

Sunflower Seeds



Wichita on the River at Night

Zoom meetings on Saturdays at 4:00 PM

Christmas Party RSVP info inside.

**November 2021, Volume – 49, Issue # 11
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter**

Officers for 2021

LocSec: Bill Barnett 316-214-3330 grandledge@hotmail.com

Acting Editor: Bill Barnett

Asst. LocSec: Igor Ponomaryov

Treasurer: David Fetherston

Program Chair: Bill Barnett

Publication Chair: Gracie Ulrich

Membership Chair: Dan Gollub

Mem. at Large: James Zongker

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson

Region – 7 VC: Beth Anne Demeter bethane.demeter@gmail.com

Web Contact: Igor Ponomaryov

For questions concerning Seeds contact the Acting Editor through the American Mensa website or through the Facebook page. Contact other officers through the American Mensa website.

Chapter's Official Web Sites

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

www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460SunflowerSeeds

Submissions Guidelines

The Sunflower Seeds is published monthly. Quarterly there will be a larger newsletter with more articles. Submission deadline is the first of the month. Members in good standing may submit articles, puzzles, photography, etc. to the editor for publication. To submit an article for the newsletter send it to grandledge@hotmail.com

Articles should be submitted as a WORD document or Mac Pages document. The font should be Times New Roman 12 pt.

Why You Should Write For Seeds

This is your newsletter. You are talented and can make it better. More participation strengthens the group. People have told the editor that they like the Seeds. If you feel that way it is time to write.

The Christmas Party



The Christmas party will be at YaYa's Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21st St. North, Wichita 316-634-1000 on December 11 at 2:00 pm. We have reservations in a private room. You may bring a friend. The group will pay the first \$20 for everyone who RSVP's by November 23, 2021. Seating for people who do not RSVP will be on a space available basis only. If you think you might come please let the editor know. If you can't come please let the editor know.

The Nature Of An RSVP

RSVP is an initialism derived from the French phrase Répondez s'il vous plaît, meaning "Please respond" to require confirmation of an invitation. The initialism "RSVP" is no longer used much in France, where it is considered formal and old-fashioned. In France, it is now more common to use "Réponse attendue avant le...", meaning "[Your] answer is expected before...". In addition, the French initialism "SVP" is frequently used to represent "s'il vous plaît" ("please")

An RSVP shows respect for others. It is an act of politeness. It seems to be a relic of the past in our world of instant gratification. What's in it for me? What can I get now? Forget later. Why should I care about someone else. I deserve everything and don't need to consider others. They have to take care of me, I deserve it.

Planning a party is difficult. The most difficult part is how many people do I plan for? If I invite 50 people do I buy food for 4 or 50? Sometimes no one shows up. I have had that happen. Sometimes everyone shows up and brings a friend. I have had that happen. What size room do I need? How many chairs. How much does it cost. I am happy to fund a party if people appreciate the party. I hate wasting money and time.

I would rather someone say they are coming and call later to say they are unable to come than be ignored, by a factor of at least 10. It is understandable that life changes our plans against our wills. It is bad manners to not reply.

If someone replies they can't come it shows they respect the people making the invitation.

If someone deserves no respect ignoring them is a valid response, sometimes the best response.

The Pig-Out Column

Recommendations from the Head Pig, Mike Dickson:
Check with Mike (316-871-3379) if you have suggestions or questions concerning the Pig-Outs.

December 4, 2021, 12:45pm

Bella Luna Café, 2132 N. Rock Rd., Wichita
316-634-0008

December 11, 2021, 2:00pm

Christmas party

January 1, 2022, 12:45pm

Newport Grill, Bradley Fair Shopping Center,
1900 N Rock Rd, Wichita, KS 67206

February 6, 2021, 12:45pm

Vora Restaurant European 3252 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita (316) 977-9277



Pig-Outs are the perfect place to invite friends.

Meeting Schedule

1st Saturday, December 4, 2021, 12:45pm - Pigout

Bella Luna Café, 2132 N. Rock Rd., Wichita

2nd Saturday, December 11, 2021, 2:00 pm - Christmas Party

YaYa's Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21st St. North, Wichita 316-634-1000 on December 11 at 2:00 pm.

RSVP - We have reserved a room, limited seating. The group is paying the first \$20 for each person who RSVP's.

