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SCAM

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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

It is May and SCAM elections are now upon us. This year, we actually have a contested election. One of our candidates introduces himself in this month's issue. So, exercise your right of SCAM citizenship and perform your civic duty — VOTE! The direction we take will depend on it.

Our LocSec, in his column, expresses his concerns about our finances. The largest expense this group incurs is the printing and mailing this newsletter to you every month.

When you pay your dues, ALL the money goes to National (American Mensa). National, in turn, doles out a certain amount based upon our membership numbers. This is the money that is supposed to defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Herein lies the problem.

How do we bring the newsletter costs down enough to be within the budget imposed by National? One way is to restrict the size of each issue. Our bylaws require we publish a record of proceedings (such as ExComm minutes) a calendar of events, an officer directory, and—during elections—a ballot to allow each member to vote. All other material is optional.

So, one way to bring the costs in line is to eliminate all the items that make the newsletter worth reading. But, do we really want to do this? Another solution (and I believe more cost-effective) is to publish fewer issues each year—perhaps one every other month, perhaps quarterly.

As your Editor, I have stated for more than a decade that this is YOUR newsletter. So, 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.

One might think rationally that anyone who can consume 110 hog dogs in ten minutes must weigh 500 to 800 pounds or even more.---- Wrong! An accident of nature called Takeru Kobayashi who weighs only 128 pounds holds that record. He is the unquestioned sprint eating champion of the whole world. Wow! And double Wow! How does he do it? But--what about the marathon eating competitors? What about the guys who are slow of hand and large of gut? How about the guys who can pack it away hour after hour and day after day? They are all athletes in their own right and all deserving of the records they have achieved. The young Japanese man is truly amazing as is our marathoner and long-time world record holder JH.

I'm sitting here going over the Lo-Cal menu since I've been trying to lose (*not gain*) a few pounds lately and my mind continues to drift back to the true giant and legend in the field of competitive weight gain, John Hughes. Lines from Jimmie Dean's "Big John---Big Bad John" rumble through my head. I have never met Kobayashi but I did have an encounter with John.

Big John is listed in Guinness as the heaviest human ever recorded. A life-sized replica of him stands in "Ripley's Believe it or Not" museum foyer in Branson, Missouri. One day, while side-stepping nearly-dead Bransoners and doctoring up a 'pieces parts' chunk of meat, I walked idly into the place and all of a sudden, 'Holy Crapoly', there he was, all 1200 plus pounds of him staring me right in the face. I about choked on a half-chewed wing-ding and spilled my Biggie Frostie all over myself. It really took me by surprise seeing him standing because I had pictured him spreading across a bed like a humongous melting candle. If he really could stand he must have had ankles the size of tree trunks. I was checking myself to see if I had accidentally let go and had more than the Frostie to clean up.

All clear! After I spit-cleaned my shirt I just stood for several minutes in total awe. I was mesmerized by the world-class gluttony.

I had questions. How many Frosties, how many wing-dings, how many Big-Macs did this man have to consume to finally be recognized by Guinness and Ripley? I imagined a pile the size of the Chicago city dump to be fairly reasonable. He could have eaten that many with his grubby hands tied.

And, did super-stardom just sneak up on him or at what age did he begin his quest? Did he force his mother to grow ---No! Did he go garbage can diving after he put his family, his friends and his home town into bankruptcy? Did his pets go missing? Did his family get the jitters when he picked up a knife and fork?

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Of all the various measurement systems, time stands out as being schizophrenic. In a micro sense, it is like all the other measurement systems, a decimal system that is interconnected with other measurement systems, *i.e.* length, mass, and their derivatives. In its macro form, it is unconnected with any other measurement system and is the only human based system still in common use in the modern word.

There are four basic units in the macro time measurement system; the day, week, month, and year. Only the day and the week have a fixed relationship. As the day, month, and year are based on natural phenomena that have no fixed intrinsic relationships their relationships vary over time.

The day was probably the first dimension observable by humans. The rising and setting of the sun, the need for sleep, and the time of activity of hunted animals were clearly apparent. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow were probably the first concepts to an observer. Most animals sleep as do all mammals, some at night and some during the day. Although memory is proven in highly intelligent animals, the concept of discrete periods of time is not. This developed as humans advanced from their more primitive ancestors.

