

The

SCAM

page oast rea ensa



*Anyone missing from this picture?
Could it be you? Why not join us...*



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 locsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Assistant Local Secretary

TERRY VALEK

626-8523
asstlocsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Recording Secretary

GEORGE LEBOVITZ

1649 PGA Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935
RecSecretary@us.mensa.org

Member-At-Large

KAREN FREIBERG

876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955
633-1636 member@scam.us.mensa.org

Treasurer

DENNIS LOGAN

285 Tangelo St., Satellite Beach, FL 32937
501-7547 treasurer@scam.us.mensa.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

Volunteer Needed!

SCAM Bylaws Committee

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Publicity Committee Chair

GEORGE PATTERSON

locsec@scam.us.mensa.org

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
webmaster@scam.us.mensa.org

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

Happy Thanksgiving one and all... After all, it's that time again. As one can surmise, it's that time again for another occasion. There is a question that needs to be answered. One of our traditions here at SCAM is to host a Regional Gathering (RG in Mensa-speak) every other year. Our last RG was held in October 2010. If we continue to honor our tradition, our next RG will be scheduled for October 2012.

So, here is the question: Are we, at SCAM, interested in hosting another RG? If so, there is a lot to do. To do the job right requires quite a bit of planning and coordination. This all takes quite a bit of time. This is why my question is posed nearly a year before the proposed event is to be scheduled.

So, are we interested? Keep in mind that many believe the world will end next year, so our next RG might well be our last. So, if the naysayers are correct, would we not want to go out in a blast? The choice is yours...

On another subject, I was approached by a colleague today. He asked me if I was a member of Mensa. When I responded in the affirmative, he asked me, "What does Mensa do?" I did tell him about our calendar events. He then told me he thought that Mensa was somehow involved in problem solving (although he did not say what kind of problems or on what scale).

(Continued on page 6)

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.

Continuing with my lists of common words used as modifiers for other words, I now take up HORSE. Past examples were dogs, eggs, and French. As usual, I omit those words that relate directly to horses and their uses, attributes, and functions, such as horseshoe, horse buggy, and horse pox.

horse - *Equus caballus*. A large hooved animal of several species, particularly noted for its strength. As a modifier, it usually connotes strength or coarseness.

h around - Fool around: to play or fool around in a boisterous manner

h chestnut - buckeye (*Hippocastanaceae*). Not related to the edible chestnut. The nuts are poisonous.

h feathers - nonsense

h fly - (Tabanidae). A large fly that that sucks the blood of horses, deer, and cattle.

h gentian - (*Triosteum*). A course weedy plant in the honeysuckle family.

h latitude - Between 30 and 35 degrees north and south latitudes.

h laugh - Guffaw. A loud, raucous laugh.

h leech - A veterinarian.

h mackerel - The largest mackerel.

h mint - (*Monarda*) One of the mints.

h nettle - (*Solanum carolinense*) A weed of the nightshade family.

h opera - A movie or play about cowboys and the West.

h play - see h around.

h power - Originally the power that a horse could exert. Now equal to 747 Watts.

h radish - (*Amoracia lapathifolia*) A very pungent radish.

h sense - Common sense.

h's neck - A highball made with ginger ale.

horse's ass - an oxymoron. An ass is in the same genus as a horse. The expression should be "horse's arse" which is quite another matter.

h trade - Bargaining where each side gains an advantage.

h weed - (*Conyza candidness*) Wild lettuce.

After about 15 years of SCAM and Mensa membership, I've never been engaged enough to make a contribution to the discussion. But I enjoy a rousing public discourse especially when I have skin in the game (no pun intended, you'll see). The recent discussions in the SCAM, regarding the First Friday at Hooters (FFH) SIG, fits the bill and I desire to hold forth.

To put it succinctly at least one member is *offended* by the venue of the FFH SIG.

Full disclosure, I don't actively seek out Hooters restaurants but I don't avoid them either. I could probably count on one hand the number of times I've been to a Hooters restaurant and it was usually when I was with a group on a business trip or out with "the boys" for a bachelor party. That was many years ago and I don't think I ever went to the same Hooters twice.

That being said, of late, I have made the decision to attend an FFH meeting as soon as I find the time. (Which could be never when you factor in my propensity to procrastinate.) And what has compelled me to dare the long trek to the Hooters in Brevard county from my home in Indian River county? Well I'll tell you.

