

SUNFLOWER SEEDS



April 2019, Volume-47, Issue-4
Kansas Sunflower Mensa



April, the month of the turning of the seasons. Winters furry is finally waning, and hints of new life abound. Where does the path that you follow lead?

Sunflower Seeds ©2019, Wichita, Kansas Sunflower Mensa, is distributed to chapter members and select individuals. Mensa is a non-profit international society whose sole requirement for qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any accepted standard tests, or by submission of properly certified prior evidence.

All unsigned material in the Sunflower Seeds is either by the editorial staff or obtained from public domain. Items may be reprinted (if not individually copyrighted) if you're another Mensa publication. Be sure to provide proper credit to the author and **Sunflower Seeds**. No other reprinting is permitted without prior written permission of the Publication's Editor.

Contributions may be submitted at any time, but for publication in the next issue, it must be received by the 20th of the preceding month. All contributions must be signed but may be published anonymously or under a pseudonym. The Editors have total discretion to reject or edit submissions and advertisements according to style, taste and space requirements. Though the decisions of the Editors may on occasion be capricious, they are always final. Any and all opinions expressed herein are solely that of the editor unless otherwise specified and in no way reflect the attitudes of other members of the chapter or of Mensa.

Paid advertising is accepted on a space-available basis at \$40 per full page, \$25 per 1/2 page, \$15 per 1/4 page, free four-color layout for members. Rates are double for non-members. All ads must be renewed each month. Classified ads are free to members in good standing.

Sunflower Seeds is the Official Publication of the Wichita Kansas Sunflower Mensa #670, published twelve times a year. ISDN applied for. The subscription fee of \$5.00 is included in annual dues paid to Wichita Sunflower Mensa and American Mensa, Ltd.; other subscriptions are \$18.00 per year.

Editor: R. Klaus Trenary, contact me at: editor@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Officers for 2019:

LocSec: Larry Paarmann, 316-209-3752,
locsec@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Asst. LocSec: Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330,
asstlocsec@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Treasurer: Diane Powell, 316-617-8423,
treasurer@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Program Chair: Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330,
programchair@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Publications: Gordon Bakken, 316-687-9402,
publications@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Editor, Seeds: R. Klaus Trenary, 316-648-6536,
editor@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Recruit & Test: Dan Gollub, 316-322-3087,
testing@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Associate Proctor: Position OPEN -

Mem. at Large: Ronnie Lee Ingle, 316- 631-3514,
memberatlarge@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson, 316-651-4707,
ombudsman@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org

Region – 7 VC: Rich Olcott, 720-390-7889,
rolcott@mindspring.com

American Mensa Ltd.:

1-888-294-8035

Chapter's Official Web Sites:

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

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

April Upcoming Events:

**Saturday 6th 12:45pm - MONTHLY PIG OUT
A CHANCE TO DINE WITH MENSA FRIENDS.**

YA YA'S EURO BISTRO

8115 E 21st ST N

[HTTP://YAYASWICHITA.COM](http://YAYASWICHITA.COM)

**Saturday 13th 2:00pm - GUEST SPEAKER
Bill Barnett (see details)**

STATED MEETING AFTER PRESENTATION

FAIRMOUNT COFFEE

3815 E 17th ST (SEE PAGE 4)

[HTTP://WWW.FAIRMOUNTCOFFEE.COM](http://WWW.FAIRMOUNTCOFFEE.COM)

**Saturday 20th 11:00am – MONTHLY FIELD TRIP
JOIN US FOR A FUN ROAD TRIP. (see details)**

MEET: WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT

4701 E DOUGLAS

[HTTP://WWW.KANSASOILMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.KANSASOILMUSEUM.ORG)

**Saturday 27th 7:00pm – BANTER AND BOOKS
GOOD CAMARADERIE AND DISCUSSIONS.**

BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA

1920 N ROCK RD

[HTTP://WWW.STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/
STORE/2319](http://WWW.STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/STORE/2319)

April's Pig Out Details:

This month's adventure will be at a more upscale location. "At YaYa's, you're family. We think friends, family, food, and fun are what life should be about."

"Our restaurant features savory new European-American food and modern cocktails that will tempt any palate and nourish the soul. Enjoy live music on the patio, or the upscale casual dining environment inside, where every table is the best seat in the house!"