The concept of the year most probably developed out of the observations of the seasons as they repeat the cycle of fall, winter, spring, and summer. That the number of days in a year is not a whole number, was unobservable until humans could count beyond one, two, and many. The count is off by a fraction of a day, approximately a fourth of a day. This required a correction. Thus entered the leap year, an additional day every fourth year, but not every four hundred years. The four hundredth year is not added in our Gregorian calendar. The Hebrew and Chinese calendars make their corrections by adding a month according to their formulae.

The month was probably developed later based on the cycle of the moon's phases. It has been changed in length many times, even in recorded history, such as the addition of July and August by the Romans. It now can be 28, 29, 30, or 31 days long.

The week is exactly seven day long. In some other and previous societies, the week is a fixed number of days or a fraction of a month. The week was not

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Mensa your own. If you have any comments or suggestions for me to help you with this, you can reach me by text at RVC10@vtext.com.

Thomas George Thomas

RVC10@us.mensa.org

Text: RVC10@vtext.com

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always related to the month and could overlap from one month to the next. The old Japanese month was divided into thirds of unequal lengths. Our week of exactly seven days originated with the Book of Genesis. European (Christian) worldwide colonization and commercialization made the seven day week almost universal. There are current weeks of 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 days in use in some primitive societies. Historical attempts at changing the number of days in a week, such as in Soviet times and revolutionary France have failed.

For time periods of less than a day, the day is divided into twelve or twenty-four hours. Each hour is divided into sixty minutes and each minute into sixty seconds. These are duodecimal constructs. There was an attempt, after the French revolution, to make months, days, hours, minutes, and seconds into decimal forms. The attempt failed, so we are left with this rare duodecimal measurement system in the midst of our mostly decimal measurements.

The official metric definition of the second is the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the Cesium-133 atom. Time is used ultimately to define all other quantities starting with length, which now is defined as "the length of the path traveled by light in vacuum during a time interval of $1/299,792,458$ of a second". All other measurements are derived from length *i.e.* volume, mass, velocity, and their derivatives. Thus time is the ultimate fundamental quantity.

My good friend Dennis Logan very kindly described me in the March issue of SCAM as a “renaissance man.” That’s a pretty lofty perch from which to jump down, but I’d like to set the record straight. In reality, I am probably more of a functional geek. When I was younger, I used to actually be employable. But I’m almost completely unemployable now since I’ve been working for myself most of the past twenty years or so.

I’ve always been a very technical person. I’m not really into puzzles or games; I will occasionally do a crossword with the wife. Rather, I like to apply myself to real-life puzzles and tend towards thinking, planning and devising ways to create new streams of revenue inside of niche markets. Dennis has been helping me with one of my pet projects. It’s a radio-controlled photographic drone that has FPV (*first-person-view*) so the operator can see what the drone sees on a monitor above the transmitter, or even on a handy-dandy set of virtual-reality goggles (if you really want the full effect and don’t get airsick too easily).

Initially, I was having some trouble with reception and Dennis and I started talking about it. Turns out that among his many talents, Dennis is a Navy-trained, micro-miniature soldering ace so he quickly taught me that, “Joe, you can’t go around twisting wires together and wrapping them with electrical tape. That sh.. is for amateurs!” So, Dennis and I spent an afternoon or two at his place while he soldered up my project for me and now it works fine. Now I too know all about soldering and shrink tubing and a bunch of other great stuff that anyone who experiments with electronics really should know all about.

Recently we milled some parts that I have subsequently assembled into retractable landing gear for the drone. There was no specific design for the landing gear and it’s not something you can just go and buy at your local drone store. Rather, I just kind of dreamed it all up and cobbled it together from spare pieces of carbon fiber tubing, some scrap aluminum and a couple of tiny digital worm drives. But for me the really fun part was programming it into the transmitter, so now when I flip a switch on the transmitter as the drone flies away, the landing gear goes up just like something out of Star Wars. It’s way kewl!

In my opinion, these kinds of mental collaborations are what the Mensa experience can be about. I qualified for Mensa around 30 years ago, though most of that time I was inactive. That was back in the early days of the PC revolution in which I worked for many years. A few years ago, on a whim, I reactivated my Mensa membership and that’s how I eventually met up with Dennis and others like TC Shaw, and Gary Tower at the monthly SCAM Hooters SIG. Lately, I’ve noticed that several members, in person or in writing, have been

