

# SUNFLOWER SEEDS



Next Pig-Out: Metro Bistro, 321 S Andover RD #100  
(316) 733-4202, <http://metrobistroandover.com>  
Saturday November 7th, 12:45pm. Contact Mike or Bill for info.  
Zoom meeting following at 4pm.

Outdoor gathering: The Bill Cather Retreat – Group cookout  
Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:30pm. Bill Cather's Retreat.  
No Zoom this Saturday.

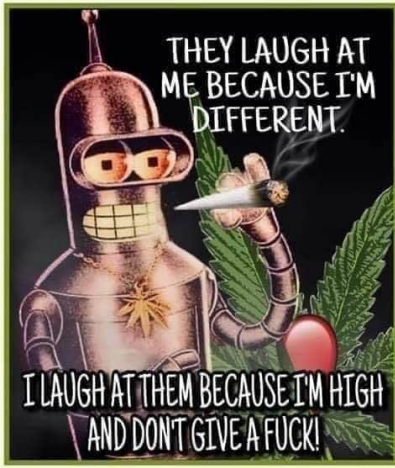
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Virtual Meetings:  
Join us at the on-line **Zoom Meeting**: (cut and paste the following  
address) <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72081034487>

Meeting ID: 720 8103 4487

Password: 8T0Jrt

**More details and articles begin on page 3.**

October 2020, Volume – 48, Issue # 10  
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter



*The Editor thought this one was hilarious, and quite frankly, true. BTW, got this graphic from a "secret" Mensa SIG, so if it is acceptable to them to publish it should be for us.*

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Paid advertising is accepted on a space-available basis at \$40 per full page, \$25 per 1/2 page, \$15 per 1/4 page. All ads must be renewed prior to each month published. Rates are double for non-members.

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*All material to be published must conform to established criteria. Print copy of requirements is available from the editors.*

*The Editors have total discretion to reject or edit submissions and advertisements according to style, propriety, taste, and space requirements. Though the decisions of the Editors may on occasion seem capricious, they are always final.*

*All opinions expressed herein are solely that of the editor and/or contributor unless otherwise specified and in no way reflect the attitudes or opinions of other members of this chapter or of Mensa.*

*This publication is intended for mature, intelligent audiences and content herein may not be appropriate for some minors.*

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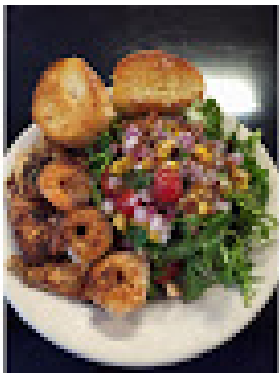
**Chapter's Official Web Sites:**

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

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



## Pig Out details: *Metro Bistro*



It's all about the flavor!

From our wonderful Beef Tenderloin Steak, to The Bomb Sandwich, you'll find a favorite at the first bite.

We'd love to have you come stay awhile and enjoy the great food and atmosphere, but we understand you're busy.

So, pick up our great flavors for lunch or dinner today, and come join us on your next opportunity!

The group has been here before and it was a pleasant experience. The service was a bit slow, but we did have the place pretty much to ourselves. The food was tasty and not too expensive.

## Cookout and Mensa Gathering:

This month Bill Barnett will be conducting an outdoor cookout, and the gathering will again be held on the private land of Bill Cather. Same place as the last meeting, located directly south of Mulvane, on the sandy shores of the Arkansas river.

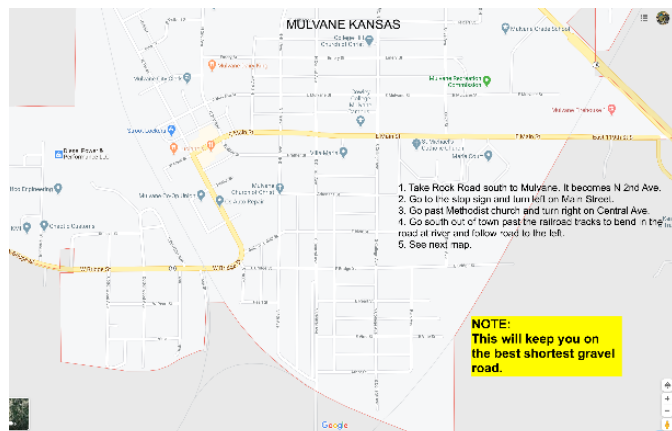
Please bring your own folding chairs, drinks, and munchies. We will be getting together out of doors so plan accordingly. Studies have shown that the odds of contracting a virus out of doors and under bright sunlight is exceedingly small. Again, do not forget some bug-spray such as off.

The Cather Retreat is easy to find. Go through Mulvane and head South on 4<sup>th</sup> until you go under the railroad bridge. Follow that dirt road South about 5 miles, making all right turns when there is a choice. The Arkansas river will always be to your right (West). If you end up going swimming, you have driven into the river.

Contact Bill Barnett (214-3330) if you can help. Not sure of a contingency plan in case of inclement weather.

Address: 1199 Old Goat Ranch RD, Mulvane. Gore township – 37.42836N x 97.23097W

During the production of last month's issue, the editor caught a "flu", and has been slow to recover fully. Though the probability of being infected by an object handled by someone "sick" is slight, the editor will concede that it is greater than zero. In the interest of embracing the tenet of a preponderance of caution, there will be no mailed version of the October Sunflower Seeds.



## Upcoming Zoom meetings scheduled.

Oct 24th, 2020 - 01:00 PM

Oct 31st, 2020 - 01:00 PM

Nov 7th, 2020 - 04:00 PM

Nov 21st, 2020 - 01:00 PM

Nov 28th, 2020 - 01:00 PM





## Heartland Mensa Region 7



November's our month for giving thanks. I am very grateful that my grandkids and their parents have successfully traversed the Valley of Covid. They're still in quarantine as I write this but I am so looking forward to real-life hugs once they're certified virus-free. May everyone who reads this escape the bug entirely or at worst suffer only a mild case with no after-effects.

While I'm being grateful, a big "Thank you" to the 126 people who've volunteered for 176 roles in our dozen Local Groups. Back in June I tipped my hat to our steadfast Editors, the linchpins who keep our members informed of local events and personalities. Standing behind each there's an unsung hero, the Publisher or Circulation Manager (different groups use different titles). Sometimes the hardworking Editor fills that role, too. Whichever, there is an important behind-the-scenes person who oversees printing, addressing, and mailing the hardcopy newsletters to the roughly half our members who prefer that medium. Thanks, folks, your faithful service deserves recognition, too.

Thanks also to our thirty-one Proctors and Proctors-In-Training who haven't had much to do since March. As Milton wrote, "they also serve who only stand in wait." Your friendly introduction to American Mensa is our best gateway for new members. Unfortunately, state, and local health regulations have virtually shut down most of our testing sessions. The good news is that at last, after years of effort, we're able to begin electronic testing as a supplement to what our Proctors have been doing and will do in our future.

This will not be "online testing" like our practice test. No low-security testing from someone's living room sofa. Instead, candidates will sit for what we're calling "a private test" at a secured (and cleaned) professionally-run testing center. They'll find that center and make an appointment using the same "Test sessions near your ZIP code" online search facility they now use on our website to find the (considerably less expensive) Local Group tests. By the time you read this, we'll have had the benefit of a couple of weeks of shake-down and Q&A via Mensa Connect's Proctor Officers Community. Details are evolving. Check the latest in the article and accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page at [us.mensa.org/featured-content/announcing-private-testing/](https://us.mensa.org/featured-content/announcing-private-testing/).

As I'm sure you've noticed, the texture of the Mensa experience is changing because of our perfect storm of pandemic, social and economic disruption. One indicator – I'm getting notifications of nation-wide video conference "speaker meetings" hosted by Local Groups as distant as San

Francisco Region Mensa and Central Florida Mensa. I sat in on a SFRM presentation by one of my favorite science-fiction authors. Watch for announcements on Mensa Connect.

~~ Rich

Larry D. Paarmann

### Tentative Minutes

October 17, 2020

A meeting of the Executive Committee took place via Zoom beginning at 1:00 PM on October 17, 2020. Members present: Larry Paarmann (Local Secretary), Bill Barnett (Deputy Local Secretary), Dan Gollub (Recruitment and Testing Chairman).

See editorial for info on running for office.