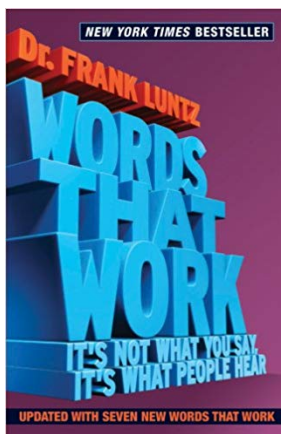


Chapter Field Trip this Month:

The chapter is planning on beginning a new activity of regular field trips to interesting and educational destinations. The first place to be visited will be the **Kansas Oil Museum in El Dorado**. Admission is \$8.00.

We will meet as usual at the Watermark Books basement at 11:00am. We will plan on leaving by 11:30. I will be driving and have ample room for three other people. We may need additional drivers as the need arises.

April's Featured Subject:



March's Pig Out Highlights:



Our Pig Out location for March was the Prost restaurant in East Wichita. The restaurant specializes in authentic German cooking and beer. The food was good and almost what I would expect to eat at a small “Gasthouse” in rural Germany. The service was admittedly slow, but that is rather a German attribute as well. The atmosphere was a bit eclectic with bench seating for all, but again more akin to a German beer hall than a Wichita eatery. The desserts were varied and tasty. Some interesting conversations were heard, especially between some of our members and the congenial manager.

New Program Meeting Location for April

For our April program meeting, April 13th, we will meet in a new place. It will be at Fairmount Coffee, 3815 E. 17th Street, Wichita, across the street from Wichita State University. This facility is all on one level with no stairs, and it is wheel-chair accessible. It looks like a nice facility. Let's see how everyone likes it! Another picture is on page 6.



Mensa Foundation Scholarship

There were 30 applications submitted from throughout the Kansas Sunflower Mensa local group area for this year's Mensa Foundation Scholarship. The deadline for application was January 15th. Applicants must be from our local area and be enrolled in an accredited higher educational institution in the fall of 2019. The essays are evaluated for grammar, organization, craftsmanship, goals statement and supporting information. There are several awards made, some of which are area specific, such as STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), natural science, fine arts, journalism, etc. The awards vary in financial size from several hundred dollars to a few thousand. The total amount of awards nationwide is over \$100,000 each year. The money for these awards comes from various sources, including several scholarship foundations. The essays are judged blind, that is, the names of the applicants are not known. Larry Paarmann, Bill Barnett, and Diane Powell were the judges at the local level. The scores and award recommendations were submitted on February 15th. Many of the submitted essays were excellent. They will be evaluated at the Region level and then the National level. Results should be known by the end of June.

ExCom Meeting in April

There will be an Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2019, immediately after the Program Meeting on that day is over (about 3:30 PM or so). Reminder: although only those who are members of the Executive Committee are allowed to vote, all members are welcome to attend and join in on the discussion. The agenda will consist primarily of follow-up discussion on the January Ex Com meeting. Please submit agenda items to Larry Paarmann before the meeting on April 13th or bring them up during the “As may arise” section of the meeting.

Women in Coding

by Larry D. Paarmann

In the February 26th edition of the *Mensa Weekly Brainwave*, I think in celebration of International Women's Day, March 8th, the lead story was *The secret history of women in coding*, referencing an article in the [New York Times Magazine](#). It features women who were computer coders in the very early days of digital computers. Very early digital computers were coded in binary, which was very tedious and detailed. Later, assembly coding was introduced, but was still a very low level coding method. Later still, high level compilers were developed to lessen the tedium of coding and ensure fewer errors. Fortran was one of the first high level compilers developed (first published in 1957).



Figure 2: Mary Allen Wilkes with a LINC at MIT.

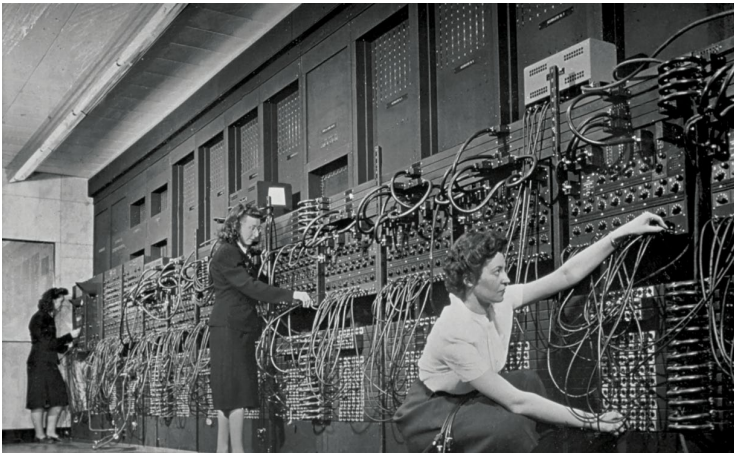


Figure 1: Computer Operators with an Eniac.

The first programmable electronic (used vacuum tubes, not mechanical relays, it was 1,000 times faster than electromechanical machines, operating with a clock speed of 100 kHz) digital computer in the US was the Eniac (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) during the 1940s (completed in 1945 at the University of Pennsylvania). See Figure 1. It weighed more than 30 tons and had over 17,000 vacuum tubes. Kathleen McNulty, Jean Jennings, Betty Snyder, Marlyn Wescoff, Frances Bilas and Ruth Lichterman were some of the programmers.

Later, Grace Hopper, Jean E. Sammet, and Fran Allen were instrumental in the development of compiler computer languages. Many others were to follow.

“LINC” is short for Laboratory INstrument Computer, but some think it may be a reference to Lincoln Laboratory, associated with MIT. The LINC is considered by some to be the first personal computer but was used only for lab experiments. “The LINC sold for more than \$40,000 at the time. A typical configuration included an enclosed 6'x20" rack, four boxes holding tape drives, a small display, a control panel, and a keyboard.” It was a 12-bit machine with a memory of 2018 words.



For more information, see the web site “Girls Who Code”: <https://girlswhocode.com> In addition to women in programming, as featured in the 2016 movie *Hidden Figures*, some also played vital roles in math, science, and engineering in the early US space program. Three in particular are featured: Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. Katherine Johnson was gifted in mathematics and helped put John Glenn into orbit in 1962. For more information on women in technical careers, see the web site “Tech Ladies”: <https://new.hiretechladies.com>

News Brief by: Rich Olcott



Heartland Mensa Region 7



Ignore the March cold snap. Think ahead to the good things that April brings – flowers and bird-song and CultureQuest® and the *Mensa Cares* projects that many Local Groups schedule to coincide with National Volunteer Week (although Denver Mensa will be doing theirs

in May).

For me, March began with a quick trip east for the quarterly AMC meeting and *Snowball*, the Regional Gathering sponsored by Central New Jersey Mensa. Unfortunately, the AMC’s meeting schedule obstructed what would have been the highlight of my trip, Dr Harry Ringermacher’s presentation of his recent astrophysical observations. I hope I can catch his talk at the AG.

The other unfortunate aspect of the AMC meeting was that once again we had to face up to the same question that occasionally bedevils Local Groups – what do we do when a Mensan behaves badly? Mensa has a formal hearings process for addressing patterns of inappropriate behavior. This meeting we received reports from two such hearings. In each case, the Hearings Committee recommended that the offending individuals should be expelled from our organization – the most severe penalty we can impose. Decisions like that are never easy. After considerable discussion, we concurred with each recommendation.

In that connection, I’d like to state my support for the Event Safety Task Force’s proposed Referendum “Procedure relating to discipline of members whose

conduct has been deemed to be harmful.” This didn’t come out of the blue for no reason. What may have been acceptable behavior years ago isn’t any longer. Mensa and other organizations are experiencing a rising number of incidents that deserve formal penalties. This proposal is the first of what I expect will be a series from ESTF, all directed to helping our members feel safe and our event sponsors feel that Mensa has their back. Look for it on your ballot in the upcoming American Mensa election. As usual, the ballot will carry *Pro* and *Con* statements. In my opinion, the *Con* statement is erroneous in most of its points. Read the material and make your own judgement.

Now for some good news. Region 7 hasn’t hosted a Regional Gathering for a while, but we’re getting back into gear. North Dakota Mensa has announced *ForGe North*, to be held in Grand Forks August 2-4. All you folks in the Northern Tier or along I-29, this party’s for you! Details are at northdakota.us.mensa.org/RG.html.

And Spring is coming!

~~ Rich



Figure 3: Another view of Fairmount Coffee.