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I remembered reading an article about him a few years back: the enormous amounts he ate (*McDonald's stock must have taken a big hit the day he died*), his difficulties in sleeping, etc. His statistics were on a chart next to him. His height was listed at slightly over six feet and his girth---well he was 1200 plus pounds. I thought of my garage. I thought of the city garage. I edged closer while covering my remaining fries, (*one never knows about after-life sneak snack attacks*) and was checking the length of his arms against mine. I kicked the fries I had dropped behind him and out of sight. I figured, if he was as greedy in death as in life, he could at least bend over and pick them up. What I didn't read about was his personal hygiene. His arm length seemed normal for his height, which meant, no way Jose! No possible way could he have reached where one needs to reach from time to time. I figured his nether region would cover approximately half the state of Delaware. Nobody's arms are that long. Could they be stretched far enough to reach his unthinkable? I thought not and it was my bet he didn't waste grub money on useless Charmin. And money? How can one who spends all day with a burger in each hand manage to hold down a job or specifically to pay the gargantuan food bill which, I'm sure, would surpass the food bill for the Detroit Lion's and the Miami Dolphin's training camps combined. Did he own his own Micky Dee franchise?

Now, John is gone and most households can not afford to train the young and up-coming athletes who might one day surpass his long-standing record.

We are the 'America's Cup' of the eating world and desperately need to keep the tradition alive.

We have a country full of eager young competitors who are more than anxious to whet their appetites with a measly few dozen burgers. The Japanese have only the sprinter but we have a sure lock on the marathon for years to come if we can only keep the burgers and fries coming.

Then, some lucky child with an unquenchable appetite might someday out-perform and out-weigh---the greatest of all time, Big John,---Big Bad John.-----

Someone dropped a quarter and my eyes misted as the air was filled with Lee Greenwood's patriotic song:

----- "I'm proud to be an American-----"

The time has come to talk about SCAMs finances.

We lose money printing and mailing the newsletter to all our members. It costs quite a bit more to do this than the amount of money that national sends us.

In the past, we have made up the shortfall by hosting a Regional Gathering every other year. We usually showed at least a thousand dollars in profit from the RG, which covered the newsletter shortfall. The problem is that attendance has been following off for years at many Regional Gatherings, ours included. The last RG we put on (2012) was so poorly attended that we lost money on it.

One solution is to beef up the RG in an effort to attract more people. The problem here is one of lack of people to actually do the work at the RG. We had no shortage of people willing to plan it, and plenty of people did stuff before the RG but we actually had to hire people to staff some of the positions needed to pull off an RG.

The way around this is to drum up more people to staff the RG, but our pleas for more participation from our members have fallen on deaf ears.

Given the problems presented in the prior two paragraphs, I'm fairly certain it is safe to state that SCAM will not be hosting RGs any more. Which leaves us with the question of how to make up the newsletter shortfall.

The most obvious answer, to save on printing and mailing by going to more electronic distribution is not a solution. It actually increases our costs. While we could save money by printing fewer copies, our postage costs would soar. To get affordable postage rates, we have to mail at least 200 copies a month. Otherwise the price per newsletter shoots up fast.





To stem the newsletter drain, we can go to fewer newsletters a year, or we can save on printing by decreasing the number of pages.

We don't have to do anything in the next month or two. We will not go broke for almost two years at the present rate. We really do need solve this problem within the next year or SCAM will become a vastly different beast.

So what will it be? Smaller newsletter, or less frequent newsletter? Send a response to me at: locsec@scam.us.mensa.org. The most frequent solution suggested is very likely the way we'll go.

May 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1		3 GO!
4	5 C.A.B.A.G.E.	6		8	9	
11	12 C.A.B.A.G.E.	13	14	15	16	17 GO!
18	19 C.A.B.A.G.E.	20	21	22	23	24 GO!
25	26 C.A.B.A.G.E.	27	28	29	30	

SCAM Calendar of Events for May 2014

2nd - 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.

7th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

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

10th - Saturday 6:00 PM

SCAM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Come join us at the CrossFire Deli & Grill, 2447 N. Wickham Rd., where we will discuss the future of SCAM. There is also a rumor that "The George" will buy the first round.

Contact: "The George", glebovitz@att.net, for more info.

31st - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.I.

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.

MENSA TESTING

May 17 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 June 21.

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

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 May 2014

WELCOME TO SCAM

Jack Brittain

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

David Rojas

WELCOME BACK!

