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SCAM

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Happy Labor Day!



Company Policy?



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(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



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

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

Happy Labor Day to all! To many of us, this occasion is merely an “end of summer” celebration whose purpose, not unlike Memorial Day (the “beginning of summer” celebration), is to have family and friends over for an evening of barbecue and beer. Of course, others will merely appreciate having another paid day off from work.

The few who have some idea of the reason for this holiday will appreciate the fact that over a hundred years ago, working people banded together (and formed *Unions*) to protest the unsafe and intolerable working conditions of that era. There will be a collective sigh of relief (from among this few) that our working conditions are so much better than those of our ancestors.

Fewer yet will understand, however, that workers’ struggles, in the present day, are far from over. As I write these words, a company is adopting a policy of disciplining its employees if they (on average) use the restroom more than 6 minutes a day when not on an established break.

We still have poultry processing plants where the employees (mostly women) have to relieve themselves while still working on the production line. Yes, these things are happening here in the good old USA. Perhaps Labor Day should be a call to action on these and other worker abuses.

On another vein, *The SCAM* received responses to the question I posed last month about how many of our members dream of opening a small business. They are published in this issue. If you wish to respond, it is not too late. Send it in.

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.

A person can get seriously hurt doing scientific experiments. I was in a check-out line staring at the back of a guys head to determine why his scalp was wrinkled and funny looking.

Well, actually I was just staring because people stare at things like that. It's not just me.

The Pope would have stared at this one. It was a true classic. It looked like several wet towels that someone had just dropped.

I guessed that it probably wasn't from slapping his forehead repeatedly. That would have caused horizontal wrinkles. These were knotted and rolled every which way. I was looking for patterns like every other normal person does. Like, that set of wrinkles could be two game birds fighting to the death or maybe Santa passed out in front of a hearth. Or...

No, that couldn't be. There's no contrast. If only he had colored wrinkles. Then! Oh! No!

He totally caught me off guard. He spun around and glared right into my eyes like I was some kind of pervert.

What! Me, a pervert?

I was instantly shamed. I put my arm up and turned from side to side like I was fending off tiny invisible space aliens that were mounting a major attack and I hadn't even noticed his funny head.

He should have been grateful that anyone would look at him anyway.

He was not exactly a chick magnet. What an ingrate!

Instead, froth began building at the corners of his mouth and it said, my acting hadn't fooled him at all. That's when my self-preservation instinct kicked in.

It said, "Get out of Dodge you fool."

My mind was quick but my feet were quicker. They left before I had decided which direction to go. My acting career stayed. It was going nowhere.

But, how had he known? I was the one who had been violated. I had a right to look as long as he didn't see me. Didn't I? How could he have known that I was staring at his unusual cranial features. Do I have SSPP (secret super probing power) that gave him instant migraine? Could he feel a probing stare that bounced from crease to crease and over each individual wrinkle? Why was his blood boiling just because I took a little peek? How did he know? And then,

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I am put in mind of the iconic WW II recruitment poster with the pointing figure over the caption "Uncle Sam wants YOU!" So let's treat this brief article as an attempt to recruit as many Space Coast Mensans as possible to the sort of event they have all (mostly) been clamoring for: a discussion group with some decent content.

Decent ?! Webster's, after some notions of fitting, modest, and socially conforming, comes up with "reasonably good." That does the job reasonably well. I am trying to avoid the phrase "intellectual content" because that will turn some folks away, but I do hope some such content will sneak in.

Here's what I envision. People arrive and ask "What's tonight's topic." I say "whatever's on your mind, except partisan politics." They may or may not have anything on their mind and tell me so. After a while I tap on a glass - clink, clink - and call the meeting to order, immediately observing that this is not a meeting but a conversational gathering. Several interesting topics are mentioned and some folks hold forth on them. After a spell a particular topic may seem to be holding people's attention and we continue with it until everyone is tired of it and we all go home - for a couple who want to go on for a while on their favorite topic, which might turn out to be a promising topic for October. For more information, check the blurb on the calendar page.

Here are some non-partisan topics that have occurred to me lately:

- * **Is intellectual content** really a turnoff for Mensans? Should it be?
- * **Some entrepreneurs** want to build a touristy tramway to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and another group wants to build up a commercial and residential area just outside the entrance. Good idea?
- * **Welcome to the Everything Boom** — and, quite possibly, the Everything Bubble. Around the world, nearly every asset class is expensive by historical standards.
- * **Hobby Lobby** - As conservatives celebrated coming out on the winning side of a divisive social issue, their court victory may have also handed Democrats an issue that will turn out liberal voters. Really non-partisan, politically.
- * **Good fences make good neighbors.** When ethnic groups clash, we usually try to encourage peace by integrating them. Let them get to know one another or perform a joint activity. This may be the wrong approach.
- * **A poll of leading economists**, representing a wide spectrum of viewpoints, was asked whether the "Obama stimulus" reduced unemployment. All but one of those who responded said that it did, a vote of 36 to 1. A follow-up question

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my power couldn't possibly be secret if he knew I was staring. Maybe he has SSDP (*secret super detection power*). Maybe we both had secret power that could only connect to each other like a jig-saw puzzle. I had to know.