A couple of weeks ago I received a phone call from the FFH SIG coordinator Dennis Logan. He called to personally invite me to their next meeting. A simple gesture but very ingratiating. It didn't hurt that, to me, Mr. Logan sounded very much like Tommy Chong of the "Cheech and Chong" comedy team fame. I think I could spend a happy hour just sipping a beer and listening to him talk. Now, in the interest of being non-*offensive* let me explain. I mean this in the nicest way, Tommy Chong was the creative genius and writer behind most of the Cheech and Chong marijuana culture movies and a successful businessman and family man, his onscreen persona notwithstanding .

Growing up in the sixties and seventies I was a big fan.

And I hasten to add that I speak here only of the tone of Mr. Logan's voice. He was an otherwise very amiable and well spoken gentleman. (Whew! This being non-*offensive* stuff is hard work.)

I'm not afraid to say (my wife doesn't read The SCAM) that I enjoy looking at pretty young ladies when the opportunity presents itself and I am not *offended* by the existence of the Hooters chain. There are many worse

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

things under the sun. ... There are **many worse things** under the sun. ... Actually I am not *offended* by much. Even if I heard someone arguing in favor of racism or genocide or if someone walked up and spit in my face I would not be so much *offended* as I would be angered. *Offended*...the word itself seems rather hollow and weak as though the *offended* person couldn't muster up enough moral outrage to be anything other than merely *offended*.

Maybe I'm looking at this the wrong way. Maybe Hooters restaurants really are exploitative of women. But if that's so, then so is Miss America, Olympic gymnastics, the uniform my dental hygienist wears, and just about every show on the Lifetime Television Network.

I think when it comes to the exploitation of women, I'll save my righteous indignation for child prostitution, the worldwide sex trade, and spousal abuse.

But that's just my opinion.

<i>Inside the Pocket Protector</i>

Continued.

(Continued from page 3)

I did once read somewhere that when Mensa was originally formed in Great Britain in 1945 that it was conceived with the idea that it would serve as some sort of a "brain trust" to aid world leaders solve the problems besetting our planet. Perhaps this is what was meant by my colleague.

I will now pose the question to you: Should Mensa be some sort of a "brain trust", intended to resolve these problems? Why...or why not? Let me hear from you on this topic. I plan to publish your feedback on this question in an upcoming issue.

I would be remiss if I did not point out a few changes. Our ExComm now has two new members, Dennis Logan and George Lebovitz. Dennis serves as Treasurer, while George is the Recording Secretary. Please note that the e-mail addresses have changed for our ExComm members as well. They might come in handy if you have occasion to contact one of them.

There have also been changes in the C.A.B.A.G.E. and GO events. Please check the calendar of events for the specifics.

As in **beating same**; the idiom, not the action. You've heard this before in passing reference back in my article of October last year (*Make Love Not War*), but I feel a need to revisit the issue because, frankly, it just irritates the hell out of me.

In 2001 Portugal became the first European country to officially abolish all criminal penalties for personal possession of drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

At the recommendation of a national commission charged with addressing Portugal's drug problem, jail time was replaced with the offer of therapy. At the time, critics said decriminalizing drug possession would open the country to "drug tourists" and exacerbate Portugal's drug problem; the country had some of the highest levels of hard drug use in Europe. But the 2009 results of a report commissioned by the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, suggest otherwise. The paper found that in the five years after personal possession was decriminalized, illegal drug use among teens in Portugal declined and rates of new HIV infections caused by sharing of dirty needles dropped, while the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction more than doubled.

U.S. hard-line drug policy enforces drug prohibition and imposes some of the world's harshest penalties for drug possession and sales. Yet America has the highest rates of cocaine and marijuana use in the world, while most of the E.U. has more liberal drug laws than the U.S. and also has less drug use.

As a Libertarian, I object to the criminalization of drugs since an individual should be able to make decisions about what they do with their body, dangerous or not, as long as it doesn't harm anyone else. The government doesn't need to protect citizens from themselves. Otherwise alcohol should be illegal again. As well as eating raw meat or standing outside in a thunderstorm holding a large metal pole. Where do you draw the line on outlawing self-destructive behavior? If it doesn't harm anyone else, it shouldn't be illegal.

According to the UN World Drug Report, the illicit drug trade is worth \$13 billion at the production level, \$94 billion at the wholesale level, and \$322 billion at the retail level. Imagine if that money were taken away from warlords, organized crime, and dealers, and given to pharmaceutical companies, farmers, and retail stores or pharmacies. Imagine the tax revenue that could be generated! If legalized drugs were taxed at anything near the rate of cigarettes, this would generate hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue. A 2008

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

study by Harvard economist Jeffrey A. Miron estimated that legalizing drugs would inject \$76.8 billion a year into the economy, \$44.1 billion from law enforcement savings and at least \$32.7 billion in tax revenue. Forty years after President Richard M. Nixon officially declared this country's "War on Drugs," we have spent over one TRILLION dollars on the losing battle!

The so-called war on drugs has been an abject failure from the get-go around the turn of the century (that would be the *previous* century folks, 1900, not 2000). Drugs flow over our borders like illegal immigrants and we are seemingly helpless to stop them (both the drugs and the aliens). Meanwhile, our prisons are overflowing with criminals whose only crime was to sell a commodity to a substantial business base of clients who demand the product regardless of its legal status. Worse, the incarceration of these essentially victimless criminals is forcing us to release an alarming number of seriously dangerous criminals early to make room. It is very much a lose-lose proposition. It's time to administer a modicum of common sense and de-criminalize all drugs. At the very least we'd be making a profit on the deal instead of taking a huge loss.

The George

<i>The Tenth Story</i>

Continued

(Continued from page 18)

sans are grown ups who can decide for themselves if they know someone well enough to accept or offer a ride to the next RG. At the same time, the occasional crazy does find their way into Mensa and it would be naive to pretend otherwise.

My view is that if we never do anything that could potentially cause a problem, we'd never do anything. We'd never have monthly dinners or game nights or even AGs. So we can't allow our fears to cripple us; if we're going to make this an enjoyable place for everyone we have to take some risk. At the same time, be careful. Take the same precaution with Mensans you don't know that you would with others you don't know. Get to know people in public venues before inviting them to join you at more private venues. Play safe.

Mel Dahl

What happened? If you check the list of officers up front or the minutes in back you'll see that we got George Lebovitz installed as Recording Secretary, Dennis Logan took on the job of Treasurer, and Karen Freiberg became the ExComm Member-at-Large. Karen is also chair of the Membership Committee and the difference between the two positions has never been clearly defined, as are so many other things about SCAM not well defined.

Maybe we should clean up the Bylaws and expand them to cover some of these loose ends. This, by the way, is not the job of the Bylaws Committee. Elsewhere in this issue I have a mini-rant on the topic of the 2012 RG so no need to pursue that further.

Two items that might be of interest to the Mensan type, whatever that is, are a conference I attended recently in Orlando, the 100yss Convention, and the AI course from Stanford U. that I am taking. To spell that all out:

100yss stands for One Hundred Year Starship Study, a planned 100 year study of the idea of building a "starship" to explore beyond the solar system and perhaps someday transport earthlings elsewhere. It is serious. NASA and DARPA funded the first year and they put on quite a conference. Much info is available on the web if you just google "100yss." The first thing you will find out is that it wasn't a conference, it was a symposium, the difference being important to engineering types. There was confusion among the presenters as to whether it was a 100 year starship, or a 100 year study. I think the latter was correct. Much about exotic propulsion systems, "Terra Nova" type sociology, and more.

The other item of interest is a course on Artificial Intelligence, available for free on the net. Just google "AI class" to see a syllabus and how to take the course. It's all done with youtube type videos. It's probably too late to take the course for credit, i.e., a certificate, but the material will be up for at least the rest of the year. I have to run now; I have a homework assignment due tomorrow.

SCAM Calendar of Events for November 2011

4th - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street.

Hosted by: *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

9th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

19th - Saturday 6:30 PM

DINNER AT DAVID'S

Join us at David's Restaurant, 2480 S Washington Ave (US1) in Titusville for just about any kind of dinner, ranging from steak to sushi.

Contact: *Mike Zielinski, 747-0097.*

26th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at the Miyako Restaurant, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne.

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

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar". Also, we are putting together a current e-mail notification list of all members who wish to be kept up-to-date on our activities. If you wish to be included, please contact George Patterson at 777-3721 or George3141@cfl.rr.com.

Of CABAGEs and Coffee:

(Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: *Every Monday in the Food Court,* Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

GO!: *Every Saturday at Books-A-Million,* The Avenue, Viera. Hosted by
1 p.m. the Space Coast Area GO Association.
Host: *George Lebovitz, the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com*

Membership Notes for November 2011

WELCOME TO SCAM

Luke Cornelius

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Ian Leonard
Sonya Rao

Sara Riley

WELCOME BACK!

Ronald Riley

Kenneth Thornton-Smith

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

6th	William McClure Jr.	19th	Harold Long
10th	LuAnne Johnson	21st	John England
11th	Allan Torsney	26th	Harry Falconer
18th	Joseph Mueck	26th	Thomas Magee

MENSA TESTING

Nov. 19 at Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Please arrive by 9:45 am, as testing begins at 10 am. \$40 fee and photo ID required. Reservations encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age 14 or older. There will be no testing next month.

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mensatest@cfl.rr.com, for details.

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 Smoking Area; **P**-Pets in the home; **NP**-No Pets present; **BYO**-Bring Your Own: **_Snacks, _Drinks, _Everything.**

SCAM TREASURER'S REPORTS*Bud Long, Treasurer*

June 30, 2011	<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	General Fund	\$1086.81
	Post Office Account	125.47
	Reserve Fund	2305.71
	RG Fund	550.00
	<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$4067.79
	<u>Deposits</u>	
	Mensa Funding	\$191.73
	Interest Income	0.19
	<u>Withdrawals</u>	
	Postage	\$52.29
	Printing for Newsletter	104.94

July 31, 2011	<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	General Fund	\$1076.34
	Post Office Account	61.73
	Reserve Fund	2305.91
	RG Fund	550.00
	<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$3993.98
	<u>Deposits</u>	
	Mensa Funding	\$169.93
	Interest Income	0.20
	<u>Withdrawals</u>	
	Postage	\$63.74
	Printing for Newsletter	180.20

**Aug 31,
2011**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$1072.56
Post Office Account	7.81
Reserve Fund	2306.02
RG Fund	550.00
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$3936.39
<u>Deposits</u>	
Mensa Funding	\$172.39
Interest Income	0.11
<u>Withdrawals</u>	
Postage	\$53.92
Printing for Newsletter	176.17

**Sept 30,
2011**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$901.07
Post Office Account	113.44
Reserve Fund	2306.12
RG Fund	550.00
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$3870.63
<u>Deposits</u>	
Mensa Funding	\$172.21
Interest Income	0.10
<u>Withdrawals</u>	
Postage	\$54.37
Printing for Newsletter	176.17
<u>Transfers</u>	
General Acct. to Post Office Acct.	\$160.00

For the last month or so, I have been following some of the developments of the 2012 Presidential Primary campaigns. More accurately, since President Obama is the presumptive Democratic nominee, this would mean watching the several contenders for the Republican nomination. Thus far, most of the debating among the hopefuls has amounted to little more than attacks on each other or President Obama. There have been few, if any, concrete ideas to solve the nation's problems emanating forth from these candidates.

I have, however, found one exception. Herman Cain has formulated a tax reform plan that he claims would help get our economy back on its feet. This plan has been dubbed the "9-9-9 Plan". This plan is explained in a campaign brochure entitled, "Cain's Vision for Economic Growth, Part I." My comments, henceforth, will cite the contents of this brochure as the source material. For those who may wish to verify my sources, I will provide a copy via e-mail on request.

There are three components to the 9-9-9 Plan:

- A flat 9 percent income tax on gross income less charitable contributions. This would replace our current personal income tax.
- A flat 9 percent "business tax", applied to gross income less all investments, all purchases from other business, and dividends paid to stockholders. This would presumably replace the corporate income tax (for businesses set up as corporations) and the Schedule C (IRS Form 1040) for proprietorships. "Empowerment Zones," proposed to revitalize inner cities, would allow additional deductions for payroll employed in these zones.
- A National Sales Tax of 9 percent. This would be in addition to the existing state and local sales taxes.

In adopting these three components, Cain would also do the following:

- Eliminate the "Payroll Tax", currently used to fund Social Security and Medicare.
- Eliminate the inheritance tax, better known by its opponents as the "Death Tax".
- Eliminate any tax on capital gains or repatriated foreign profits.

I do applaud Herman Cain for his political courage in advocating a plan with some concrete ideas. While I do not believe Cain will be nominated, I

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

do believe we need to take his ideas very seriously. This is because, in my mind, after hearing much of the campaign rhetoric, including from those identified with the Tea Party movement, Cain has put into words the very same attitudes held by many other Republicans and conservatives. If we do wind up with a Republican President and Congress, I believe we will see at least some of Cain's ideas put into action.

I would, therefore, devote some page space to an analysis of Cain's tax proposals. Implied in the brochure is the abolition of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), at least in its current form. This month, then, I shall analyze the personal income tax proposal.

To replace the current Form 1040 (1040A and 1040EZ as well), Cain proposes a flat 9% tax on gross income, less contributions to charity. The first question that comes to mind is what constitutes a charity? Does he propose using current IRS guidelines or choose a different set of rules? Will any person or group declaring itself as a charity be recognized as one? Cain doesn't say. Will there be any limit (perhaps expressed as a percentage of gross income) on the amount that may be deducted for charity? Cain is silent here as well.

Perhaps I can "contribute" 100% of my income to the charity of my choice (myself); 9% of zero is zero.

More importantly, will a 9% flat tax on gross income be better for the typical American taxpayer? According the recent media pronouncements, the average American worker earns about \$35,000 per year.

- A married couple with two children, both working (and earning the average salary) and paying for child care would, under the current IRS rules would have incurred a tax liability of \$1766. Under the Cain proposal, their taxes would have been \$6300.
- A married couple with two children, only one working (and earning the average salary) would, under the current IRS rules would have actually had a negative tax balance of \$1924. Under the Cain proposal, their taxes would have been \$3150.
- A single person working and earning the \$35,000, under the current IRS rules would have incurred a tax liability of \$3033. Under the Cain proposal, his taxes would have been \$3150.
- A married couple with two children, both working and earning a total of \$150,000 and paying for child care would, under the current IRS rules

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

would have incurred a tax liability of \$20,363. Under the Cain proposal, their taxes would have been only \$13,500.

In all of the above cases, I applied current IRS rules and included the Making Work Pay Credit (\$400 for singles, \$800 for a married couple), used the Standard Deduction, applied the maximum Child Care Credit if eligible, and applied the Earned Income Credit if eligible. The credits for Making Work Pay and Earned Income Credit are refundable, meaning you get the money, even if you did not owe (or pay) taxes for the year.

As one can plainly see, if Cain's proposal was to come to fruition, most of us Americans would wind up paying more taxes than we presently do. To make matters worse, the poorer you are, the harder you will be hit. This is not political ideology; it is hard fact. What, then, would be the benefit of such a plan? If your wealth is in the top tenth percentile, you would obviously benefit – especially if much of your wealth was obtained through capital gains or an inheritance.

For those of you who might still be skeptical of my words, I have a small homework assignment for you. Get out your tax returns for, say, the last 3 years. With each return, do the following.

1. Consult Line 22 on your Form 1040 (Line 15 on Form 1040A), Total Income. What was it?
2. Consult Line 60 on your Form 1040 (Line 37 on Form 1040A), Your Total Tax. Then subtract any "payments" other than Federal Income Tax Withheld or Estimated Tax Payments (These would normally include "Making Work Pay" or Earned Income Credit). What is the result?
3. Take your total income (SEE 1, above) and multiply it by 0.09 (9 percent) for each return.

Compare your results for each return with the actual tax paid (SEE 2, above) as opposed to the Cain proposed tax (SEE 3, above). **Which one is higher?**

Well not really imaginary, but imagined. After all, it can't be real when it only exists in some people's minds. So far, it exists only in the minds of the ExComm, more strongly in the minds of some of them than in others. I, George P., being a natural born skeptic, have only a weak image of it. Terry V., who I speak for without consultation, undoubtedly has a stronger image, if only because she has done "puzzles and games" for innumerable RG's all over Florida. Let me add that a few more can picture it strongly because they worked on the last two SCAM RG's. If I name them I will invariably leave some out, so I won't. How about those who attended in 2008 or 2010. Perhaps they didn't read last month's "*Watch This Space*", which I suspect, because I didn't get one squawk about the Aztec calendar (or about Hillary, for that matter.)

Enough chit-chat - on to business. We need volunteers for the following tasks:

RG Chair	1 or 2
Registrar	1 maybe an assistant
Hospitality Chair	1 or 2 with assistants
Meals Chair	1 or 2 with assistants
Programs Chair	1 or 2
Games Chair	1 or 2
Scholarship Auction *	1 or 2 with assistants
Goody Bags	1 or 2
Paper Games	1 or 2
Awards	1
Certificates and Badges	1* possible but not decided

I may have overlooked something, but without an auction we can manage with about 8 leaders and 6 assistants. I don't doubt that if we can get 10 volunteers, the ExComm can chip in another 4 or 5. We need early volunteers because we need to contract for our venue in Cocoa Beach (same as 2008 and 2010) and I don't feel we should do that without some show of support. So call me, or email me, or anyone else on the ExComm (see inside front cover) and let us know if you can help out as a chair or an assistant. The more volunteers, the less work per person - but you're Mensans, you can figure that out. I hate to think we really need inducements, but it has been customary to give workers a break on the registration fee. How much will be determined by the various chairpersons - wink, wink, nudge, nudge.

At the last AMC meeting, the AMC took a vote on a narrow issue with broader implications that is important enough that I wanted to devote an entire column to it. As a board, the AMC was again faced with trying to strike a balance between allowing local groups to do what they need to do to have fun activities while at the same time looking over our shoulder at potential liability if something goes wrong. It often isn't an easy balance to draw.

For years, most local groups published local group directories that allowed members to locate and contact one another. The benefit of such a directory is obvious: If someone wants to start an activity, like a dinner event or a theater event or a trip to the local science museum, it's nice to be able to contact other members in the geographic area and let them know about it. Activities are more fun if more people participate, and Mensa is more likely to keep members if there are fun things for them to do.

A few years ago, the AMC voted to ban such directories over concerns about liability. What if a serial killer uses the directory to find new victims? What if someone uses it for harassment purposes, say, to aggressively pursue women who aren't interested in him (or worse, children). How about if someone with something to sell uses it to flood members' email inboxes with spam?

After several years with no local directories (or at least no legal local directories; as always some local groups ignored the directive and continued to publish them anyway), we took another look at the issue and decided to leave it as a matter of local option, with the provision that any individual member could decide how much personal information to put in the directory. So, the new policy (which I voted for) is that a local group may publish a directory, but is not required to. If it chooses to do so, each local member has the right to decide how much personal information to include.

Which brings us around to the broader question: How does the national office strike a balance between letting local groups decide what works best for them locally, versus not allowing local groups to get the national organization sued if something really, really bad happens as a result? It's not an easy question.

At one time, there was a bulletin board in which members looking to share rides to regional or national events could find one another; that no longer exists over liability concerns. We had a roommate matching service for those attending AGs; that no longer exists either. In my opinion, Men-

(Continued on page 8)

Minutes of the October ExComm Meeting.

The pre-meeting:

Bear with me here, people, on account I wasn't taking real good notes at this time since I didn't fully realize that all the business of the ExComm really happened during the pre and was just formalized at the actual. But there was discussion regarding the extension of the audit, the dearth of testing going on recently, how to keep members involved and interested. And a conversation (*more a monologue, really*) regarding the recent brouhaha ensuing from an irate (*former*) member's objection to a SCAM Sig meeting at Hooters.

The Business Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Called to order at 6:34 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members Present: George Patterson, Terry Valek, Karen Freiberg, Dennis Logan, and Bud Long.

Welcome Guests: None. Well, maybe one, depending on how you look at it. More on this later.

Minutes for the August 3, 2011 meeting were approved as published in the September, 2011 SCAM.

Officer/Committee Reports: The Treasurer's report showed that we have total funds in the amount of \$3,870.63 available.

Old Business: None.

New Business: George moved to accept Bud Long's resignation. Terry seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. A brief tongue bath regarding Bud's years of faithful service ensued. Now George moved to appoint George to... wait... George Patterson moved to appoint George Lebovitz (aka *The George*) to the ExComm. Dennis seconded. Passed unanimously. Thus the note, above, regarding the guest: he became a member. George P moved that Dennis be appointed Treasurer, seconded, passed unanimously. George P then moved that the audit be extended to include all months up to the current month, George L seconded, approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm.

The next meeting will be at Karen Freiberg's house at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge on Wednesday November 9, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

George Lebovitz, Recording Secretary