

The

SCAM
page oast rea ensa

The Countdown

Begins...

E-Minus

1085??



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



Executive Committee

Local Secretary

GEORGE PATTERSON

301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic, FL 32903
777-3721 george3141@cfl.rr.com

Assistant Local Secretary

JOSEPH SMITH

4317 Sherwood Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935
259-4966 jsmith@arachnaweb.com

Treasurer

BUD LONG

660 Alaska Rd., Merritt Island, FL 32953
455-9749 budlong@bellsouth.net

Recording Secretary

KAREN FREIBERG

876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955
633-1636 Karen@freiberg.com

Member-at-Large

THERESA VALEK

626-8523
wb4zuz@amsat.org

SCAM Appointees

Proctor Coordinator

HANK RHODES

MensaTest@cfl.rr.com

Membership

KAREN FREIBERG

Membership@scam.us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T.

KAREN FREIBERG

Sight@scam.us.mensa.org

RG Committee Chair

BUD LONG

SCAM Bylaws Committee

Volunteer Needed!

Publicity Committee Chair

GEORGE PATTERSON

Mediator

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

The SCAM Editorial Staff

Editor

MICHAEL MOAKLEY
808 Wisteria Dr., Melbourne, FL
32901
editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Webmaster

KAREN FREIBERG
633-1636
Karen@Freiberg.com

Assembly/Circulation

GEORGE PATTERSON
777-3721

Calendar

DOUG STARKE
633-1636
Doug@Starke.com

American Mensa Ltd.

MEL DAHL, RVC10
RVC10@cfl.rr.com

AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103
(817) 607-0060
AmericanMensa@mensa.org

All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be **typed** or **legibly handwritten**. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in **e-mail text** or any of most **word processing** formats. All submissions should be sent to the **Editor**, whose contact information appears on Page 2.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

Over the last decade, I have always wondered, when writing down a date, what format might be acceptable when using a shortened form? For example, consider this past Christmas, December 25, 2009.

When using the shortened form, would we use “12/25/09”? Or is “12/25/9” acceptable? One would think a “shortened” form should be as short as possible, therefore would the latter not be correct?

Of course, none of this matters now that we are in the year 2010. For the remainder of this century, it would seem this dilemma no longer exists. This, being yet another New Year’s issue, brings several things to mind. Keep in mind that later this year, around October, we are hosting an RG. Our RG is still in need of a name. Can you help? If so, contact Bud Long.

Another thing that comes to mind is the future. For me, still another item coming to mind: What will the next several issues of *The SCAM* contain? Combining these two, I have a challenge for those of you who care to take me up on it.

What is *your* vision of the future? What will life be like 5, 10, 20 or 50 years from now? Will there still be a Mensa? Will we finally beat cancer and other deadly diseases? I am inviting you to write about your vision of the future. You may write about the future of anything that has some significance to you. How about it? Are we on? I look forward to hearing from you.

***The SCAM* sells classified ad space.** SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

Is it true that I have to take a Mensa retest if I am caught with a copy of *Facebook for Dummies*? Well, all joking aside, I didn't need a "Dummies" book for Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Outlook Express, (I would need one to navigate Outlook) or dozens of other computer applications I have dealt with over the years without a crib sheet. What this tells me is that Facebook is not one of the better designed packages on the internet. I don't even know what to call it. A package, a program, and application, an internet site, a communications service: beats me. A paragraph early on in my *F for D* book is entitled "Figuring Out What Facebook Is Exactly." It does not tell me. Instead I get "The connections between every single person in the world intertwine, interplay, and interlock to form the social *graph*. . . This living, throbbing, shifting, growing web of human relationships is one of life's most awesome and powerful concepts." I kid you not ! *FfD*, p10. The book is 310 pages plus a good 17 page index. Page 310 shows us a recent copy of President Obama's Facebook page.

But enough of this grouching. We are going to use Facebook because it's there, and it is extremely popular, so it must be doing something right, even if I am not. Many of my fellow SCAMsters are already Facebook members of their own volition and undoubtedly enjoying it. In fact we could use an article by an enthusiastic user. I may become one after I finish the 310 pages. In any event, I expect to have it figured out by next month. Check the February issue to see if the first sentence of my article is "**I figured it out.**" I expect that our (referring to those of us who are trying to improve SCAM's social calendar--the purpose of this entire exercise) is to establish some "groups" and "event pages" that SCAMsters can visit, whether their social *graph* is wide, or just limited to Mensa communications. P.S. Is "SCAMsters" OK with you folks? We need some way to refer to ourselves as I do above. Email me.