3rd Saturday, Dec. 18, 11:00 am

Cather Wildlife Refuge at 1199 Old Goat Ranch Road, Mulvane, Kansas. We have been there before. Go south out of Mulvane, turn left at the river, (you can't go any other way) turn right at the next county road, (kids stole the street sign) go to the end of the road, go through the gate and up to the old house near the gate. Try googling directions first. Call the editor ahead of time if you still need directions. Finding it is an IQ test. You score 85+ if you find it. It is on well maintained gravel county roads.



4th Saturday, December 25 - no meeting

Zoom Meetings Saturdays at 4:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72081034487?pwd=aWdKUStzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTlSQ09>

Igor Ponomaryov is the Zoom coordinator. Contact him or the editor for Zoom information.

LocSec Corner

Bill Barnett

The group is looking for an editor. I enjoy it, but I am wearing too many hats. Contact me if you are interested.

The group has one proctor and is looking for another. It would be better to have three. Contact me or Dan Gollub if you are interested.

Send your pictures to the editor along with their stories and they will be published here. You are talented and can be a writer for Seeds. Send your articles, letters, comments, and pictures for Seeds.

Heartland Mensa Region Seven

Beth Anne Demeter

Goals met!!! It's always nice to accomplish something. Not only that, but also to hear positive feedback afterwards! What did I accomplish lately? It's been a little while since my term as Regional Vice Chair started, but after finishing my orientation, first AMC meetings, World Gathering and more, I made time to set up and host my first Regional call. Yay!

The Regional calls happen monthly with local group leadership. At present, I've included Local Secretaries, Assistant Local Secretaries, Editors and some of the Editorial staff (not all groups have these) on the calls. The first one was held this past week and leaders from 6 of the 12 local groups within Region 7 attended. Not bad! Future calls should pick up more leaders from local groups, as I heard from at least 3 groups saying they couldn't make the call for one reason or another. For instance, I scheduled this call at the same time as Denver's New Member Coffee / Meet & Greet. Whoops! The calls will alternate days and times in the future so we'll make up for that!

Returning to the most recent call, we talked about a lot of things. Leaders from each of the local groups shared their thoughts, concerns, successes and more. We answered questions, provided feedback, shared ideas and so on. Personally, I shared information from the National Office, AMC meetings and other official business. While that stuff is sometimes boring, it sounded like it was valuable from an understanding, procedural and transparency standpoint.

One big to-do item that resulted from the meeting was my sharing a need for Regional assistance. Lots of RVC's have a staff and that can include an official Assistant, Webmaster, Scholarship Chair and more. Personally, I'd like to fill each of these positions with willing volunteers! So, if you're reading this and have interest, have experience with any of these positions in your volunteer history, or know someone who be a great fit, I'd love to hear about them! You're always welcome to reach out to me at rvc7@us.mensa.org. I'll provide more updates in the future, but thanks for now and let's keep those successes going!

MINUTES OF KANSAS SUNFLOWER MENSA (“KSM”) BOARD MEETING October 23, 2021 7:00 PM

A meeting of the Exec Comm of Kansas Sunflower Mensa (KSM) took place on 10/23/2021 at Barnes and Noble bookstore at Bradley Fair.

Present in person: Bill Barnett, Igor Ponomarev and Dave Fetherston. James Zongker joined the meeting via a phone call.

The following issues were discussed:

Authorizing Bill Barnett or Dave Fetherson to withdraw the total amount of funds from KSM Bank of America account (\$5,036.66) for depositing into Fidelity Bank account of KSM. Closing of the old BOA account.

Bill Barnett moved to approve the above measure. All participating Exec Comm members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Dave Fetherston, Treasurer was provided with one new check book for the Fidelity Bank account. The other check book was kept by Igor Ponomarev for cases of emergency expenses. Dave agreed to take care of closing the old BOA account.

A question of Christmas Party was also brought up. Bill Barnett proposed that this year we hold Christmas Party at a restaurant, preferably in a private room, location to be decided based on the number of RSVP reservations received. It was proposed that the Christmas Party take the time normally allotted to the Program Meeting:

Saturday, Dec 11 at 2:00 pm; the following choices of restaurants with a private room having been mentioned:

Muse Café at the Wichita Art Museum (holds only 8 people per current regulations)
Yia-Yia’s
Newport Grill
Vora

The above restaurants can normally accommodate as few people as 7-8. There are others that might require more guests to qualify for a private room.
The Board is open to all Members’ input on the choice of venue at this time.

