

The

SCAM

page oast rea ensa





SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



Executive Committee

Local Secretary

WYNN ROSTEK

3456 Willis Dr., Titusville, FL 32796

267-9391 locsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Assistant Local Secretary

TERRY VALEK

626-8523

asstlocsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Recording Secretary

GEORGE LBOVITZ

1649 PGA Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935

recsecretary@scam.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@cflrr.com

Membership

GEORGE PATTERSON

Membership@scam.us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T.

KAREN FREIBERG

Sight@scam.us.mensa.org

RG Committee Chair

GEORGE LBOVITZ

SCAM Bylaws Committee

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Publicity Committee Chair

GEORGE PATTERSON

membership@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.

**THOMAS GEORGE THOMAS,
RVC10**

37647 Sky Lake Cir.

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-

7646 (813) 994-3981

RVC10@us.mensa.org

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

Well, this is it—the final issue of *The SCAM* for 2013. This year has been a pretty good one for our newsletter. We have added a new regular writer (T. C. Shaw) and another (Stacy Strickland) who has this year started writing for us again, this time about mathematics and mathematicians, after having produced some columns in the past.

Together with our longest-running column, *The Gourmet's Guide*, the new columns help make *The SCAM* well worth the read. This is not to say there is no room for more among us who would like to write. Be assured that if you are willing to contribute to *The SCAM*, I will make room for your work. Although I never specify subject matter (and never will), please keep in mind that, in the upcoming year, I will be seeking variety, so that we will have something for everyone.

Most of you know, I do have a political column, *From the Village Idiot*. The views expressed therein are strictly my own, and not the official opinion of SCAM or Mensa. I would also welcome another regular political column of any viewpoint other than my own.

As I write this, Thanksgiving is about two weeks away, and Christmas is not too far away. So, my wishes to you is that you have enjoyed your Thanksgiving and that you have a Merry Christmas. If you celebrate other holidays during this season, please make the appropriate translation and enjoy!

See you next year.

***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.

I wished for many things at Xmas and didn't get any of them. It's not that I'm disappointed because I really didn't expect any. To start with----

I wished that I was smarter, much smarter! I didn't get that. Smart people say that light and everything else comes to a screeching halt at absolute zero.

I don't know but I wish I did!

Does light slow down when it approaches that temperature? If it does then how can we measure its speed without knowing the temperature that it is going through?

I'm talking about light from celestial bodies that are many light years away where the light has to travel through the cold reaches of expanding space.

I wish I knew!

How cold is it way out in space anyway? I hear it's might cold and with my circulation, I'm sure I would need an extra pair of Mickey Mouse boots and a couple of spare blankets if I lived there.

I wish I knew that too!

What is light? Why can't we see light except when it splatters all over something and bounces straight into our eyes? Is it little packets of energy that is part of space?

Do they expand with the space?

I sure wish I knew!

And, while we're at it, what is space? Is it something or nothing?

I hear things like, the universe is expanding at an increasing rate. Now what is that all about?

Is it the space that's expanding? What's causing the 'something space' to expand?

If it is nothing then how can nothing expand? My wallet is full of nothing and I haven't observed it expanding. Where does the expansion stop and the non-expansion begin? Is our solar system expanding? Is our Earth expanding? Are the galaxies expanding or are they only getting farther from each other? Where is the edge of galaxies where expansion stops?

(Continued on page 6)

Until the advent of the metric system (*Système international d'unités (SI)*), all measurements were human based. It was only in relatively recent times that the relationship among units was fixed. A foot became 12 inches; a hand, four inches; a mile, 5280 feet; a yard, three feet, and so on. Countries, cities towns, trades, and associations had their own systems of measurements. Which resulted in the in the traditional system of measurements cited above for Great Britain and the U. S. Other countries such as Greece and Japan had their own. In Germany, France, and many other countries, local communities also had theirs. A foot in London was not the same as foot in Paris. That added a complexity to international commerce in addition to taxes, tariffs, and currency valuation. SI was intended to be a universal system. Gradually, most countries adopted SI as their legal national measurement system. The U. S. is the last major country not adopting the metric system as its legal measurement system although use of the metric system is legal in the U. S. and the U. S. system is tied to the metric system.

The metric system is a decimal system of measurement that was introduced in France in 1793. The Metric System was developed by French scientists and academics. Unfortunately, no ordinary people were involved, so the Metric system as conceived works extremely well for scientific purposes, it left out the human element, so it does not work as well for ordinary human purposes. In this article I use the American spelling for metric units in lieu of the official French spellings.