Many words in the English language take on multiple meanings. I've touched on this subject before when writing about "French" and "eggs". This time, when writing about why dogs should be allowed to vote, I looked more deeply into the various supplementary uses of the word "dog". As with "French" and "egg" most of the subsidiary meanings and uses are uncomplimentary.

Dogs are often called man's best friend. If that is so, why does the English language so often denigrate "dog" as a modifier, verb, or in an expression more often than not. Here are some of the uses that I found, excluding obvious unremarkable modifiers such as dog house, dog sled, dog biscuit, and dog food.

Definition

A domestic carnivorous animal with a long muzzle, a fur coat, and a long fur-covered tail, whose characteristic call is a bark. *Canis familiaris*.

Other Meanings

As a Noun

An andiron

A contemptible person

A male dog as contrasted to a female dog (bitch)

A person (You lucky dog!)

An unpretty woman

A wild animal such as a wolf, fox, dingo, or coyote that resembles a domestic dog and belongs to the same family *Canidae*
something useless or of a very poor quality

As a Verb

To bother or trouble somebody persistently to follow somebody closely in a determined way

To grip or hold something firmly with a mechanical device

As a Modifier

Dogbane - a plant that bears dogberries with pungent milky juice and a bitter root and small, bell-shaped, white or pink flowers *Apo-cynum*

Dogberry - a berry of any of various plants, including dogwood

Dog's Body - somebody given menial jobs. A worker who does boring tasks that others do not want to do.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Dog Cart - a two-wheeled vehicle drawn by a horse and seating two people back to back

Dog Days - the hottest period of the summer, roughly between early July and early September in the northern hemisphere. In ancient times it was heralded by the simultaneous rising of the Dog Star and the sun.

Dog-eared - pages of a book the corners of which are turned down as place markers. Because of the resemblance of dog-eared pages to hanging down of the ears of some breeds of dogs.

Doggedly - determined, persistent

Dog-end - the discarded end of a cigarette after the rest of it has been smoked

Dog Tired - extremely tired. Do dogs get more tired than cats?

Dog Face - a soldier

Doggerel - poetry that does not scan well and is often not intended to be taken seriously

Doggone - used to emphasize how bad, annoying, or irritating something is. Probably a sanitizing of goddamn

Dog's Life - a wretched existence. Our three dogs live an enviable life.. Isn't that true of most domestic dogs?

Dogleg - an abrupt offset in a path or trail. Descriptive of the way a dog's hind legs look.

Dog Latin - Latin that is incorrect in some way, especially a word or phrase that is falsely made to look or sound like Latin for humorous or satirical effect.

Dog Rose - a wild rose with delicate, pink or white flowers. Rosa Canina

Dog's-tooth Check - in textiles the same as hounds' tooth check. Like "Dog Leg" a reference to the appearance similar to a part of a dog's anatomy.

Dog Tag - a metal identification tag for a member of the military, worn on a chain around the neck, just like a dog's rabies tag.

Dog's-tail - a spiky European grass: a grass that has flowers along a narrow spike. Native to Europe

Dogtooth - a sharp pointed tooth in humans similar to the teeth of dogs. The canine.

Dog Shark - a small long-tailed shark, either spiny or smooth-skinned.. Native to the Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean waters.

Dog Star - Sirius. The brightest star in the sky. Its common name reflects its prominence in its constellation, *Canis Major* (Big Dog).

Dog Violet - a violet with purple flowers. *Viola canina*

(Continued on page 12)



Central Florida Mensa *presents* SUMMER 'N WINTER 2010

A Magical RG
Sunny Central Florida in January

January 22-24, 2010

Presto! Change-o! First it's winter, then it's summer

Walk into our RG and get a taste of summer in the middle of winter!

Friday Golf Outing • Tacky Tourist Shirt Contest • Pool Party
Treasure Hunt • Kids' Track • Double-Deck Cancellation Hearts
'Green' Vehicles for 2010 and Beyond • Far East Tour
Technical Advances in Surgery • Creativity • RVC-10 Rap

\$65 until December 31, 2009

\$70 after December 31 -- \$30 Saturday only -- \$30 children under 12

Please make checks payable to: Central Florida Mensa

Bob Haley
11310 S. Orange Blossom Trail, PMB # 272
Orlando, FL 32837

e-mail: rgregistrar@cfm.us.mensa.org
407/ 240-9395
www.cfm.us.mensa.org/rg2010

Hilton Altamonte Springs

350 North Lake Blvd, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701-5297 – Telephone: 407-830-1985 – Fax: 407-331-2911

web site: www.cfm.us.mensa.org/rg2010hotel.htm

Mensa rate: \$84/night – Rate good two days before & after!

Friday Golf Tournament hosted by Chuck Baenen

Please contact Chuck for details: call 407/ 619-9049 or email chuckba@mindspring.com

	age range			
Name	21+	12-20	under 12	Amount
Badge name (if different)	()	()	()	_____
Address				
City, State, Zip				
Telephone e-mail				
Badge names of additional registrants				
	age range			
	21+	12-20	under 12	Amount
.....	()	()	()	_____
.....	()	()	()	_____
.....	()	()	()	_____
.....	()	()	()	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT				\$ _____

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?



A Mensan in the Workplace?

Are you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of "support" (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from *you*.

Whrrr... bzzzzt... click!

Soorey, but I have no collim four yuo this mnthe.

I **just had** sirjury (doo-ouvre of my previmus brane trampsplant) lande teh anti-rejectifying durugz is mussting with mye mynde. Shaim, rilly, scince I bin doon this ever mnthe fer ever too years & nivvir mist a dedlane B-4. Iy now mey wunnerful edditer, Moak Mikely whilby distipoyntered. Annd Iyum scorty to dispipoint olive U fateful reedurz hoo haf bin so spuporsting & giffen mi so mudge postititiff fibacks, butt iy jist kant seam to foukus enuff to writ eny-think cohearante.

Iye wuz diriganalley gonna writ sumting bout hows weeze bin in purty bigz trubble in hour countary & tellding how proglemz iz onac-counta howcum newbooty karez bout nutsing nomoore, butte iye fer-getted wot ize gonnta writ soo yallyall hafta wate untell nichst muntz wham miye mynde clirze op.

Whrrr... bzzzzt... click!

Bot iy doo havf sumtinks 2 tellink unto efferbuutie. Wen iy wuzz incontiousz mit der ennisteasia, iy hadd a moz wunnendurfel relevelashun. Alpacalyptic.

Wate... mor drugz, furrest...

Whrrr... bzzzzt... click!

Ah! Mucho betterings!

I sea idall nowe.

Pipples, weeze gots teh opertuntinty 2 chainge the worlt! & idz eezy!

We must optify to moligate the stafutory mitigant of the ancillary polarimeter. This will requisate that maledicting fractitions abjurify their felititious pherocination before the indimitable novations begin to unpolify every alternicious pendulousity. The elementated notionalisness of enabulatory redundament must be impre-cated before stentatory infullment of ativicious calumnity rentifies every mendicate that nomilized perfundity has severgated since our mandilized infracandiment.

Whrrr... bzzzzt... click!

The Great Mandala spins, majesty secretes in obscure diffusion;

(Continued on page 12)

SCAM Calendar of Events for January 2010

6th - Wednesday 5:30 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. This month, it will be held at the home of George Paterson in Indialantic.

Contact: *George, 777-3721, for details.*

16th - Saturday 2:00 PM

GAMES AND POTLUCK

Bring your favorite games and covered dish to Karen and Doug's home in Rockledge. Meet and greet **Maggie Rubin**, who is visiting us from Broward Mensa. (2 pm to 7 pm)

Contact: *Karen, 633-1636, or Doug, 427-5720 for more details.*

30th - Saturday 6:00 PM

SNORT

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at Miyako's, 1411 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US#1) in Melbourne.

Contact: *George, 777-3721.*

Your Event Here!