The meeting of the Exec Comm has authorized using funds from KSM account to pay for a part of the meal cost to each person who makes an advance reservation, in the amount of \$20.00 or actual cost of the meal, whichever is less.

The Exec Comm members voted for the above measure.

In addition, it was proposed that if there is a cover charge, it might be paid from KSM funds as well.

The RSVP cutoff date will be announced later.

Respectfully submitted,
Igor Ponomarev, Assistant Loc Sec



Quarterly Treasurer Report

We do not have a report as of this time.

The Noble Lie

Bill Barnett

There is a Norman Rockwell image of the old time, small town doctor that brings feelings of nostalgia. Along with the nostalgia goes the noble lie, as well as a lack of science. It assumes people are stupid, so just tell them what you need to tell them to get them to do what they need to do. That makes them feel good. It works once, sometimes twice. People aren't stupid, they know when they have been fooled. The Noble Lie continues today. It makes me sick (pun intended), not nostalgic. I prefer science and honesty. I could even take a little unscientific honesty, if people are really honest.

Once there was a boy who cried wolf. He was a shepherd and was bored sitting out on a hill every night watching sheep. He knew how to get company, just cry wolf and the town people would come running. It worked, twice. The third time a real wolf came. He cried wolf. Everyone ignored him. The wolf ate him. The story repeats itself over and over. We don't learn from history, unless we read history and apply its lessons. Then we are outsiders, crazy people, when we apply what we learned from history.

I am going through the grocery store and the speaker is blaring orders from the government. Shoppers go about their business ignoring the propaganda as if it is meaningless. They know the issue facing the country is real and dangerous. They do not believe anything they hear. It is just like the boy who cried wolf. So they go on with their life. They turn off the news and turn on the game. It is more believable. Comedians are more believable than the propaganda.

What if a real wolf shows up? This is not about a disease. It is about how we react to issues and about the noble lie. Another wolf will show up. Will anyone believe the propaganda? What if the wolf eats 100 times as many people? Will people believe, will they riot, or will they just ignore the whole thing?

Why Photograph?

Bill Barnett

When I was 6 and 7 years old I was oil painting. There was an article in the Dallas Morning News about me and a 104 year old lady, the youngest and oldest artists in Dallas. Then we moved and there were no more art lessons. Sometime in elementary school the class painted backgrounds for a play, The Princes And The Pea. The teacher did not accept my painting because she said I did not do it. It was too good. She said it was done by my parents. I doubt my parents could have painted it. In time painting became a lost art for me. In college I learned technical drawing. I could even do technical drawings freehand. I learned technical printing. At that time all technical engineering and architectural drawings were done by hand, usually with instruments.

Since that time I lost the ability of putting an artistic image on canvas or even paper, but I never lost the ideas in my mind. Always I think of what to paint and how it should look, but only in my mind. I imagine it, but can't put it on a canvas. Just like I imagine redesigning almost everything I see.



Dragon Cave At Night

A few years ago I started doing Youtube videos, and some photography too. I have loved photography for years but never took it seriously. People tell me they love my photos more than my videos. I thought the videos were better. Even professional photographers have complimented me on the photos and videos. The videos are too beautiful. Some people just want dumb stuff and weird stuff.

Photography and videography are not the same thing, but there is a big overlap. Learning one helps to understand the other.

Its not possible for a photographer to be good at everything. Some photography subjects are full of too many people. I was told that in Wichita you cant's swing a dead cat without hitting a photographer. Everyone wants to do weddings and personal portraits. And they want to do it the easy way, just shoot it. I know a portrait photographer. One session is \$\$\$\$\$. But that includes the portrait consultation, the location consultation, the outfit consultation, the hair consultation, the makeup consultation, the onsite person for hair and makeup, the lighting as well as the photographer. There is a lot of work and planning in it. This photographer can make anyone look Hollywood gorgeous in the photos and there is a big portfolio provided, not just a photo. If someone wants to stand out and be noticed then he needs to do something different from the herd. Leave the herd, don't be a paparazzi, be the one on a new frontier doing something no one else can or will do.