Barbara Byrnes
Amy Sue Duffy

Charles Fulks Jr.
Kenneth Kline

MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>3rd</i>	Brian Conway	<i>21st</i>	Joan Siedman
<i>6th</i>	Barry Ebert	<i>23rd</i>	Stephen Curtis
<i>7th</i>	Kenneth Kline	<i>25th</i>	James Stewart
<i>12th</i>	John McKeown	<i>26th</i>	Mark Zelios
<i>14th</i>	Michael Friedman	<i>26th</i>	Mark Williams
<i>15th</i>	Jean O'Brien	<i>27th</i>	Sean Freeman
<i>17th</i>	Douglas Dial	<i>27th</i>	Karen Freiberg
<i>19th</i>	Denise Jeffreys	<i>30th</i>	Francis Stump
<i>19th</i>	Eric Sperry		



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 for a birthday in May, I would look at someone that most would never have thought was a mathematician. At least, she was not a professional mathematician. But her work with mathematics changed society.

Florence Nightingale (*born May 12, 1820 and died August 13, 1910*) is probably best remembered as a nurse and reformer of hospital sanitation methods. Unknown to most was her use of new techniques of statistical analysis. Nightingale helped to promote what was then a revolutionary idea (and a religious one for her) that social phenomena could be objectively measured and subjected to mathematical analysis. Her work with medical statistics was so impressive that she was elected to membership in the Statistical Society of England. This was a triumph for women of mathematics in the Victorian England era.

Nightingale was not alone in her passion for numbers. The word “statistics” appears to have been introduced to the English language in 1798 by the Scottish landowner Sir John Sinclair. Many of the early Victorians statisticians regarded statistics as more than the mere collection of social data or a set of techniques. For them, statistics was “the new study of man in society”, which would enable them to make predictions about the social conditions of the poor and laboring classes. One of the health reformers of the day, William Farr, was instrumental in helping Nightingale convince the British government to revamp sanitary conditions in their hospitals.

When very young, Florence begged her parents to let her study mathematics. Her mother did not approve, since she thought home duties of a woman would be neglected. Her father, who loved mathematics and had communicated that love to her when she was a little girl, nevertheless urged her to study more appropriate subjects “for a woman to be marriageable”. They finally relented, and she received tutoring from J.J. Sylvester (professor of mathematics at Oxford and Johns Hopkins, as well as founder of the *American Journal of Mathematics*).

Nightingale showed an aptitude for mathematics and a keen interest in statistics. In the mornings, the young Nightingale would study material on statistics of public health and hospitals. She said her enjoyment was immense and she found the sight of a long column of figures “perfectly reviving” (*how excited would she have been to review today the U.S. Government columns of figures on medical expenses?*)

In October 1853, the conflict of Russia and an alliance of European countries over the declining Ottoman Empire turned into the Crimean War. Nightin-

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gale volunteered her services and was asked by the Secretary of War to be superintendent of the female nursing establishment for the English military hospital at Scutari, Turkey. While there, she was dismayed at the appalling lack of sanitation and the carelessness in handling of medical records, as well as a complete lack of coordination among hospitals and no standardized reporting methods. Some might wonder today if much has changed since then!

The statistical evidence from mortality rates in civilian and military hospitals that she collected and analyzed with Farr showed that unsanitary living conditions lead to the diseases of typhus, typhoid, and cholera. Moreover, the Crimean data and other statistical calculations revealed more troops died from these diseases and unsanitary living conditions than had died in London during the plague year of 1655. Later, Nightingale demonstrated that three times as many soldiers died at home and abroad during peacetime than when they were at war because of overcrowding and filth in the industrialized cities.

Nightingale and Farr understood that the use of visual aids and graphs should be used to help those not accustomed to looking at statistical data or life tables. Nightingale developed graphic methods, including the polar area graph, which is similar to the pie chart created by Scottish economist William Playfair (1801). The polar area graph was similar to a modern circular histogram. It was cut into twelve equal angles, where each slice represented one month for the year, which revealed changes over time. Areas had colored wedges which were in proportion to the statistic it represented. Nightingale's presentation and her graphs not only dramatized the extent of needless deaths of soldiers during the Crimean War, but it was used as a tool to persuade the British government and British medical profession that deaths were preventable if sanitation reforms were implemented in military and civilian hospitals.

There has been some research indicating that there was considerable bickering and a power struggle between Nightingale and Sir John Hall, the chief British army medical officer in Crimea. Also, that Nightingale believed the mortality rates were attributed to poor nutrition and overworking of soldiers. But that the true cause of death was not discovered and eliminated until Lord Palmerston of Parliament sent a sanitary commission out to Scutari to improve ventilation and clean the sewers.