Okay! I'm going with the DSSP (*dual secret super powers*).

That was just too eerie to be anything else.

The wrinkle episode taught me something. I'm not sure what except that when people froth a person can get pummeled. My skin will be forever grateful to my rapid feet.

And now, I'm thinking that maybe there might be other people with unusual secret super powers.

Since some people have the power to instantly connect with their dual super power person without actually seeing them, I decided to find out just how prevalent this secret super power is.

I had heard that a natural survival trait will cause a person to look in the direction of any quick movement. So, my movement was not quick, and in fact, there was no movement at all. I already had my head turned and was staring at a guy on the freeway before we caught up to him and passed.

He wasn't even odd looking and had no reason what-so-ever to get upset but, upset he was and big time. Before we were even in his peripheral vision his head sprung around from the forward driving position, like an over-wound spring had just snapped, and his stare captured me in a death lock. His eyes were cold and uncompromising. He knew I had been staring and I knew it was not the time to re-introduce my acting lessons. It was like I had just rabbit punched him with brass knuckles.

He swerved at me like I was a leper who needed to be disposed of before I infected the world.

I barely managed to avoid a collision. What's with the road rage? Why does one become so incensed solely from being stared at?

Wow! This scientific experiment had really gotten out of hand.

I immediately felt a need to rethink the whole procedure and possibly increase my life insurance.

So, what caused him to turn and catch me staring?

Did he feel I was decoding his most private thoughts. Did he feel an itch in his head that could only be scratched by bludgeoning the one who was mere-

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Disclaimer: This article is strictly for purposes of discourse and is not intended to provide specific business, tax, or legal advice. There are risks involved in starting any business, some of which are addressed here, and others which may never have previously occurred in the recorded history of the known world. The author does not necessarily have first-hand experience with some of the practices identified or alluded to here. Particular types of businesses may not be appropriate for particular people. There can be no assurance that a startup small business will be profitable in the near or long term, nor can there be any certainty that said small business will or will not end up as a complete financial disaster. Persons starting a business do so at their own risk, as do persons who choose not to start a business. Past performance, factual or fantasy, does not guarantee future results.

1. Quit your day job, because you're all in!
2. Don't bother with a business plan. Jump right into it!
3. Don't define the expected customer base. You know that anyone and everyone will want what you're offering.
4. If you're proud, be loud! The more money you spend on advertising, the more traffic you'll see.
5. Don't concern yourself with permits, licenses, or taxes, since that's all contrary to the entrepreneurial spirit that made us great.
6. Half the square footage in your house can be written off as a business expense.
7. If "they" sold billions, and "yours" is better (*because everyone you know tells you so*), then you can look forward to at least selling millions.
8. Leverage all your assets since you'll be making millions soon.
9. Expert business consultants always know what they're talking about.
10. Learn how to influence your associates by reading *The Brain Dead Manager*, available at www.BrainDeadPress.com.

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on whether the stimulus was worth it produced a slightly weaker but still overwhelming 25 to 2 consensus. Leaving aside for a moment the question of whether the panel is right, which would be a partisan question, let me ask whether you knew that the pro-stimulus consensus among experts was this strong, or whether you even knew that such a consensus existed. Do we really know what's going on. Are the media too partisan. Can that be helped. Etc., Etc.

This discussion event is scheduled before the newsletter deadline, so I can promise to review it for the October SCAM and you can all read about yourselves. Friends and spouses who just want to listen are certainly welcome. Hopefully, one useful topic of discussion might be how we can do better the next time.

STOP THAT!**Continued**

(Continued from page 6)

ly looking at him? I was not only a failure but in great jeopardy as well. However, my experiment was not totally fruitless. I learned that staring and road-rage could quickly get a person in very deep doo-doo.

I made a last second screech off at the next exit and used the back roads to head for home. My experiment was over, finished, kaput. A glass of wine in my easy chair would help my frazzled nerves. My blood pressure had gone through the roof. I'd need a handful of Zanex, along with the wine, to get my mind to a better place after the near-death experience. Some day, after my head finally clears, I'm thinking that maybe, just maybe, I'll be able to make sense of this whole crazy thing.

Then, just when I was almost home my head snaps. Yes! There he was. I somehow knew before I even turned. Some freakazoid hayseed just staring me right in the eye.

Staring at me like it was his constitutional right. Who does he think he is?

What're you looking at you #%*&@# *%&#* pervert?.....

I've had a long and varied career. I have worked for small companies, large corporations, and have had my own company, so I feel I may have some insight into why having your own business is so highly valued today.

Right up front, let me tell you that I suspect that having your own business is no more desirable today than it was 30 years ago. Having your own small business means unbelievably long hours with no time off. In my business, it took me 14 hours a day, 7 days a week to keep it going. (It was a small software company for the over-interested.)

Unless you were born into money, it is likely to take every penny you have saved, can scrape together, and borrow from friends and family to get the business off the ground.

So what do you get for investing every penny you can lay your hands on and every waking hour of your life for several years? An 80 percent chance of seeing all that go down the drain in the first three to five years. That's right, four out of five startups will not survive to see their five year anniversary.

So why on earth do so many people long for their own business? Because, as bad as risking everything for your own business is, working for someone else has become much worse.

It used to be that a big company could provide you with insurance, time off, profit sharing, a chance for advancement, and a pension at the end of your career. One by one, each of these has been eliminated in the name of corporate profits and executive bonuses.

Everything not related to executive positions has been off-shored, out-sourced, or part-timed without benefits.

It used to be that your bosses had some respect for your abilities. Today, showing signs of respect for the worker is a sure sign of management weakness. The executive attitude today is, "Lay 'em off. When they have to ask 'do you want fries with that,' they will think back fondly of the position we gave them."

What business executives have failed to realize is that decades of this treatment has changed the way talented people work. More and more you see groups of talented people starting their own businesses, bringing products to market via Kickstarter and other funding sites. These workers are smart enough to avoid entanglement with traditional management and venture capitalists. They are cutting out the middlemen and going straight to the marketplace.

Corporate greed is destroying itself, and a new way of doing business is rising from its ashes.

September 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1		3	4		6 GO!
7	8 C.A.B.A.G.E.	9	10	11		
14	15 C.A.B.A.G.E.	16	17	18	19	20 GO!
21	22 C.A.B.A.G.E.	23	24	25	26	
28	29 C.A.B.A.G.E.	30				

SCAM Calendar of Events for September 2014

5th - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street. **Hosted by:** *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

9th - Tuesday 7:00 PM

SALON (NEW EVENT)

Please see article on [Page 15](#) for details.

13th - Saturday 6:00 PM

MENSA MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER

NEW EVENT! (Please see article on [Page 15](#) for details.)

19th - Friday 5:00 PM

GIITBP

Come join us at our newest event (*Give In To Beer Pressure*) at Squid Lips at the foot of the Eau Gallie Causeway (1477 Pineapple Ave.) in Melbourne. **Contact:** *Vera Cartwright (864)430-0126.*

27th - 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, 474-4075 for details.*

EXCOMM MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

MENSA TESTING

Sept. 20 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 Oct. 18.

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

Of CABAGEs and Coffee: (Our Regular Events)

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

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

Membership Notes for September 2014

WELCOME TO SCAM

James Adam

Brian Kober

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Cedric Ching

WELCOME BACK!

Barbara Dobbs

Michael Freeman

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st	Wade Hollowell	12th	Janet Mueck
2nd	George Patterson	12th	Jacqueline Jacobs
2nd	John Gaughan	13th	Eric Swiechowski
7th	Leah Simpson	17th	Michael Fuller
10th	R. Kent Buchanan	28th	Charles Satchwill
12th	Jack Brittain	30th	William Corey
12th	Robert Allen		



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 the mathematician birthday of September, I would mention a rather lesser known (though exceptional) mathematician. Who for many years was represented by the picture of the wrong person!

Adrien-Marie Legendre (luh-zhan-dra), (*born September 18, 1752, in either Toulouse or Paris, France and died January 10, 1833, in Paris*), was a French mathematician whose distinguished work on elliptic integrals provided basic analytic tools for mathematical physics. Elliptic integrals find applications in the theory of numbers, algebra, geometry, differential equations, mechanics, electrostatics, and field theories.

Little is known about Legendre's early life except that his family wealth allowed him to study physics and mathematics, (Aahh... wealth to do what you wanted to do.. a dream for Mensans and others alike) beginning in 1770, at the Collège Mazarin in Paris. At least until the French Revolution, he did not have to work for a living. Nevertheless, Legendre chose to teach mathematics at the École Militaire in Paris from 1775 to 1780. In 1782 he won a prize offered by the Berlin Academy of Sciences (no easy task.. considering the rivalry between French and German mathematicians at this time period) for his effort to "determine the curve described by cannonballs and bombs, taking into consideration the resistance of air and give rules for obtaining the ranges corresponding to different initial velocities and to different angles of projection." You can see why Napoleon would later want this guy working for him!