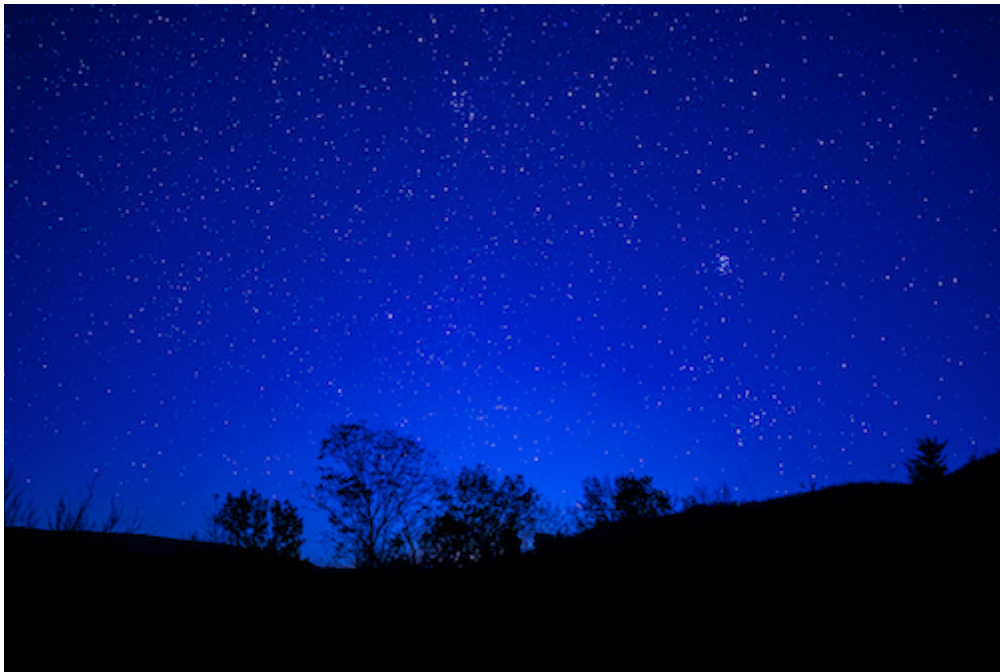
Looking Out Dragon Cave At Night

Night landscape photography is a challenge. The world is different at night. Its almost like going to another planet. Maybe we are on another planet at night. The colors are different. The shadows are different. The animals come out. The flowers come to life. The stars light the Earth. Just like there are different seasons there are different lights at night. In the evening first comes golden hour when the sun is low and everything glows a golden color. Then there is sunset and the sky is red, yellow, and orange. Then suddenly the sky is a dark blue, full of light at bluelight time. There are even subsets of bluelight. There is twilight, then nautical twilight, and then

astronautical twilight, each a darker shade of blue. Finally there is midnight and the sky goes black. The moon adds her complexity to night lighting. Each is a different photo opportunity. Just before morning it all reverses and the same natural lights come again.

I have an advantage, I can see in the dark where other people can't. My son has a bigger advantage. He might as well as be a cat at night with his night vision. He can run down a trail at night where others can't even see to walk.

Some camera lenses are just better at night. A fast lens like $f/1.4$ or $f/1.8$ are an advantage for collecting more light. An $f/0.95$ lens would be even better, but they are limited in availability and do not come in the wide angles sometimes used for landscape photography. Some lenses seem to have a magical quality beyond just a fast f stop for capturing excellent night images. No doubt there is some magical seeming lens technology that the camera companies will never share. I see it in some videos. I have a video made in starlight. An $f/4.0$ lens will fail for much of night landscape photography. There is not enough range to get the stars and all the land features in good exposure. I have tried. I doubt an $f/2.0$ lens would be much good.



Stars At Bluelight

Getting stars, clouds, foreground, and the inside of a cave in the same picture is a challenge. It pushes the limits of a camera. It pushes the limits of the photographer. It takes someone where others will not go.

I called the cave Dragon Cave. It needs a name and Dragon Cave it is. A dragon lives there. She can only be seen at night by those willing to dare to be there. This night she is baptizing her

newly hatched baby with fire, the dragon way. The cave is hidden in plain sight. People pass by it on a regular basis and don't even notice it. But the dragons know it is there.

Go shoot some photos and publish them here.

Send the editor your photos for the next issue.

You are talented. Send a photo and a story.