Whatever the interpretation by historians, it does not diminish nor detract from the tireless efforts and statistical record gathering with analysis that she performed under some of the most demanding conditions. Equally important was her bringing to the attention of the medical community and the govern-

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ment the need of statistical analysis of records. Not only did it save many lives, but its success prompted the application of similar data analysis by other government agencies and commercial enterprises in Britain.

During the American Civil War, Nightingale was a consultant on army health to the U.S. government. She also responded to a British war office request for advice on army medical care in Canada. Her mathematical activities included ascertaining “the average speed of transport by sledge” and calculating the time required to transport the sick over the immense distances of Canada.

Through efforts by Nightingale, a Statistical Society Committee was set up for the campaign to keep hospital statistics in a uniform scheme that would permit comparative studies. After the International Statistical Congress of London in 1860 endorsed Nightingale’s plans, she convinced London and Parisian hospitals to comply with her forms she had developed. In 1862, the results of this standardization of hospital reports and statistical data collection were published in *the Journal of the Statistical Society of London* (1862). Because of her diligence and expert skill in reporting and illustrating statistical data for sanitary reform in military and civilian hospitals, William Farr nominated her as the first woman to be elected a Fellow of the Statistical Society of London in October 1858. In that same year, she was elected to the Statistical Congress, and she was made an honorary foreign member of the American Statistical Association in 1874.

There was a movie made about her in 1985, starring Jaclyn Smith. It would be interesting to see if Hollywood mentioned her use of statistics in the war and while in Britain. Or, if it simply concentrated on the clash of an upper-class Victorian woman against a traditional Victorian closed male army world. As far as media goes for a replica of her persona: At one time the London British Library had on loan the only known recording of Nightingale’s voice, on a wax cylinder. I wonder how Nightingale would have felt being portrayed in voice and video by one of *Charlie’s Angels*.

While Florence Nightingale is rightly acknowledged and highly venerated for her role in reforming nursing in the mid-nineteenth century, she clearly deserves more recognition than she has received in our history books for her revolutionizing nursing through her use of statistics. Her investigative statistical work led to a decline in the many preventable deaths that occurred throughout the nineteenth century in English military and civilian hospitals. Perhaps she should not only be remembered as the “Lady with the Lamp”, but as the “Lady of the Law of Averages”.

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Hey you guys...

Please don't close. I thoroughly enjoy reading the newsletter, yes George, I did miss you. Ok, so I am not much of a socializer. In this house we go to bed at 8pm. Get up early for work. And what the hell is a C.A.B.A.G.E. Would be real helpful if you would let people know what that means...or is it only for the "in" people that already knows the meaning?

And seriously, do you *really* think I want to meet you at Hooters? Really? Oh yeah, that's a good idea. Let's get to know each other... I am excited about talking to people whose eyes just keep roving all over the waitress. But they have really great wings & beer. Well, count me in because God knows there is not another restaurant in the state that serves *that* combination.

Now onto the Crossfire Grill. I would like to attend but could someone please explain to my husband why I am going out without him to meet a bunch of people I don't know. Truly enjoy my honey's company and we get very few hours together. So yeah, I don't think I will be making that one either (*speaker sounds interesting, could you Skype me from the restaurant? Oh well, worth asking*) Besides I am shy. And have had some bad experiences with extremely judgmental individuals. Plus I'm shy. Really. Truly.

So if you don't close I will promise to try to write a rebuttal to your wit & wisdom, George. And for crying out loud, just *WASH YOUR BATH TOWEL*.

Beth Rutenber

NURSING...

Continued

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3. Stinnett, Sandra. "Women in Statistics: Sesquicentennial Activities," *The American Statistician*, May 1990, Vol. 44, No. 2, 74-80.
4. Wadsworth Jr., Harrison, Stephens Kenneth, and Godfrey A. Blanton," *Modern Methods for Quality Control and Improvement*", Wiley & Sons. 1986. Discusses history of graphical methods in quality control and F. Nightingale's contributions.

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wrestling with a question that is a very fundamental concern. Specifically, what is the purpose of SCAM and is it a viable organization? Now I see another ExComm member, George Lebovitz, expressing similar concerns in his April column about perceived apathy and lack of purpose. So I guess for my part, I'd like to try to help do something about it. Therefore I have decided to toss my hat into the ring and run for a seat on the ExComm. I hope you will vote for me in the election.