- (1) Larry Paarmann moved to accept the resignation of Diane Powell as Treasurer: she has moved to Arizona. Bill Barnett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- (2) Larry Paarmann moved to appoint George Hiss, Randy Hamilton, and Mike Dickson as members of the Nominating Committee. Bill Barnett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- (3) Bill Barnett moved to appoint the same three people as members of the Election Committee. Larry Paarmann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- (4) The Nominating/Election Committee selected George Hiss to be the chair of the Committee.
- (5) The Nominating/Election Committee presented their slate of candidates as follows:

Local Secretary:	Bill Barnett
Deputy Local Secretary:	Igor Ponomarev
Treasurer	David Fetherston
Member-at-Large	James Zongker



## Editorial

The editor is happy with the candidates running for the 2021-2022 seats for Kansas Sunflower Mensa and feels that the skill sets and personalities should compliment each other and be of benefit to the chapter. This of course should not be construed as implying that others are not welcome to run for office if this is their desire. The more participants, the better. **Candidates for any elected position have until November 15<sup>th</sup> to submit a petition for office. 10 signatures of current Sunflower Mensa members are required to add a name to the ballot.**

Despite dropping membership levels and obstacles that could not be even dreamed of as little as a year ago, the core membership is still strong and dedicated.

On that note, I propose that a more progressive if not radical ethos is embraced by the new leadership to further the cause of our order. I fear that the “keep things the same and don’t rock the boat” frame of mind will not serve us in the future due to rapidly changing World and societal situations.

The chapter is currently flush with funds that should be utilized to increase membership. I like the idea of inviting new prospects to a free dinner at a nice restaurant, for a “meet and greet.” My first exposure to Mensa was at exactly such an event, and I immediately liked the members. I also thought it was a good marketing strategy, and I did avail myself of a free meal. It just seemed a bit homier and more personal to share some food with potential future relationships the first time out.

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### Notes to the Editor: POWER OF NAME

Gordon Bakken

What is in a name? A rose by any other name might smell the same, but if it was named *manure*, your opinion of barnyard odor might negatively influence your opinion of the rose.

Likewise, the name given to any object, if it is the same or like the name of another known object, helps to influence one’s opinion of the object being named. *Samsonite* luggage seems strong and *Dairy Queen* ice cream seems regal. These names are not accidental. They are intended to play on our prejudices.

Those naming political operations know how this works also. It is not a coincidence that the national security act has the abbreviation *P.A.T.R.I.O.T.*, or that the IRS is called a *Service* and the military is called the *Defense* (not *Attack*) *Department*. Being able to name your own operations favorably helps them gain acceptance. Being able to name your opponent’s operations unfavorably helps them be rejected.

An example that illustrates this is the word *terrorist*. Recently I noticed that I had only heard it applied to those we oppose, although we have used the tactic ourselves. For example, Hiroshima was an effort to terrorize Japan into surrender. The bombing of Dresden in WWII was an effort to terrorize the Germans. Despite these obvious acts of terror on our part - and many more - I have never heard any of them referred to them by that name. We favor our friends also, when we speak of the fighting between the Muslim *terrorists* and the Israeli *Defense Forces*.

The concept is similar to the term *WMD*’s (Weapons of Mass Destruction). Strangely, the only nation that I hear has those is North Korea. Iran and Iraq seem to be thinking about obtaining them, but the USA, Israel, England, and France don’t have them. They only have *Defense Arsenals*.

Another example comes from the cold war. The World Socialists gave names to both sides. They called their side *Communism*. Nice name. It sounds like *community* or *commune*. It sounds warm, like something we would all like to be part of. They named the other side *Capitalism*. (Technically a *Capitalist* is someone who makes money from his money, without having to work.) It was easy to convince the workers that this was unfair. A more accurate name for our system would have been *Free Market*. That is kind of a nice name, like *Communism*. It sounds like something one might want to be part of. Some tried to label our system thusly, but the Communists won and today even we usually call ourselves by the name our enemy gave us, *Capitalists*.

The last example of the naming battle that I will mention is that between the pro- and anti-abortionists. Both tried to label the other side, but in that, they were both unsuccessful. The Anti-Abortionists tried to name their opponents *Abortionists* and even *Baby Killers*. The Abortionists tried to label their opponents *Anti-Abortionist* or *Anti-Choice*, none of those names stuck. *Pro-Life* and *Pro-Choice* did.

And the battle goes on.