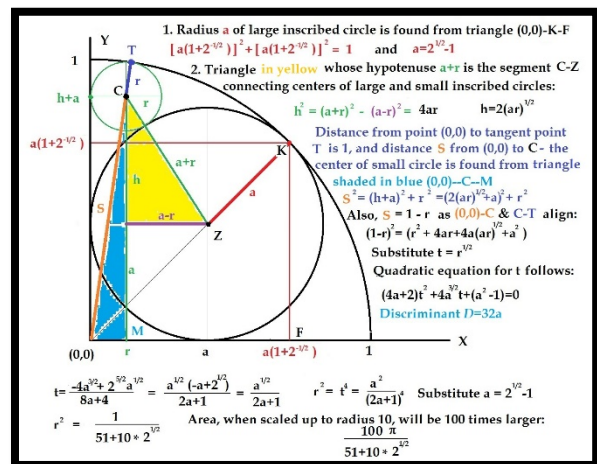


Figure 4; Part of the solution to Igor’s puzzle from last month. See next page for alternate solution.

Tentative Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting
January 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 PM, January 12, 2019, in the downstairs conference room at Watermark Books. Diane Powell, Gordon Bakken, Bill Barnett, Larry Paarmann, Klaus Trenary, Mike Dickson, and two or three others were present.

(1) Diane Powell moved to approve the September 8, 2018, ExCom meeting minutes. Bill Barnett seconded the motion. All four members of the ExCom Committee present voted in favor.

(2) A discussion was held as to what documents we should post on our web site. It was agreed that we post the ExCom Meeting minutes, our Bylaws, our constitution and any other relevant documents. Larry Paarmann will check with Rich Olcott about this.

(3) A discussion was held about maintaining civility in all of our meetings. Bill Barnett made comments about this, and suggested we put a statement about this in our SEEDS. Diane Powell will draft a statement and distribute it to other ExCom members for comments.

(4) After discussion, the following appointments were made. It is noted that they will also serve on the ExCom Committee.

(a) Program Chair. Bill Barnett volunteered to continue as Program Chair, and made such a motion. Gordon Bakken seconded the motion. All four members of the ExCom Committee voted in favor.

(b) Recruitment and Testing Chair. Larry Paarmann moved to appoint Dan Gollub to continue as Chair. Although he has recently moved to Manhattan, he has agreed to continue until we can find someone else. Bill Barnett seconded the motion. All four members of the ExCom Committee voted in favor.

(c) Publications Officer. Diane Powell moved to appoint Gordon Bakken as Publications Officer. Larry Paarmann seconded the motion. Three members of the ExCom Committee voted in favor, and one voted against the motion.

It is noted that Bill Barnett is already a member of the ExCom Committee. With the two above appointments, the ExCom Committee now consists of the following six: Larry Paarmann, Bill Barnett, Diane Powell, Ronnie Lee Ingle, Dan Gollub, and Gordon Bakken.

(5) After discussion the following were appointed that do not serve on the ExCom Committee.

(a) Newsletter Editor. Gordon Bakken, as Publications Officer, appointed Klaus Trenary as SEEDS Editor, with a vote of four to zero approval by the ExCom.

(b) Testing Coordinator. Dan Gollub will continue in this role.

(c) Proctor. Dan Gollub will continue in this role.

(d) Associate Proctor. This is an open position. Gordon Bakken may be interested in serving in this position. Larry Paarmann will get the appropriate materials to Gordon, and then Larry and Gordon will discuss it.

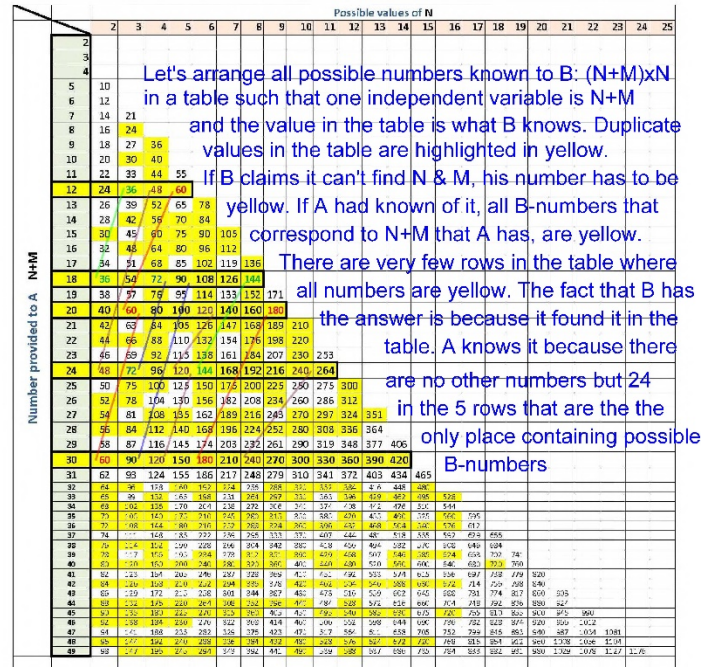
(e) Local Scholarship Chair. Larry Paarmann has been serving in this position, but he is willing to have someone else so serve if they are interested.

(f) Web Contact. Larry Paarmann has been serving as web master and Web Contact. If someone else is interested, please let Larry know. Gordon Bakken has been serving as an alternative Web Contact.

(6) A discussion was held concerning support for Rich Olcott for reelection as Region 7 Vice Chair. He needs nomination petitions at this time, not ballots. Some in attendance indicated they had already signed the nomination petition. You can sign online at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/candidat-e-petitions>

(7) The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Puzzle solution Graph.



The Wilderness Hiker How To See The World

Mensan Run Youtube Channel

Videos on outdoor adventures and nature.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHu9vW_KcQ66DleNC8_TrWg

Subscribe

Two conspiracy theorists walk into a bar, one after the other. Was it a coincidence?

The GPS system is wholly controlled by the U.S. government. It can be switched off anytime it is deemed necessary.

Atheists have a higher disapproval rating in the U.S. than either Muslims and gays.

Carbon monoxide is used in the U.S. to make meat appear redder. The practice is widely banned across the World.

When the Skylab space station crashed into Australia in 1979, the U.S. was fined \$400 for littering.

Oddly enough, millions of chop sticks used in China are manufactured in the U.S.

The USA has no official language. English is only used on a de facto basis. The USA experiences 75% of the World tornados.

Indian housewives own 11% of the Worlds gold supply. More than the reserves of the U.S., I.M.F., Switzerland and Germany.



A good old boy from The Arkansas hill country recently won a bass boat in a raffle drawing. He brought the prize back to his trailer. While parking it his wife exclaims: "What in the hell are ya gonna do with that?" "You know there aint no water more than knee deep within 50 miles of here." He replies, "I won it and ima gonna keep it". A few days later his brother comes calling. He sees his sister in law and asks where his brother is at. She says "he's out back in his boat" pointing to the middle of a bone dry field. As he gets closer, he sees his brother in the boat holding a rod and reel. He yells out,"what ya doing?" Can't you see I'm fishing, replied the brother. "Its dumb-asses like you that give us red-necks a bad name, cause everybody thinks we are stupid. If I knew how to swim, I would come over there and smack you."



A couple of late-night neighbors who came visiting. They were surprised while exploring my patio one night. Have had a cat, a racoon and two opossums all on my deck at the same time.

I was using my charge card the other day when the clerk noticed that I had not signed the card. She informed me that unless the card was signed, she could not complete the sale. When I asked why, she told me it was necessary to compare the signatures on the card with the receipt. So, I simply signed the card in front of her. She then carefully compared the two signatures. Guess what, they matched.

We live in a semi-rural area inhabited by many animals. We recently had a new neighbor call the county to have them remove a deer crossing sign on the road by them. They had a problem with all the deer getting hit there, and wanted them to have to cross somewhere else.

I was at the airport, checking in when a TSA agent asked the familiar question of: "has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied,"if it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" She smiled and nodded saying, "that's why we ask".

The corner stoplight buzzes when its safe to cross. I was crossing with a friend when she asked what the buzzer was for. I said it warns blind people when the light is going to turn red. Appalled, she responded, "why would blind people possibly drive?"





Mensan Owned and Operated

Blake Escritt - Independence, KS

- **Managed IT Services**

- Proactive Monitoring & Maintenance
- Secure Remote Support
 - Instant Technician Engagement
- Patch Compliance (Windows & Over 130 Apps)
- Enterprise Antivirus & Backup Solutions
- Easy Trouble Ticketing

<https://www.IndyTechFix.com/managed-it-service>