George makes a good point that part of the problem may be that our membership is stretched out over a large piece of geography and that's very true. Our geography probably encompasses more than a hundred miles of coastline. But can you imagine what it would be like being a Mensa member in Brevard County or Indian River County without SCAM? What do you have to do? Go to Orlando to meet up with like-minded people? Honestly, I don't think I'd see a point in remaining an active member of Mensa at all without SCAM. So here's how I feel... I don't want to see SCAM disappear into the bit bucket. *(That's where the letters go when you backspace on your keyboard.)* To me, that's not an acceptable outcome.

I sincerely hope you will join us at the general meeting on May 10th at the Crossfire Deli and Grill (located at the intersection of Wickham & Lake Washington roads in Melbourne: <http://crossfiredeli-grill.com>). I'm going to take George up on his offer to buy everyone's first round. Count me in!

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and I hope you'll mark your calendars for this event. I hope you will all take an active part in trying to make SCAM a better, more viable organization. It's about meeting people on a regular basis and spending time among a circle of friends who appreciate and value the ability and knowledge in each of us. Now is the time to come to the table and make SCAM into your organization. The hardest thing about becoming an active part of something is taking the first step...just show up!

—JJ

jjanson@seaworthy.com

First order of news for May: Don't miss Tampa Bay Mensa's "MaRGaritaville" Regional Gathering over Memorial Day weekend. They've been working very hard to produce a large number of quality programs and events, and enthusiasm is running high. A Gathering is one of the best opportunities to enjoy an "immersion experience" in Mensa, where you can interact with over a hundred people as curious and intelligent as you are. There will also be a panel discussion/Q&A with Communication Officer Marc Lederman, Secretary Brian Reeves, and yours truly about what's happening in American Mensa. For more details, visit the MaRGaritaville facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/222609511232064/> then go to www.tampa.us.org to register.

Central Florida Mensa hosted a tremendously successful promotional event at MegaCon 2014 in Orlando in March. They served as a sponsor for the Con, and over a three day period their booth was visible to thousands of convention-goers, hundreds of whom stopped by to visit and ask about Mensa, pick up promotional materials, and take the on-site Mensa Admission Test. This is the biggest promotional event of its type held in Florida, and David Fleming and his team of volunteers deserve kudos for their dedication and hard work.

Also in March, I re-booted the Region 10 email list which had been sitting fallow on the American Mensa server for the past few years, and added as many local group officers as I could so we could openly discuss Mensa matters, including the American Mensa Board of Directors meeting held in late March. I'm happy to report that there was more discussion on that list in the first couple of weeks than had occurred in any two-month period since it was initially launched, demonstrating that it will be a useful tool to ask questions and share information about local group issues as well as national concerns to local groups. However, it's not just for local officers, but for anyone who has an interest in Mensa events and policies. If you'd like to join, go to <http://www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/region10> and fill in the Subscribe section. (*Note: This list is only open to current members of Mensa in Region 10.*)

Going over the membership metrics for the end of the 2013-2014 membership year, I found a surprising factoid. Under demographics, Mensans are sorted into six Generations, the youngest of which are Millennials (ages 14-32) and Homeland Generation (ages 13 and younger). Surprisingly, nearly a quarter of you fall into these two groups, defying the conventional expectation that Florida would have an older-skewing membership. In fact, Region 10 has a higher percentage of young members than any of the other nine Regions! This is a good sign for the future of Mensa, and I look forward to seeing more of you taking on volunteer and leadership positions in your local groups and beyond as you make

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Minutes of the April 2014 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:03 pm.

Members Present: Wynn Rostek, Karen Freiberg, Dennis Logan, and George Lebovitz.

Guests: Zanne Rostek.

The minutes of the March, 2014 minutes were approved.

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

- *Treasurer's report*¹
- *Testing:* Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email².

In a further attempt to try to get SCAM members involved, Dennis suggested that we try calling. However, our contact list is sketchy. We will try to get an updated member list, preferably with phone numbers (as well as email addresses) from American Mensa.

To the great surprise of many (*myself included*), we have a candidate for the ExComm in the upcoming election! Joe Janson has indicated a willingness to serve. The sitting ExComm will, of course, vet Mr. Janson's sanity prior to accepting his hat being thrown into the wringer as it were.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 7th, 2014, at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm.

1. *General Fund: \$437.34, RG Fund: \$533.24, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.31, Total Assets: \$2,178.89. Note: the RG Fund will be merged into the General Fund and no longer maintained.*

2. *Contacted 5 candidates for the first time, 13 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. Next test session is April 19, 2014 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa*