

Sunflower Seeds



This month's featured articles:

A message from the President.

News Brief by Rich Alcott.

An answer to the perplexing puzzle of last month.

More jokes from Mike Dickson.

Official Board Meeting called.

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THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE SUNFLOWER CHAPTER OF AMERICAN MENSA,
WICHITA, KANSAS

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This Month's Speaker:

Our first guest speaker of the year will be: Shealah West, a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW). She will be giving a book review and discussion of the book "Nerdy, Shy, and Socially Inappropriate: A User Guide to an Asperger Life", by Cynthia Kim. Bill Barnett will be co-hosting.

Business:

I call for a meeting immediately after the January Program Meeting for the purpose of brainstorming and discussing ways in which we can better serve the members of Kansas Sunflower Mensa (KSM), include them more in the life of KSM, and also to do a better job of targeting new members in KSM and those who have expressed interest in KSM by phone calls, etc. This will be a Board Meeting, and if any formal proposals and votes are taken, only Board Members may vote, but all are invited for discussion and the sharing of ideas. I anticipate that more than one meeting will be required.

(1) I suggest we expand our KSM web site to include much more than the current Events and Contacts. I am already working on this and am developing such a beta web site. What should we include on the web site? Let's brainstorm this as I think it may have the potential to include some of our rural members more in KSM. We can post our Newsletters online there, but also perhaps include articles that are unique to different areas of KSM geography, if there are those we can find to participate. For example, what is the history of Dodge City? And just what is the story about Mount Sunflower? How about some unique recipes that have sunflower seeds in them, or how about unique ethnic recipes that perhaps date back to frontier days? I'm not sure about this, as it will require those that like to share such things in writing, etc.

(2) We could let people in rural areas know about other Mensans in their area that they might want to meet for coffee, etc.

(3) There are resources on the American Mensa web site that we could make better usage of. For example, we can obtain a list of lapsed members for any time period we choose. Perhaps a personal contact would be enough for them to rejoin.

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(4) Similarly, we can obtain a list of new members in KSM. A welcome contact may be much appreciated.

(5) We can also obtain a list of those who have expressed interest in Mensa who live within the KSM geographical boundaries. These are prime targets for us to contact. Perhaps they have purchased a Home Test from Mensa, have purchased a Supervised Testing Voucher, have already taken tests, etc. Between January 1, 2017 and December 15, 2017, the list has 19 entries, including 11 from the Wichita area.

(6) Let's also do some brainstorming as how we may use the Sunflower SEEDS perhaps more effectively to promote KSM, and to better serve our members.

P.S. Feel free to share this with others, and invite them to our discussion Welcome to a NEW YEAR and to a new issue of Sunflower SEEDS, the official publication of the Kansas Sunflower local group of American Mensa. Please read the issue and let us know what you think.

It is our desire to be an increasingly active Local Group, and involving more and more of our membership. To that end, we will be holding planning sessions in the near future, to do some brainstorming as how to address the needs of our membership. If you have ideas that you would like to share with us, please contact me or any in our Local Group leadership.

Let me highlight our upcoming meetings for the month of January. One of my favorite meetings is our monthly Pig Out SIG meeting, the first Saturday of every month. This month, on the 6th, we will meet at 12:45 PM at the Two Olives at 29th and Rock. We were there in June of 2017, and we had a good turn out and everyone seemed to like it. So, we are going back! The menu is good, and it is rated 4.5 stars out of 5 on Yelp.

On the second Saturday of January, the 13th, our monthly Program Meeting will meet at the Watermark Books beginning at 2:00 PM. Our speakers will be Bill Barnett, vice president of our Mensa local group, and Shealah West, Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW), who will be giving a book review and discussion of the book *Nerdy, Shy, and Socially Inappropriate: A User Guide to an Asperger Life*, by Cynthia Kim. Bring your questions and your thinking caps.

On Saturday the 20th we will have our monthly Food for Thought meeting, and on the 27th we will have our monthly Banter and Books meeting. Both of these meetings are informal and are primarily for conversation.

A list of the January meetings is given elsewhere in this issue of SEEDS with details. Also, note that our web site at <http://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org> is also a convenient reference for our meeting details. We hope to see you at any, or all of these meetings.

Larry D. Paarmann, Loc. Sec.

Events:

January 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6 PIGOUT 12:45pm Two Olives 2949 N Rock RD twoolliveswichita.com
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Stated Meeting featuring a Guest Speaker 2:00pm Watermark Books Basement
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20 Food for Thought 11:00am Watermark Books Basement
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Banter and Books 7:00pm Barnes & Nobles 1920 N Rock RD
28	29	30	31			

January Trivia

"January is named for Janus (Ianuarius), the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman mythology, where the Latin word for door (ianua) comes from - January is the door to the year. Traditionally, the original Roman calendar consisted of 10 months, totalling 304 days, winter being considered a monthless period. Around 713 BC, the semi-mythical successor of Romulus, King Numa Pompilius, is supposed to have added the months of January and February, allowing the calendar to equal a standard lunar year (355 days). The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day.

Although March was originally the first month in the old Roman Calendar, January assumed that position beginning in 153 BC when the two consuls, for whom the years were named, began to be chosen on January 1. The reason for this shift of the new year into the dead of winter was to allow the new consuls to complete the elections and ceremonies upon becoming consuls, and still reach their respective consular armies by the start of the campaigning.

Various Christian feast dates were used for the New Year in Europe in the Middle Ages, including March 25 and December 25. However, medieval calendars were displayed in the Roman fashion of twelve columns from January to December. Beginning in the 16th century, European countries began officially making January 1 the start of the New Year once again. Sometimes called Circumcision Style because this was the date of the Feast of the Circumcision, being the 8th day from December 25."

-Wikipedia

Birthstone: Garnet

Flower: Carnation

Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

Birthdays:

Ronnie Ingle, Jan. 10

Chris Nelson, Jan. 13

Stephen Kerwick, Jan. 14

Ronald Peden, Jan. 15

Daniel Gollub, Jan. 22

Larry Zollars, Jan. 30

Last Month's Puzzle:

Had several Mensan's proffer a number of different answers to last months puzzle. The answers really depended on the rationalizations used by the person to arrive at a solution. Kind of akin to a psychology test.

Not to make anyone hate me (more than they already do), there is no "correct" answer. Mathematically speaking, since the last two variables were unknowns, an almost infinite set of numbers would give a "correct" answer, depending on the arbitrary criteria that one may have assigned to each unknown. Not enough information is provided to definitively determine the value of the last clock and geometric figure. The most probable or logical solution does not necessarily mean that it must be so. The answers would fall into a simple probability distribution, where several were much more probable than others, while most would be improbable, but not impossible. Flaws in my logic? ~ Klaus

Activity report:

The Christmas party at Gordon Bakkens house on Saturday December 9th was well attended by the regular crowd, along with a few new faces. The host provided a convivial atmosphere, the food was good, and there was even a showing of the movie; the Benders, shot in Kansas.





Heartland Mensa Region 7



News Brief by: Rich Alcott

January, the month of transition, an appropriate time to discuss three American Mensa transitions you could be part of.

Pam Donahoo, our Executive Director for many years, has left for a new position. So we're looking for her replacement. The ED is responsible for American Mensa's office functions – membership support, marketing, publications, IT, much of the AG planning and support, etc. In turn, the AMC is responsible for setting policies and goals to guide the ED's activities.

Finding the right person for that ED position is probably the AMC's most important activity this year. We're doing that as quickly, conscientiously, transparently and economically as possible, given the confidentiality that personnel matters require. As soon as Pam submitted her resignation, the AMC tasked a 5-member Transition Committee with devising a selection strategy in time for the December AMC meeting. You can read their analysis and recommendation. Logon to us.mensa.org/lead/amc/, navigate to *Meeting Reports*, and choose *2017-12-02 – Houston TX* from the *Select Meeting* pull-down.

Part of their process was to poll Mensans and staff on the traits and qualifications we felt would be most important in the new ED. As I write this, the survey is still open and you can participate. Download and read the trait definitions from region7.us.mensa.org/Executive%20Director%20Traits.pdf, then answer the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/KLVMYFB.

Meanwhile, somebody's got to mind the store. The AMC appointed AML's Director of Membership and Strategy Trevor Mitchell to be Acting Executive Director. Wearing two hats for the moment, Trevor's too busy to handle the process questions many Local Group leaders had been depending on him for. To fill in the gap, we've set up a new email account, info@americanmensa.org. If you need some help with a National Office function, send a request to that address – they'll route your note to the right support person.

Officers have probably already seen the other transition. We're moving our communications platforms onto new software. To see what it's like, logon to connect.us.mensa.org/home with your regular AML email address and password. The pull-down menu under *Communities* will show you the discussion groups your Local Group leadership position qualifies you to participate in. Within the next month or so, we expect to include all our Mensans – there's a long list of SIGs and such we'll be supporting when/if they choose to move over from other platforms. See you there.

~~ Rich

Humor:

As told by Mike Dickson

- 1) Knowledge is knowing the tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in the fruit salad.
- 2) The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 3) He who smiles in a crisis has found someone to blame.
- 4) Light travels faster than sound, which is why some people appear smart till they open their mouth.
- 5) We live in a society where the pizza delivery arrives faster than the police.
- 6) Crowded elevators smell different to midgets.
- 7) Politicians & diapers should be changed often, & for the same reasons.
- 8) Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street bald & with a beer gut, in shorts & flip flops, & still think they're looking good.
- 9) Shinbone: the part of the body used to locate furniture in a dark room.
- 10) I've discovered, I scream exactly the same way, whether I'm about to be eaten by a great white shark, or a piece of seaweed brushes my foot.
- 11) Stealing from another person is plagiarism; stealing from many is research.
- 12) Money can't buy happiness, but it can make the quality of your misery more bearable.



Speaking of misery, had some space to fill, and thought this was a cool graphic. The doomed residents of a town captured by 16th century Spanish soldiers, suffer cruel deprecations.