

The

SCAM

page oast rea ensa



Volume 32, No. 2

February, 2014



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

For the last several months, we have been informed that the times are changing. You can read the latest on those changes in the WAR Correspondence column, elsewhere in this issue.

It is not my desire to use this page to discuss these changes, as they are adequately addressed by our ExComm members. I will, however, make the observation that all of us, at some level, will be affected by those changes.

As I have repeatedly stated in prior columns, this is YOUR Mensa. It is what you make of it. Most of us have lived through enough years to realize nothing is static. My question here is this: Do we direct the changes, or will the changes direct us? It is truly up to YOU.

What role will The SCAM play in the future of our local group? Our newsletter has a rich tradition of being more than simply a calendar of events and a record of official proceedings. The articles that we run every month, in my opinion, make our newsletter worthwhile. Do we wish to continue down this path?

The Bylaws mandate we publish the calendar and the official proceedings. There is no requirement for most of the other material. However, if that is all we do, The SCAM will very quickly become obsolete as there are much faster, more efficient ways to get the needed info to you.

I've said enough. You now have the floor. What's your pleasure?

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.

Son, you use that 'F' word one more time and your 'A' is grass.
And how dare you talk openly about a woman's 'T's and 'A'.

You're just so uncivilized. It's like you were born in a cave.

And don't think I didn't hear you using the 'S' word for '#2'.

You should have your mouth washed out with soap.

I don't know if you're getting that from TV or from
those hoodlums you hang out with.

You kids sit in front of that box way too much anymore.

I see what's going on. They get to say just about anything they
feel like saying on TV now-a-days so you think it's okay
for you to say it. Well! It's not!

Maybe I should pitch it right out the window.

You hear nothing more than gutter talk. It's non-stop and it seems to
be on every channel at any hour. Oh Lord! The time is coming.

I even heard someone use the 'S' word and the 'B' word for our Latino
neighbors and now, I just don't know what this world is coming to.

A person on a cable network even used (forgive me Lord) the 'N' word.
Right out there for everyone to hear. Oh yes he did!

I heard it with my own ears. Oh sweet Jesus, come and take me
home if that filthy word ever passes through these humble lips .

Help me oh Lord to forever keep this earthly sanctuary free from trash and
gutter talk.

Thank you! Thank you!

Now son, you need to choose your friends more carefully. And, for starters,

Be sure to stay away from that long-haired freak down the block.

Every word out of his mouth is filth. If he had any sense at all he would
learn to use proper English words instead of gutter trash.

The whole gang are just a bunch of freaking losers and long-hair

Is nothing but a 'D' head and a total 'F'ing idiot.

When winter calls and it gets cold in Florida, my thoughts turn to a food. Not the traditional American dishes, such as roast turkey or ham, but a plebian Japanese dish called Oden. Back in the forties, Oden carts were a common sight in Tokyo on wintry nights. The carts were about the size of a kitchen table with a fringe of blue curtains that hung to just below your head. The cart itself consisted of a large pan filled with hot Oden and some areas for condiments and eating.

Coming from work and walking home through the wintry weather, it was a welcome respite to duck under the blue curtains of an Oden cart and breathe in the steamy odors emanating from the Oden. Of course, ordering a few pieces was an appetizer before dinner, or ordering many pieces could be your dinner.

Oden consists of various ingredients stewed in a light, soy-flavored *dashi* broth. Ingredients varied according to region and each household. Although Oden is most often sold from food carts, most Japanese convenience stores have simmering Oden pots in winter. It can also be found in some vending machines and it is prepared at home. Many different kinds of Oden ingredients are sold, with single-ingredient varieties as cheap as 100 yen.

The most common ingredients, which I can render in English, are the following;

Daikon, radish, peeled and cut into 3/4 inch thick rounds

Potatoes, peeled and cut into halves

Hard boiled eggs, peeled

Konnyaku (transparent yam starch cake), cut into large triangles

Atsuage (deep fried tofu), blanched and cut into large triangles

Ganmodoki (tofu fritters), blanched

Musubi-kombu (knotted kelp)

Surimi, (fish paste) in many shapes and sizes. Most of them deep fried

Chikuwa: thick tubes of surimi

Oden is eaten in most of east Asia under different names with different sauces and ingredients.

In Nagoya, it is called *Kantō-ni* and soy sauce is used as a dipping sauce. .

In the Kansai area, this dish is called *Kanto-daki*

In Shizuoka it is a dark colored broth flavored with beef stock and dark soy sauce, and all ingredients are skewered.

(Continued on page 6)

I'm not sure when it happened, but my generation turned into something much worse than what we rebelled against as youths. It was the age of Aquarius, the summer of love. We had a deep distrust of the establishment from the war, and all the political maneuvering associated with keeping it going.

Jerry Ruben's "Steal This Book" was on many shelves. "Don't trust anyone over 30" we were admonished. Communes and farms sprung up as people got back to the land. Mother Earth News was popular, and a lot of folks were still talking about Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring."

As young adults we were well aware of what humanity was doing to mother earth, and we believed it shouldn't be allowed to go on much longer. We also realized what the Military Industrial complex was up to thanks to Ike tipping us off in the late '50s. And don't get me started on the police state. The Chicago Seven. Kent State. We were living in an oppressive police state, and we all knew it.

So what happened? As we came to power, we instigated war after war. We brought in no-knock warrants. You could be arrested or worse for simply filming police violence against innocent people. I long for the good old days where you actually had to protest something before you were gunned down by your government.

Nixon's crew broke into an office, and he was forced to resign. Today the NSA logs every phone call of every American, and the courts have backed up

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 5)

In Taiwan, the dish is called *heilun* in Mandarin or *oolian* in Taiwanese. Besides the more traditional ingredients, the Taiwanese *oolian* also uses many local ingredients, such as pork meatballs and blood puddings.

To satisfy my appetite for Oden each winter, I resort to a frozen product from Japan obtainable in the Asian grocery in the Home Depot plaza. It consists of a package of *surimi* products, tofu products, and concentrate for the sauce to which I add some fresh ingredients such as *daikon* and hard-boiled eggs. It's authentic, but I do miss the Oden carts.

(Continued from page 6)

this massive invasion of privacy. Environmental exploitation in the name of jobs justifies destroying the life support systems our planet supplies to keep us alive. All so a CEO can make 50 million a year and the greedy stockholders can make a few extra hundred.

And when did it become a sin to be concerned about the welfare of your fellow man? I missed that presentation in Bible school. I am completely 180 degrees out on this fellow man thing. When did everybody turn?

I have witnessed the wholesale destruction of the middle class in this country, all so the Koch brothers and their few friends could rake in a few more billion a year. Now our government is bought by the highest bidder and the will of the people be damned.

Why is it that people manipulated by the uber-rich never catch on to the fact that their pockets are being picked completely bare? Hundreds of millions line up behind Rush and Hannity, and Fox News, and plead: Take more from everyone for yourselves, you're not nearly rich enough yet. All in the name of fighting socialism. God, you people are so easily fooled it's scary. Look, a shiny object over there...

To all the young people that are being left to clean up this horrid mess, I sincerely apologize for the actions of my generation. There's something in the air that transformed caring, sensitive, knowledgeable people into mindless, soulless zombies. It's called propaganda, something that happens when dumb opinion replaces actual facts. See clearly as you bravely march into the future. I pray you don't repeat our mistakes.

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?

“I realize, of course, it’s no shame to be poor, but it’s no great honor either.” Tevye, “If I Were a Rich Man”, Fiddler on the Roof.

Once in a great while, I hear of a good idea surfacing from Washington. I am pleased to report that this is one of those joyous occasions. As I write these words, our esteemed legislative branch is debating whether to extend unemployment benefits to those who have tried in vain to find work. Also, at this time, those who stand to benefit from such legislation have already lost their benefits. Interestingly enough, there has been little interest in trying to find solutions to the unemployment problem. Few seem to want to answer the question, “What can we do to help our unemployed find a job?” Yet, all is not lost.

Yet, all is not lost. Late last year, a bill was introduced to the Senate entitled, “Equal Employment for All Act.” A relatively new Senator, Elizabeth Warren from Massachusetts, introduces this bill which, if passed, would make it illegal for employers or prospective employers to make hiring decisions based on an applicant’s credit history. The bill would also make it illegal for an employer to take any adverse action against its employee based on his credit standing.

You might ask, how is that a good thing? Let’s take a look.

For starters, it is an issue of fairness. One’s bill paying habits do not correlate to whether one would be a suitable employee. One tired argument raises the concern that if someone is struggling to pay his debts, he might steal (perhaps from his employer) in order to make ends meet. Since often a bad credit rating indicates the person is NOT paying his bills, why would that person steal to pay the bills he is not paying? There is also no correlation between low credit scores and criminal convictions involving theft.

It is also a practical issue. One reason a person might have a poor credit history is because he lost his job. For example, if a person just lost a job that paid \$50,000 a year, chances are, his lifestyle (and the related bills) had been budgeted based on his \$50,000 salary. Now he is trying to make ends meet on an unemployment check of less than \$350 a week (\$18,200 annually), there is a pretty good chance, he can no longer pay all his bills. He must now prioritize. If he is lucky, he can continue to fund his bare necessities (house, utilities, groceries, transportation); there will be little or nothing left over for those pesky credit cards. Hence the inevitable low credit rating. Did I mention that a person’s credit rating is based in part on whether he is *employed*?

(Continued on page 15)

Sham Elections Over.

And Other News...

Welcome to the future; the 1800s are over. Dictator-for-life :-) Wynn Rostek has decreed that “The Times, They are a-Changing.”

First off, we going to stop having sham elections. If there are only as many people running for the ExComm as there are ExComm seats, we will NOT print ballots, vote count and otherwise pretend to hold an election. We will simply seat the new ExComm.

Also, not all matters are going to require an in-person meeting of the ExComm. We will now officially have in place rules that allow electronic means to handle business.

We are cleaning house, rules wise. All the old built-up standing orders and our ancient bylaws are gone. We will be starting with a clean slate with a set of bylaws that is about three pages long.

Due to an email glitch, we are running a little behind on getting the new bylaws out. The final draft should circulate among anyone who gives two hoots in the next week. By the next ExComm meeting we should vote on these and start the process of putting the new bylaws in place.

That brings me to the issue of a NomElComm. We need three volunteers who are *not* ExComm members to step up to the plate (or lead the revolution) and become this year’s NomElComm. Your duties will be largely ceremonial. Your job will be to take note of anyone willing to run for the ExComm (the fools!) just in case we need to have an election. We strongly suspect we will not. On the upside, you can bask in the glory of having your name mentioned in the newsletter as a NomElComm member.

The third item is that the ExComm is implementing changes to make SCAM (wait for it...) a bit more spontaneous. We are considering an RSS feed on the web site so that anyone interested in new items popping up in SCAM (such as last-minute events) will easily receive notice. We will also set up an email blast and an SMS text message blast for anyone who wishes to receive notices of SCAM events. Please note that these last two items will be limited to sending notices of SCAM events a few days prior to the event.

If you wish to receive email notices of SCAM events, send your email address to wynn.rostek56@gmail.com with a subject line of SCAM email notices. If you wish to receive text message notices of SCAM events, send your phone

(Continued on page 15)

February 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

							1 GO!
2	3 C.A.B.A.G.E.	4		6			8 GO!
9	10 C.A.B.A.G.E.	11	12	13	14		15 GO!
16	17 C.A.B.A.G.E.	18	19	20	21		 GO!
23	24 C.A.B.A.G.E.	25	26	27	28		

SCAM Calendar of Events for February 2014

5th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

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

EXCOMM MEETING

MENSA TESTING

Feb. 15 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. Testing next month will be March 15.

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

7th - Friday 5:30 PM

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.

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

22nd - Saturday 5:45 PM

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.

S.N.O.R.T.

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

Membership Notes for February 2014

*No membership additions
to report for this month.*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

7th	Ann Galetta	17th	Robert Champion
7th	Heather Howard	17th	Robert Lipton
10th	Herbert Feingold	23rd	Evan Smith
14th	Gregg Wiggins	26th	Don King
14th	Wynn Rostek		



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 probably should have chosen a mathematician born on Valentine's Day. That would have been Edmund Landau (*born February 14*) and involved discussing number theory. However, I took a step back (one week) and chose Godfrey Harold (G.E.) Hardy instead. A more eccentric character to take a look at for when people get somewhat 'wacky' in the month devoted to love affairs.

G.H. Hardy (*born February 7, 1877 and deceased December 1, 1947*) was English and involved with achievements in the fields of number theory and mathematical analysis. Definitely a 'purest' mathematician, he apparently loathed discussing applied or practical applications of mathematics. Some people outside of mathematics have heard of his essay called, *A Mathematician's Apology* written in 1940. Many consider it one of the best insights into the mind of a practicing mathematician that was written for a layman not familiar with the field. I found a copy of this essay in a bookstore in Eau Gallie that was going out of business. At least for me, I tend to agree with that opinion of his essay.

While still a youngster, he demonstrated a unique mathematical mind. When two years old, he wrote numbers up to the millions and when taken to church, he passed the time by factoring the numbers of the hymns (*now THAT is being bored in church!*) He entered Trinity College, Cambridge and after only two years of preparation, he came in fourth in the Mathematics *Tripes* examination (this was an extraordinary accomplishment, if you know what that involves). Later in his career, he felt the *Tripes* system should be abolished, since he believed it more an end in itself than a means to an end. Do we sense a common note with our debates on having teachers today teach students to just pass the exams and not really learn to think in school?

Hardy was extremely shy as a child and was somewhat socially awkward (like some Mensans?), cold and eccentric through much of his life (like some Mensans?), and won many prizes and awards but disliked having to receive them in front of the entire school (a modest Mensan!). He was uncomfortable being introduced to new people and could not bear to look at his own reflection in a mirror. Some report that when staying in hotels, he would cover all mirrors with towels (Did I mentioned he was eccentric? Maybe he thought he had vampire traits when he was in a 'reflective' state of mind).

Hardy helped reform British mathematics by bringing more rigor to the field, which typically was found more often in French, Swiss, and German mathematics. British mathematicians, enthralled with Isaac Newton, had remained primarily involved with more applied mathematics. Hardy promoted the conception of pure mathematics, in such fields as hydrodynamics and elec-

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

trodynamics, which were important studies at Cambridge. Hardy is known for formulating the Hardy –Weinberg principle, a basic principle of population genetics. Interestingly, he developed it independently and not in conjunction with, Wilhelm Weinberg in 1908.

In 1914, he was mentor of the remarkable and brilliant Hindu mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. They were close collaborators in many different aspects of number theory and pure mathematics. The Hardy-Ramanujan Asymptotic Formula is today widely applied to physics to find quantum partition functions of atomic nuclei (first use by Niels Bohr, Nobel Laureate and friend of Albert Einstein) as well as derive thermodynamic functions of non-interacting Bose-Einstein systems. Though Hardy wanted math to be “pure’ and devoid of applications, much of his collaborative work has found applications in other branches of science. The mathematician Paul Erdos supposedly asked Hardy what was his greatest contribution to mathematics and Hardy unhesitatingly replied that it was the discovery of Ramanujan.

Hardy was an avid cricket fan and was at times politically involved with friends on some social issues. He was an atheist and apart from some close friendships, he had a few platonic relationships with mathematicians who shared his love of pure mathematics. He was a lifelong bachelor and was cared for by his sister in his later years.

Hardy was associated with some aphorisms that may be of interest to Mensans and non-Mensans alike:

“No mathematician would ever allow himself to forget that mathematics more than any other art or science is a young man’s game.” He goes on to explain their best work is done when still young.

“A mathematician, like a painter or poet, is a maker of patterns. If his patterns are more permanent than theirs, it is because they are made with ideas.” He goes on to explain the other fields produce physical items that can be lost or destroyed, and mathematics can always continue to exist in the minds of others.

“Nothing I have ever done is of the slightest practical use.” This continues his belief in being proud that the only ‘true’ mathematics is non-applied mathematics.

Hardy once told famed philosopher and logician, Bertrand Russell, “If I could prove that you would die in five minutes, I should be sorry you were going to die, but my sorrow would be very much mitigated by pleasure in the

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 8)

Currently, this is a vicious circle. The unemployed person's credit rating suffers because of his job loss. He is not a good prospect for employment because of his low credit rating. Because he cannot find a job, his credit rating continues to deteriorate. Because his credit rating has worsened, he is even a worse prospect for future employment. As his period of unemployment continues to lengthen, prospective employers become even more wary. *Is he really looking for work*, they wonder.

Let's not kid ourselves, the proposed "Equal Employment for All Act", if passed, will not make the current unemployment problem disappear. Yet, it will help, and is a step in the right direction. This bill deserves our support.

(Continued from page 9)

number to wynn.rostek56@gmail.com with a subject line of SCAM text notices. If you hate either of these ideas, do not send your email address or phone number to wynn.rostek56@gmail.com.

If you have any interest in becoming the next Dictator-for-Life, submit a bribe to any member of the NomElComm. I understand chocolate works well.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**Dec 31,
2013**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$505.28
RG Fund	533.24
Reserve Fund	1408.20
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$2446.72
 <u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1593.04
Mensa Funding	171.75
Newsletter Printing	1459.51
Transfer from Reserve	200.00
Ending Balance	\$505.28
 <u>RG Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$533.24
Ending Balance	\$533.24
 <u>Reserve Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1608.14
Interest	0.06
Transfer to General Fund	200.00
Ending Balance	\$1607.74

(Continued from page 14)

proof". Russell agreed with Hardy wholeheartedly (Hardy-har-har?).

I suppose when you are in love with mathematics to that degree, how can the love of mere mortals compare to that experience? Personally, I do not believe I could ever share that belief. No matter how thorough and 'hardy' the logical proof might appear.

References:

- 1 .Hardy, G.H.(2004) [1940]. *A Mathematician's Apology*. Cambridge: University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-42706-7.
2. Hardy, G.H. (2008) [1908]. *A Course of Pure Mathematics* (10th ed.) Cambridge: University Press. ISBN978-0-521-72055-7.
- 3 .Hardy, G.H. (1940) *Ramanujan*, Cambridge University Press: London. AMS Chelsea Pub. (November 1999) ISBN 0-8218-2023-0.

(Continued from page 18)

now open online at us.mensa.org/culturequest, and closes on Monday, March 31. Teams of up to five members compete for cash prizes and bragging rights, so don't delay! Someone else may recruit the best players before you get to them, so get your team together first.

Thomas George Thomas
RVC10@us.mensa.org

Membership renewal season is now upon us, and you will be receiving plenty of reminders to renew. Since approximately a third of you won't need to renew (either because you are Life Members or have multi-year memberships – or even renewed early), I'd like to focus instead on your Member Profile.

Your profile is very important to your local group and to American Mensa as a whole. It lets us know what our members are most interested in, and provides us with important information to help us decide what we should focus on when developing new programs and events.

This is a good time to go to the American Mensa website to update your profile. Just go to us.mensa.org and select "My Mensa" from the top menu (it's over on the far right), then click Member profile (it's in the menu on the left). This page gives you the opportunity to opt for an electronic version of your local newsletter where available (and save your group printing and postage costs). You can easily submit address, email or phone number changes from here – so your local group can let you know what's going on! You can subscribe to a variety of eNewsletters, including AML Today. You can update your Personal Data Questions (PDQ), where you can select up to eight Areas of Interest (particularly useful for local groups to create events and useful member directories).

Please note the checkboxes on "Release my phone number/email address within the organization". Please check these, because it's important for the functioning of your local group. Contrary to some recent statements, this does NOT mean you will start receiving spam. American Mensa does not provide your name, address, or email to any external vendors or solicitors. We do allow you the opportunity to take advantage of some offers, but YOU control that through a different checkbox on your profile specifically for Benefit and Service Providers. If you don't want those contacts, make sure that box is not checked, but please check the boxes that allow us to get in touch with you.

Are you interested in the direction of American Mensa? We're beginning the National Election process once again. If you're interested in serving on Region 10's Nominating Committee, let your Local ExComm know. I'll be asking each chapter to recommend members to serve, and the region's Local Secretaries will select three people from the pool to serve on the committee. We hope to have the NomComm representatives determined by the end of February, so they can be ratified at the American Mensa Board of Directors meeting on the weekend of March 28.

Don't miss out on CultureQuest on April 27! Teams are beginning to form, and we've had some great teams from our Region in the past. Registration is

(Continued on page 17)

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Wednesday, January 8th, 2014, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:07 pm.

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

Guests: George Patterson, Zanne Rostek, and Kurt Penca.

The minutes of the December, 2013 minutes were approved.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: The report was unavailable at the time of this writing.

Testing Coordinator: The report was unavailable at the time of this writing.

Wynn will distribute (via email) a copy of the merged American Mensa's model bylaws and the SCAM bylaws drafted in 2007 for review and comment before submitting the final copy as the new SCAM bylaws.

Once again, the issue of forming a NomECom was raised.

There ensued a discussion regarding modernizing the way SCAM communicates, particularly with its younger members. Apparently, email is passé; a medium of the past. The SCAM home page is – frankly – lame and needs to be modernized, perhaps offering an RSS feed. Plus we need to investigate establishing a presence on networks such as Twitter and LinkedIn.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, February 5th, 2014, at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.