The Metric system has three fundamental units and seven basic units. The fundamental units are the meter for length, the kilogram for mass, and the second for time. The basic units are the ampere for electric current, the Kelvin for temperature, the candela for luminous intensity, and the mole for the amount of substance. The basic units are derived from the fundamental units.

The original basis of the meter was established as one ten-millionth of the length of the Earth's meridian along a quadrant; that is, the distance from the Equator to the North Pole. This was subsequently reduced to lines inscribed on a platinum bar held in Paris. Later investigations determined that the original measurement was inaccurate and thus several modifications to the fundamental bar were made. Eventually, in order to disconnect the meter from any physical measurement, the

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 4)

I wish I knew!

Is all space expanding?

What is causing the expansion? Don't we have space everywhere, even within atoms?

And, what causes something to increase speed? Are we at the end of a giant bullwhip?

I wish I knew!

I know there are many people who understand what's going on. They talk about the expansion and extrapolate total entropy and the absolute end of everything.

I wish I could talk knowledgeably about it but I can't.

I wish I could!

I wished for these and many other things that get my mind twisted in a knot. Maybe I should just stick to the things that I do understand like, what I actually got for Xmas.

I got a 20 dollar McDonalds gift certificate. It doesn't sound like a lot but 20 dollars will buy a sizeable bag of Biggie Fries and then when someone wants to talk expansion, I'll be the smart guy who understands exactly what's going on.

—TC

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.

(Continued from page 5)

meter was specified as the length of the path traveled by light in vacuum during a time interval of $1/299,792,458$ of a second. This did not end the uncertainty of the length of the meter as the second had yet to be more clearly defined.

The gram was originally defined in 1795 as the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at 4°C , making the kilogram equal to the mass of one liter of water. It is also the only SI unit that is still directly defined by an artifact rather than a fundamental physical property that can be reproduced in different laboratories.

Thus in the attempt to make the Metric system unitary, the designers failed from the beginning. The meter and the gram should be 1:1, but it is 1:1000. It should have been one gram equals one cubic meter of water. I could not find why this was not done. Therefore, now the two basic units are disconnected and may change their relationship in the future. The prototype kilogram, manufactured in 1799 and from which the current kilogram is based, has a mass equal to the mass of 1.000025 liters of water.

As the two fundamental units in the metric system did not satisfy many users of weights, lengths, soon other units were devised from official units. In length, the official units are the meter and the millimeter. That means that a carpenter or anyone else could measure only to the nearest meter or millimeter. You can see how awkward that would be. The centimeter was adopted as another measuring standard as that was more of a human size. Also, for volume, a cubic meter and a cubic millimeter were too far out of the human ken, a liter was adopted being one thousandth of a cubic meter. To accommodate grocery shoppers, a pound, equal to half a kilogram is often used. It should be noted that the centimeter is approximately equal to one-half an inch, a liter is just a little more than a quart, and a pound is a little more than an avoirdupois pound. Humans win again.

Much has been said recently about concerns that government may be too intrusive in our personal lives. Most of the current concerns appear to be technology-based. For example, does the government read our e-mails and monitor our Internet searches without our knowledge and without good reason or our permission to do so. While these concerns are, indeed, valid and must be addressed, we also have a current concern that is not at all technology-based.

As I write these words, the U. S. Supreme Court is due any day to issue a ruling on *Fernandez v. California*. At issue is the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which reads as follows:

“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

This case involves one Walter Fernandez, who contends that using evidence found when police conducted a warrantless search of his apartment should not have been used in his subsequent criminal trial. According to the “Statement of the Case” in the State of California’s Opposition to Petition:

“Petitioner’s (Fernandez) convictions comprised three sets of crimes – (1) the armed robbery of Abel Lopez; (2) the domestic abuse of his girlfriend Roxanne Rojas; and (3) the illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition. On the early afternoon of October 12, 2009, petitioner approached Lopez on the street, issued a gang challenge and tried to stab Lopez. When Lopez resisted, petitioner called to some accomplices who helped subdue and rob the unarmed victim. Petitioner fled into the nearby apartment he shared with Rojas, where pursuing police officers heard a verbal altercation. A bloodied Rojas opened the door for the investigating officers. Upon detaining petitioner, the officers discovered that he matched the robbery suspect’s description. After Lopez identified petitioner as the robber, the police arrested him. With petitioner either in the squad car or en route to the police department, the police returned to the apartment, where they obtained Rojas’s consent to search the residence – and discovered the illegal firearm and ammunition, among other items.”

(Continued on page 16)

I'm looking for a few good readers. Students going to college next year will be applying to the Mensa Education and Research Foundation for a scholarship – more than 175 are offered. Winners are selected based on short essays written by the applicants describing their career or study goals.

I'm asking Mensa members to spend some time, just a few hours in late January or early February, to score essays.

The Foundation has expanded the scholarship program this year. Until now, when a Local Group didn't participate in the program, students who lived in its area were ineligible to apply for a scholarship. The program has been expanded so that applications from nonparticipating group areas are accepted and processed by a national-level set of judges. As Assistant National Scholarship Chair, I'm organizing those judging groups now.

The essays are short, 550 words at the most. If we can send fewer than 70 to each reader, then scoring should take 4 hours, more or less. Criteria are well-defined by the Foundation to keep scores as objective and consistent as possible.

Personally, in my first few years of membership, I used to disregard requests to judge scholarship essays: I didn't feel qualified because writing isn't my forte and, besides, it just sounded dry. I believed that they didn't need me; other members would be better judges.

In fact, reading the essays is interesting. They reveal students' interests and concerns and which career goals are favored each year. Most scholarship judges continue volunteering every year after they've tried it once.

As for being qualified, if you spot errors in the newspaper or if you know the difference between their, there, and they're, you're probably qualified to judge essays.

I don't want to steal current judges from Local Groups or Regions. However, for those judges who love reading essays and want to spend an additional few hours reading more, you can participate at this level with no fear of conflict of interest.

Please send an email to volunteers@mensafoundation.org to get involved in this worthwhile program.

Thanks,

Jane Gmur

December 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5		7 GO!
8	9 C.A.B.A.G.E.	10		12	13	14 GO!
15	16 C.A.B.A.G.E.	17	18	19	20	21 GO!
22	23 C.A.B.A.G.E.	24	25	26	27	 GO!
29	30 C.A.B.A.G.E.	31				

SCAM Calendar of Events for December 2013

MENSA TESTING

No testing is scheduled for this month.

Testing will resume next month, Jan. 18, 2014.

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

6th - 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.*

11th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

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

28th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hioki's**, 3200 NE Dixie Hwy. (US 1) in Palm Bay. It is about 2 miles south of US 192.

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

Of CABBAGES 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 the **Space Coast Area GO Association**.
1 p.m. **Host:** *George Lebovitz, the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com*

Membership Notes for December 2013

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Jakob Kaufman

WELCOME TO SCAM

Joan Siedman

WELCOME BACK!

Laurie Grier

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>2nd</i>	Terry Valek
<i>9th</i>	Roberta Brock
<i>10th</i>	Jeff Horger
<i>16th</i>	Christopher Glass
<i>17th</i>	Alexander Lauberts
<i>30th</i>	Travis Elmore



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.

I thought I would end the year of 2013 on a birthday for a person who established a 'first' for mathematics.

Elbert F. Cox was born on December 5, 1895 and raised in the college town of Evansville, Indiana in a racially mixed neighborhood, but attended segregated schools. In fact, his father who was a high school principal had graduated from Evansville College and done graduate work at Indiana University. The Cox family was close knit and highly religious and had a respect for learning. That was reflected in the father's educational career. When Elbert demonstrated ability in high school mathematics and physics, he was advised to attend his father's alma mater.

Cox studied physics and the violin and was offered a scholarship for the latter at Prague Conservatory in Bohemia (which at that time was part of Austria-Hungary), but he chose to pursue mathematics at Indiana University. Besides mathematics, Cox took courses in German, English, Latin, history, chemistry, education, philosophy, and physics (looks like a potential Mensa member there). While at Indiana, he was elected to undergraduate offices and joined Kappa Alpha Phi fraternity.

Cox earned his A.B. at Indiana University in 1917, along with three other African American graduates of Indiana that year. Cox had the word COLORED (the public description for African Americans) printed across his transcript.

After graduation, he entered the U.S. Army as a private during WWI and was promoted to staff sergeant within six months. After serving in the U.S. Army in France during World War I, he returned to pursue a career in teaching, as an instructor of mathematics at a high school in Henderson, Kentucky. In December of 1921, he applied for admission to Cornell University, one of seven American universities with a doctoral program in mathematics. One of his references wrote a positive letter followed by another letter anticipating "...certain difficulties for the young man because of the fact he is of the colored race." So, Cox joined the faculty of Shaw University of Raleigh, North Carolina (the oldest historically Black university in the southern United States).

Cox was awarded an Erasmus Brooks Fellowship in September 1922, and then decided to enroll in Cornell University. The topic of his dissertation concerned polynomial solutions of difference equations. When

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Cox's thesis advisor William Lloyd Garrison Williams (founder of the Canadian Mathematical Society) realized that Cox had the chance to be recognized not only as the first African American in the United States, but as the first African American in the world to receive a PhD in mathematics, he urged his student to send his thesis to a university in another country. This was so that Cox's status in this regard for academic achievement would not be disputed. Universities in England and Germany turned down Cox (possibly for racial reasons, but never verified), however Japan's Tohoku Imperial University of Sendai accepted the dissertation and it was published in their mathematical journal. He became the first African American to earn a PhD in Mathematics (Cornell University, 1925); just 39 years after Cornell gave its first PhD in Mathematics (1886). It should be noted that it would not be until 1943 that Euphemia Lofton Haynes would be the first African American woman PhD in mathematics.

In September of 1925, Cox became head of the mathematics and physics department at West Virginia State College. He stayed there four years and in 1929 moved to Howard University. Cox remained at Howard until his retirement in 1965 and served as chairman of the Mathematics Department from 1957-1961. He specialized in differential equations and interpolation theory. He was a member of Beta Kappa Chi, Pi Mu Epsilon, and Sigma Pi Sigma. He was also active in the American Mathematical Society, the American Physical Society, and American Physics Institute. In 1975, the Howard University Mathematics Department (at the time of the inauguration of the PhD program) established the Elbert F. Cox Scholarship Fund for undergraduate mathematics majors to encourage young black students to study mathematics at the graduate level.

The PhD for Cox at this time was remarkable. There were just 28 PhDs in Mathematics awarded in all the country in 1925, but 31 black men were lynched in that same year. For many years Dr. Cox taught at Howard University (1929-1961) along with the second and third African American Mathematics PhDs (Dudley Woodard, and Walter Claytor). They were later joined by mathematicians George Butcher and David Blackwell. As a result, Howard University leads the historically Black colleges and universities as the principal place of learning mathematics. The university president at that time remarked that Cox had directed more Master's degree students than any other professor at Howard University.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

As a popular professor, his students performed better in their academic studies than those of the other professors. Although university regulations required that he retire at age 65, he continued teaching and advising students on his own until his death at age 73.

Elbert Cox married Beulah P. Kaufman, an elementary school teacher, on September 14, 1927. They had three sons (James, Eugene, and Elbert Jr.) After a brief illness, Cox died at Cafritz Memorial Hospital on November 28, 1969. In 1980, the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) honored Cox with the inauguration for the Cox-Talbot Address which is given annually at NAM's National Meeting.

Although Cox did not live to see the first PhD student graduate at Howard, many believe it was mainly due to his contributions that this event became possible. His experience and ability with students and his love of mathematics were instrumental in convincing many young people to pursue mathematical studies. Cox's portrait now hangs in Howard University's commons room.

References:

1. "Elbert Frank Cox". *The Mathematical Association of America*. Retrieved October 8, 2013. "Elbert F. Cox, first Black to earn a PhD in Mathematics". *Mathematicians of the African Diaspora*. Retrieved October 15, 2013.
2. James A. Donaldson, Richard J. Fleming (2000). "Elbert F. Cox: an early pioneer". *American Mathematical Monthly* (Mathematical Association of America) **107** (2): 105-128. Doi: 10.2307/2589433. JSTOR 2589433

(Continued from page 8)

In my opinion, the relevant facts to be considered are as follows:

1. Fernandez shared an apartment with Rojas.
2. Fernandez robbed Abel Lopez.
3. In connection with the robbery, Fernandez was chased by police to the apartment he shared with Rojas.
4. Rojas answered the door to the apartment; the police discovered that she had injuries consistent with domestic abuse.
5. Police asked to enter the apartment; Fernandez, who was behind Rojas refused their entry.
6. Police detained Fernandez in connection with the suspected domestic abuse; in so doing, police discovered Fernandez matched the description given by Lopez of his robber.
7. Police arrested Fernandez for the robbery and removed him from the apartment.
8. Police returned to the apartment where Rojas consented to a search which yielded evidence used in Fernandez's subsequent conviction.

The question is, did the police have the right to search the apartment when Fernandez denied permission, was arrested, and Rojas later granted that permission in Fernandez's absence?

(Continued on page 17)

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?

(Continued from page 16)

In general, either Fernandez or Rojas, both being tenants to the apartment, could have given consent. If both were present, and either one objects, there is no consent. However, one could consent in the absence of the other. The complicating factor here is that Fernandez's absence was a direct result of his detention and subsequent arrest. Fernandez claims that the police detained and arrested him for the purpose of ensuring his absence so Rojas would consent to the later search. The state denies this.

On that point, I agree with the state. I believe police had good reason for the detention and arrest. But, one inescapable fact is that Fernandez would not have been absent but for the police's actions. For that reason, I believe such a warrantless search is improper and illegal. Given the facts of this case, I also believe the police would have had no problem obtaining a search warrant, thus legally searching for, and finding, the evidence used in the criminal prosecution. Secondly, Fernandez, who was the target of the search, had already objected to a search. His objections should have been honored instead of the police trying a second time to obtain consent for the search.

If the Supreme Court finds in favor of the state, my concern is, would the police in any case where they suspect criminal activity, upon being denied permission by the suspect for the search of his home that he shares with others, simply lay in wait for the suspect's absence to obtain permission from one of the others to conduct the search without a warrant? In my mind, this practice would only serve to circumvent the Fourth Amendment.

I would also take the argument a bit further. I do not believe that it should be possible for any American to waive his Constitutional rights, regardless of whether it is the Fourth Amendment or some other provision is at issue. In cases such as this one, if probable cause exists, law enforcement should get a warrant. Period.

On **December 7**, the American Mensa Board of Directors meeting will be hosted by Palm Beach County Mensa here in Region 10, at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport. There are a number of motions on the agenda this quarter, on topics including changes to the Handbook Development process, AG Registration rates, establishing Regional Ombudsmen, amendments to the weapons motion from the previous meeting, uniformed security for the Annual Gathering, differentiating Arbitrators from Ombudsmen in Local Groups, and changing the way members may participate in Board meetings. Details on these motions, on other programs for the day, and Board and Committee Reports can be found on the American Mensa website at LEAD > Board of Directors > Meeting Reports (select the top meeting: 2013-12-07 – West Palm Beach, FL.

I hope to see many of you at the meeting, as having it in our Region gives you an opportunity to see the Board and Committees in action. However, even if you cannot make the meeting, you can still participate via a number of available channels:

AML COMMUNITY – Otherwise known as the Community Forums, this is linked to the AML website at CONNECT > Online Community, or you can go there directly at community.us.mensa.org. Under the Forums tab, there is a category called “Mensa and You”, and one of the six categories there is “Mensa Matters”, where many discussion threads can be found regarding Mensa governance and current topics for the Board of Directors.

American Mensa Facebook Group – While it’s easy to get lost in the wide variety of topics on this page, there are also a good number of participants discussing governance topics. I confess it’s not for the thin-skinned, as the group is not moderated, but many people do enjoy the spirited banter.

Region 10 Facebook Group – This one I set up specifically for members of our Region to discuss topics of general interest to our region, as an avenue for input for national topics, and to promote various events such as Regional Gatherings or special local group events such as games weekends or local group anniversaries.

Finally, if you want to send your input but do not want to participate in any of the available discussions, you can email me directly at the address below. I’m interested in your feedback!

Thomas George Thomas
RVC10@us.mensa.org

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Wednesday, November 6th, 2013, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:21 pm.

Members Present: Wynn Rostek, Karen Freiberg, Terry Valek, and George Lebovitz.

Guests: Zanne Rostek.

The minutes of the September, 2013 minutes were approved.

Officer/Committee Reports (details may be found in the footnotes):

Treasurer's report¹. The Treasurer's report was not available at the time of the meeting.

Testing Coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email².

The effort to rewrite the SCAM Bylaws has stalled. However, Wynn declared that he will make a concerted effort to try to consolidate the existing bylaws with the state standards. George volunteered to assist.

The annual audit that was due in June is now overdue since June.

A NomElCom will be needed in January to sift through the anticipated myriad of candidates who will be seeking the exalted office of Member of the Executive Committee of SCAM.

At this point an extended discussion of shingles and other delightful diseases ensued, of which, Dear Reader, I will spare you the details.

The next meeting was set for **Wednesday, December 11th** (which the astute reader will discern is the second Wednesday of the month rather than the nominal first Wednesday, so requested by George Patterson due to a scheduling conflict with the first Wednesday, although the aforementioned Mr. Patterson has not attended a meeting in quite some time, however since none of the members present had any objections, it was so agreed), at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

1. At the time of this writing, the Treasurer's report was still unavailable.

2. September: contacted 4 candidate for the first time, 9 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. October: contacted 6 candidate for the first time, 5 candidates for the second or third time; tested 2. Next test session will be Saturday, November 16, 2013 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.