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Do you have a great idea for that perfect event? Do you have the urge, even the *desire* to socialize with other Mensans, but simply do not want to use the extra gasoline? *Why not host that event in your own home?* If this sounds good to you, contact our Calendar Coordinator today. You'll be glad you did. *Info on Page Two.*

Of CABAGES and Coffee: (Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: *Every Monday at Books-A-Million, Merritt Square Mall 6 p.m.* Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

SCRABBLE: *Every Tues. at Books-A-Million, Post Commons, Melbourne, at 12 noon.*

GO!: *Every Sunday at Books-A-Million, Post Commons, Melbourne.*
Host: *George Lebovitz, 259-3070, rokkitsci@cfl.rr.com*

Membership Notes for January 2010

WELCOME TO SCAM

R. Gabriel Shih

WELCOME BACK!

Joseph Richardson

JANUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	Rose Marie Martinez	15th	Jack Thompson
4th	Vito Jimenez	21st	Diane Mullinax
10th	Arleigh Sharpe	23rd	Michael Mustard
14th	Gary Tower	31st	Joanne Ricker-
14th	Barry Signorelli		Abowitt
14th	Lee McLamb		

Happy New Year To All!

The "Fine Print" for Calendar Events:

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

S-Smoking; **NS**- No **Smoking**; **SS**-Separate **S**moking Area; **P**-Pets in the home; **NP**-No **P**ets present; **BYO**-Bring Your Own: **_**Snacks, **_**Drinks, **_**Everything.

(Continued from page 9)

however, in tribute we nullify the evolution with our revolution. If the provost announces that a new rector will be directing the record, then we must revolve in reverse despite the cold, the heat, the fish, the meat. Dissolve dissolution and merit the increase with abjured agency. Show the czar stars afar and whittle the bizarre barres until statutory fulmination has cease and desisted. When the multitudes come together to ply the pithy, will we then fortify the fortissimo with the froth of our fulminate. Tarry not! The opportunity arises but does not settle into the firmament. So then, with a great *Whrrr... bzzzzt... click!* do we... uhhh... errr... ummm...

Just a sec, folks. I need a moment to recalibrate.

Talks amongst yourselves for a bit whilst I see if a mental Alt-Control-Delete sets things aright.

The George

WHY DOGS?

Continued

(Continued from page 6)

Dogwood - a tree with clusters of small white flowers surrounded by four large white or reddish bracts. *Cornus*

In an Expression

Dog-and-Pony Show - an elaborate business presentation or promotional event

Dog in the Manger - somebody who tries to prevent somebody else from having or doing something that he or she cannot have or do

Dog Eat Dog - ruthlessly competitive

Go to the Dogs - to be in the final stages of a gradual decline in standards

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie - to take no action in a situation that is currently peaceful but potentially troublesome

Put on the Dog - to make a display of affluence

Name That RG!

This year,

2010

SCAM will be hosting its
Biennial RG.

Yet, we still need to come up with a
workable name.

The initial suggestion was:

*“We Don’t Need No Stinkin’ Name
RG”*

Come on, we can do better than that!
Admittedly, a few other suggestions
did come in, but we still need input
from you. There is also a rumor that
the RG might be named for a Hallow-
een theme. Do we really want this? Let
us know what you think...

Come up with a *good* name, and be
sure to let our RG Chair, Bud Long,
know. For contact info, see Page Two.

Sometimes it does not take much to whip the broadcast media into a frenzy. Well, this tale unfolds just as the “Recession Recovery” Christmas Season has been kicked into high gear. Amid the endless drivel about “Black Friday” and “Cyber-Monday”, it happened. This is the tale of a star athlete, a Champion-of-Champions, the clean-cut “boy next door” type. You know, the type every Middle American father would want his son to emulate and his daughter to marry.

Yes, this star of stars, this epitome of perfection did, on this occasion, reveal a flaw. It seems that he made the ultimate mistake - he had an automobile accident for which he publicly stated that he, and only he, was at fault. On the surface, this would appear to be a simple matter. No other person or vehicle was involved. All he would need to do is notify the authorities, get any necessary medical attention, and notify his auto insurance carrier to cover any resultant property damage - right? After all, how many of you reading these words have not ever been through a similar experience?

Yet, this was not to be in his case. What started as a single-car collision has morphed into ugly allegations of domestic problems, illicit affairs, and worse. Worse than that, our star-of-all-stars refuses to even talk about it. He has the audacity to claim that he and his family are entitled to at least some measure of privacy! OMG!!!

Of course, if you haven’t realized it yet, I am referring to none other than Tiger Woods. Knowing that he is a public figure, he did issue an official statement about his November 27th accident. It reads in part:

“As you all know, I had a single-car accident earlier this week, and sustained some injuries. I have some cuts, bruising and right now I’m pretty sore. This situation is my fault, and it’s obviously embarrassing to my family and me. I’m human and I’m not perfect. I will certainly make sure this doesn’t happen again. This is a private matter and I want to keep it that way...”

Of course, the “news” media wasn’t about to have any of that. Tiger needed to “fess up”. According to the New York Daily News (the Online Edition), he should “*win over hearts and minds...by*

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

explaining what happened and by explaining his slowness to respond.” After all, the Daily News reminds him: “We are a forgiving nation.” Huh? Forgive Tiger for *what*?? How did he harm the public? Perhaps *that* needs some explaining.

Knowing intimate details about our stars’ private lives can be quite seductive for many, even if many of the details turn out not to be true. After all, do we really wish to confine ourselves with only the facts? Even so, in my mind, private lives are just that - private. A once-popular phrase that, regrettably, seems to now have fallen into disuse is, “None of your business.”

More than half a century ago, another star, Humphrey Bogart, stated it best: “*The only thing that you owe the public is a good performance.*” Whether or not you are a golf fan (I am not), none of us can dispute that Tiger Woods has over the years given his public a superb performance and, by all indications, will continue to do so in the coming years. What more can we ask? What more *should* we ask?

EXCOMMUNICATION

Continued

(Continued from page 19)

New Business: George nominated himself, Terry Valek, and Mike Moakley to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Terry seconded. Approved unanimously. (Robert abstaining)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06. Next meeting will be at George Patterson’s house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

This month, I would like to introduce you to two people from the not-too-distant future. The first one we shall refer to as John. He is now 30 years old, is one of the elite who have gained membership in that exclusive club, Death Row. Why, you may ask, is John a member? As John himself puts it, *"The Statute of Limitations never applies to capital cases. The reason I am here is due to an event that happened a lifetime ago, but has only come to light over the past few years. Because so much time has passed, I have absolutely no recollection of it. It's like trying to remember my father when, in fact, I've never known him."* Why is John there? John was the product of a conception brought about when his father forcibly raped his mother.

The second person is a teenaged girl named Daisy. She is only eighteen, but is also on Death Row. Like John, Daisy has absolutely no memory of the event that placed her there. In her case, she was placed on Death Row because her natural parents are brother and sister.

Can this happen in our country, the Land of the Free? If some of our fellow citizens have their way, the answer could well be "yes." Not too long ago, in the course of an errand, I stopped for a traffic light. Across the street from me were protesters bearing their all-too-familiar picket signs to support their cause. *"Abortion is Murder,"* proclaimed one of the signs. Another stated, *"Abortion Kills Children"*. Yet another asserts, *"Abortion Takes an Innocent Life"*. For the past thirty-seven years, I have become too familiar with this so-called "Abortion Debate."

Currently, according to the law of the land, abortion is a privacy issue, and is legal if performed by competent licensed practitioners. This became the case after *Roe v. Wade* was decided by the Supreme Court back in 1973. The Pro-Lifers, of course, wish to reverse this decision and change the law. Why? They state unequivocally that abortion constitutes murder. Below, briefly, is their argument.

The Pro-Lifers argue that all of us have a "Right to Life" and that life begins at conception. An abortion means to end the life of a baby already conceived but not yet born. Murder is the pre-meditated taking of another human life, and is already illegal. As a decision has to be arrived at by the pregnant woman and the

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

practitioner prior to the abortion, it is arguably premeditated. Thus abortion is murder. Abortion should, therefore, be illegal except in cases of rape and incest. Therefore, the participants in an abortion have deprived an innocent unborn American of his right to life; for that reason, the participants are guilty of first degree murder.

Now, let us consider the two aforementioned exceptions advocated by most "Pro-Lifers". If abortion indeed amounts to the taking of an innocent human life, why would they advocate allowing the killing of a baby conceived through rape - or through incest? Moreover, if these unfortunate unborn children are deprived of this proclaimed "Right to Life" accorded everyone else, it would follow then, that as "exceptions", they would continue to be deprived of that right throughout their post-birth lives. Their fate could then conceivably be that of John and Daisy. Or, due to budget cuts in the public sector, perhaps we could simply just shoot them (since as exceptions, the murder statutes would not apply). Perhaps we could use them as suicide bombers in our War on Terror. The possibilities are endless.

Before we continue down that path, however, we must pose this moral question: Must these innocent humans be subject to the ultimate punishment (whatever form it may take) for the sins of their fathers? Is this *really* what is meant by "Pro-Life"?

SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 11/30/2009:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$559.52
Post Office Acct.	154.11
Reserve Fund	2116.69
RG Fund	150.00

Total Funds Available:

\$2980.32

Deposits

Mensa Funding:	\$188.02
Interest Income	0.08
Testing Deposit	40.00

Withdrawals

Postage	54.66
Printing	139.92

Transfers

RG Fund to Reserve	\$300.00
General to Post Office	\$200.00

—Bud Long, Treasurer

First, an announcement: Elissa Rudolph is looking for a venue to host an event for long-time Florida Mensans (i.e., those who have been members for 25 years or more). South Florida is preferred because that is where most long-term Florida Mensans live, but all ideas will be considered. Please email me at mel.dahl@mindspring.com with any ideas.

The end of the year is a time to look back to see how much progress we've made in the past twelve months, as well as to look ahead to what we intend to accomplish in the new year. By any standard, it's been a great year for American Mensa.

First, we resolved the Inpharmatica lawsuit. We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got what we needed, and it's now over.

Second, we experienced some pretty impressive growth. We are well on the way to enrolling our 60,000th member. This is due to the great volunteers who test, and thanks very much.

Third, in Florida we had great regional gatherings in Orlando, Pensacola, Tampa, and Fort Lauderdale. Unfortunately Micro-G in the Keys got rained out, but that's life, and we'll be back next year. In between, we continued to join each other for dinner, games, movie nights, and other outings. We made new people feel welcome, enjoyed our old friendships, and built on newer ones.

And every indication is that 2010 will be a great year too. Our numbers continue to increase, our revenue continues to be strong, the local groups are thriving and the ones that aren't thriving are mostly in better shape than they were a year ago.

I continue to enjoy meeting Mensans throughout the state. I'm going to be in West Palm Beach in January for their monthly dinner meeting and at Orlando's RG later that month. In February I plan to visit Tallahassee, and attend Pensacola's RG. I hope to see many of you there and continue to get your input for ways to make Mensa even better. Thanks for all your help and support in 2009 and here's to a great 2010. I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Mel Dahl

Minutes of the ExComm Meeting.

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, December 2, 2009. Called to order at 5:53 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members present: George Patterson, Karen Freiberg, Bud Long, and Terry Valek. Joe Smith was unable to attend.

Welcome Guests: None

Minutes for the November 4, 2009 meeting were amended to reflect the presence of guest Doug Starke and otherwise approved as published in the December 2009 SCAM.

Officer Reports:

LocSec: George reported that Mike Moakley has agreed to serve on the Bylaws Committee as long as its business can be conducted by telephone or email. This seemed like a reasonable provision. George himself and Terry Valek have also agreed to serve. George requested that the Publicity Committee submit a report of their activity at the next meeting.

Treasurer: Bud submitted the Treasurer's Reports for November which showed a final balance of \$2,980.32.

Testing: Hank Rhodes (proctor coordinator) reported via email that one candidate was tested in November. 10 prospects were contacted for the 1st time and 10 other prospects for 2nd or 3rd time. A test was scheduled for January 16, 2010. We continue to be allowed to use the Cocoa library facilities for testing.

RG Report: Bud reported that the current name being considered for the RG is SCAMOWEEN, with a sub-title, or theme, for purposes of decor and costume party theme, of Back to the Future. It was noted that this name, reflecting both our group name and the season, could be used repeatedly, with varying themes, for future RG's, thus avoiding the bi-annual soul searching to come up with a new and clever name. There were general murmurs of approval. The flyer will be updated and National informed. Bud indicated that the possibility of using PayPal (an internet site for facilitating exchange of money) would be explored to allow on-line registration and payment.

Old Business: There was no old business.

(Continued on page 15)