Program Speakers

This is your group. You are talented and can make it better. Its time for you to speak to the group. Contact Bill Barnett with your topic.

Maarieda The Book

Bill Barnett

The short stories here are finished. They will be rewritten and expanded into a book. The crew will explore new planets sometime in the future. It's all about the future. Will we become a multi planet species? Or will we be a one planet species? How much time do we have left here on Earth?

Cabin Fever 4.0

February 4-6, 2022

Are you suffering from the winter blahs, now that the holiday season is over? Just when you needed it most, here's a pick-me-up weekend to lift your spirits.

Bring the kids, bring the family. We're planning fun for everyone. There will be two Hospitality Suites; one will be family friendly and the other will be for adults.

Games of all kinds will be played almost 'round the clock (some people might want to catch a few ZZZs). Will Edward defend his Scrabble title? Will Noah dominate at Clue and win again in only one move? Will Jean defend her Ticket to ride title?

On Friday evening, our own local home brewing expert, Curt Krambeck, will lead a beer tasting event, with snacks to pair with the beers.

Saturday will feature an interesting and diverse line-up of speakers and presentations.

Take a break from games and speakers and join us for lunch in Hospitality to sample the offerings in the Soup Contest. If this year's soups are as good as last year's contest entries were, you're in for a real taste treat. There's a \$10 gift card waiting for anyone who brings a crockpot of soup for the contest.

Saturday dinner at the hotel is included in your reservation. Choose your entrée: chicken, lasagna, or vegetarian. And then be entertained and engrossed by Jim Lammers, our keynote speaker.

Plan on more fun after the Saturday dinner.

Dance the blahs away with ballroom dance lessons led by Rachel Szmed. Rachel is a regionally known dance choreographer, having worked on numerous musicals in our area.

Later on in the adult Hospitality Suite a wine tasting will be led by internationally known sommelier Richard Poole, from Phoenix Area Mensa. The wine tastings will be accompanied with various cheeses to pair with the wines.

Or head back to the game room and lose yourself in gamester bliss.

Saturday evening keynote speaker: Jim Lammers of Trinity Animation will display, demonstrate and explain 3D animation and visualization. Jim's company sells and trains 3D visualization software and also produces animation for a variety of clients worldwide. Trinity creates medical, architectural, advertising, realtime and other forms of 3D animation, as well as contributing backgrounds to the hit animated series *ARCHER* on FX. The image below is from *ARCHER*. Jim will show a little of the software, his company's animation work, and then take questions on any related topic.



Sneak peek at what else we're considering:

Texas Hold 'em Poker as demonstrated by Josh Heinzl. You may recognize Josh from television when you were watching *The World Series of Poker*.

LATE Saturday night in the adult suite (no children allowed for this session) we have tentatively invited "Ginger" to provide a shibari demonstration (decorative rope

and knot bondage). Her partner, known as “Fish,” may demonstrate his “impact play” techniques (think paddles, spanking, etc.).

<https://cabinfevermam.ticketleap.com/>

Cabin Fever 4.0
February 4-6, 2022
Radisson Hotel, (913) 391-7449
12601 W 95th St, Lenexa, KS 66215

Choose Your Entrée: Chicken, Pasta

Vegetarian

Member Name _____ Entrée
(Chicken / Lasagna / Vegetarian) _____

Additional Name _____

Entrée (Chicken / Lasagna / Vegetarian) _____

Additional Name _____

Entrée (Chicken / Lasagna / Vegetarian) _____

Additional Name _____

Entrée (Chicken / Lasagna / Vegetarian) _____

Address, City, State, ZIP

Email _____ Phone

Cabin Fever Registration Fees: \$75 per adult through January 7

\$25 for under age 18 at all times

\$90 per adult after January 7

No one-day discount registrations

To register online go to: <https://cabinfevermam.ticketleap.com/>

To register by mail and avoid the credit card fees send this form with your check to: **Cabin Fever Mensa Registration, care of Shawn Dyer, 10804 Hickman Heights Rd, Kansas City, MO 64137**

For hotel reservations:

RESERVATION INFO – BY PHONE and ONLINE \$84/night plus taxes and service fees

Do you wish to participate in the Soup Contest? Yes _____

Each entrant will receive a \$10 gift card for a crockpot of soup.

If you have any questions,
please contact Rob Swenson cabinfevermensa@gmail.com