice Chair are on pages 4 and 5. Information on other candidates and the referendums are at: us.mensa.org/2017election.

SUNFLOWER MENSA FINANCIAL REPORT



Diane Powell, Treasurer

January 2017 to March 2017

Balance January 1, 2017	\$4559.55
SEEDS Printing	-\$36.20
SEEDS Postage	- \$85.07
Program Speakers [2]	-\$80.00
Program Projector [1]	-\$21.50
National Funding	+ \$320.45
Balance March 31, 2017	\$4657.23

The \$1000.00 scholarship is still unpaid.

Regional Vice Chair Candidate Statement

Greg Kontz

Hi, Fellow R7s

My 4th year in Region 7 was a lot of physical rebuilding. Had another angiogram, got diagnosed with asthma, and began rehab after a year of doing very little physically. I'm lucky that I had good medical care, lots of support from family and friends. I'm also lucky to be a part of Region 7, where people just tend to 'git 'er done.' You have 'walkers' and you have 'talkers' in most organizations. Region 7 has mostly 'walkers.' They do what needs to be done day in, day out — often without the recognition they deserve. A good example is that with the lowest population of any Region, we accumulated the most signatures for the RVC petition that was online. That's the kind of attitude that makes it all work. I appreciate that very much, and I look forward to seeing some of you in Florida.

So far this last year, I've attended 3 AML meetings, written 7 RVC columns, appointed an RVC Assistant, donated RVC funds to local groups, read/wrote/answered emails galore, and generated Excel sheet listings of members for the LocSecs.

Region 7 is a small population group with a large land area, and a great region to be a part of because of its Midwestern culture. I'm continually impressed by people who donate so much of their time-talent-treasure simply because they see the concepts of Mensa as being worth it.

You can take a look at my columns to get a good idea of where I'm coming from. They're accessible through the group newsletters online, or from the Region 7 Facebook page — in the archives.

Whether it is as an officer or not, I hope to be a participant for a long time.

Thanks again guys — it has been my privilege.

Greg

Regional Vice Chair Candidate Statement

Rich Olcott

Hi, Folks.

A decade ago I realized that my social life was limited to my co-workers and my family and their friends. Good people, but they and my books just wouldn't be enough long-term, especially post-retirement. One day the library bulletin board featured a notice about an upcoming Mensa test session. I thought, "Smart people would give me some interesting conversations," so I stepped up, measured up and signed up (Life Member, why not?). In the years since, Mensa's given me a lot of new friends, some in person and some online. I'd like to keep that going, and pass on the same opportunity to younger generations.

Surveys say we weren't presenting members with what they were looking for -- intellectual stimulation and fun. In my opinion, Mensa's growth depends

- **less** on centrally coordinated advertising
- **more** on Mensan friends getting their smart friends to join
- **even** more on member teams using Mensa's fabric one-one-one to create fun mental and/or physical adventures

A tree grows at the ends of its twigs. The trunk may get fatter, but the canopy can only spread because of the energy generated by leaves out there at the edges. The driving force of Mensa, the reason it exists and the only way it can grow, is in the members' social interactions. They happen in the local groups and online SIGS.

Don't organize something for members, help members get something organized, 'cause we're good at creating stuff for ourselves. If you elect me as Heartland's RVC, that's the philosophy I'll use to direct my efforts at the national, regional and local levels.

Thanks,

Rich Olcott

**Hi
Guys**

**Greg Kontz
Vice Chair
Heartland Region 7**

Here are a few items from the National board meeting of April 1st .



- * The treasurer's Report is available online. Even after the dues increase, we're still projecting a \$200,000 deficit at end of next fiscal year. After that, we slowly come out.**
- * The new software system certainly had some ups and downs, but the system is now stable.**
- * We passed a motion that the dues rate for single-year memberships shall be \$79 per year. They were \$30 in 1986, \$70 in 2011. The \$9.00 increase is after six years. We've been going up about \$1.50 a year for a long time. We need to do what's needed. There is room for improvement, but is an enormous amount of waste and financial abuse that needs to be immediately reigned in? No.**
- * A motion was passed to amend, effective July 1, 2017, the fees for testing and admission; Supervised Testing in the future will be \$60.00; Prior Evidence Review \$60.00. Both are an increase of \$20. A professionally certified IQ test is in the \$250 to \$500 range, so this is still a really good deal.**

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



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

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

Assoc. Proctor and Member at Large: Lucille Campbell, 620-221-0304

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson, 316-651-4707

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

American Mensa Ltd.: 888-294-8035

MENSA ANNUAL GATHERING

This year the AG (Annual Gathering) will be in Hollywood, Florida, July 5-9. Most anyone who has been to one will tell you that it is Mensa fun at its best. A few of us will be going this year, for sure. If you are interested call Gordon Bakken, Larry Paarmann, Bill Barnett or Dexter Schnebly. They will tell you that it is fun. They may even be able to help line you up with a roommate.

My dentist says I need a crown.
Finally someone understands what I really am.



Sunflower
SEEDS



Sunflower Seeds is the official publication for Sunflower Mensa, group #670, for American Mensa members residing in zip codes 67000-67999. It is published monthly from its known office of publication: 4323 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67218. Postage paid at Wichita KS.

Subscriptions for local members, national officers and subscribing editors are paid by American Mensa, Ltd. Others may subscribe at \$6.00 per year.



**Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Sunflower Seeds, c/o American Mensa,
1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX
76006-6103**