The next year, he presented research on celestial mechanics to the French Academy of Sciences, and he was soon rewarded with membership. In 1787 he joined the French team, led by Jacques-Dominique Cassini and Pierre Mechain, in the geodetic measurements jointly conducted with the Royal Greenwich Observatory in London. At this time he also became a member of the British Royal Society (everybody wanted this mathematician around). In 1791 he was named along with Cassini and Mechain to a special committee to develop the metric system and, in particular, to conduct the necessary measurements to determine the standard meter. He also worked on projects to produce logarithmic and trigonometric tables. He was one of the busiest and most prolific mathematicians of that period.

The Academy of Sciences was forced to close in 1793 during the French Revolution, and Legendre lost his family wealth during the upheaval. Nevertheless, he married during this time. The following year he published *Éléments de géométrie*, a reorganization and simplification of the propositions from Euclid's *Elements* that was widely adopted in Europe (*even though his text is full of incorrect attempts to defend the parallel postulate.. sometimes*

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geniuses make mistakes). Legendre also gave a simple proof that π is irrational, as well as the first proof that π^2 is irrational, and he conjectured that π is not the root of any algebraic equation of finite degree with rational coefficients (i.e., π is a transcendental number). He was never a believer in the 'pie-in-the-sky' unproven theories.

His *Éléments* was even more influential in the United States, undergoing numerous translations starting in 1819; one such translation went through some 33 editions. The French Academy of Sciences was reopened in 1795 as the Institut Nationale des Sciences et des Arts, and Legendre was installed in the mathematics section. When Napoleon reorganized the institute in 1803, Legendre was retained in the new geometry section. In 1824 he refused to endorse the government's candidate for the Institut and lost his pension from the École Militaire, (he was known for standing up for his principles in believing who was qualified for admission) where he had served from 1799 to 1815 as the mathematics examiner for graduating artillery students.

Legendre's 1806; "New Methods for the Determination of Comet Orbits" contains the first comprehensive treatment of the method of least squares, although priority for its discovery is shared with his German rival Carl Friedrich Gauss. Although Gauss was probably the pre-eminent mathematician of that era, Legendre gave him a run for his money.

In 1786 Legendre took up research on elliptic integrals. In his most important work of 1825–37; "Treatise on Elliptic Functions", he reduced elliptic integrals to three standard forms now known by his name. He also compiled tables of the values of his elliptic integrals and showed how they can be used to solve important problems in mechanics and dynamics.

And now, for the strange part of Legendre's life: If you look through the literature, almost every biography of Adrien-Marie Legendre shows a lithograph which illustrates the biography of an unrelated contemporary politician who was named Louis Legendre (1752-1797). This Louis served as a sailor for ten years before setting up a butcher shop in Paris. He was one of the leaders in the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789. Despite a lack of formal education, his revolutionary ideas helped him get elected to the National Convention and he served as its president for awhile.

Note: The Encyclopedia Britannica incorrectly displayed the reproduction of a painting by Zéphirin Belliard (1798--1843?) of this political 'Legendre' for the mathematician, Adrien-Marie Legendre. The correct 'picture' of the mathematician Legendre was finally determined (2005) after much research by

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New Events for September 2014

Tuesday, Sept. 9th at 7pm.:

2nd TUESDAY SALON

Come join us for a **Salon** session at George and Barbara's for an evening of "enlightened (?)" discussion, which starts at 7 pm, and lasts until whenever. Light refreshments available. RSVPs not required or expected (*Mensans being what they are*) but would prove helpful for planning. 301 Sand Pine Road, In-dialantic. 0.8 miles from Eau Gallie Causeway, along Riverside Dr. SW corner.

Contact George at 474-4074 or george314159@gmail.com.

Saturday, Sept. 13th at 6 pm.:

MENSA MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER

We will be "getting together" at the **Red Ginger** restaurant at the Melbourne Square Mall, 1700 W. New Haven Ave. Our guest speaker is a biologist from the Cape, Don George, who will discuss "The Plight of the Indian River Lagoon".

Contact Joe Janson at 338-5833 for details.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Continued

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interested historians. The library of the *Institut de France* had a portrait of the mathematician Adrien-Marie Legendre, which had been totally overlooked! It appears in a sketchbook of 73 caricatures (*73 portraits-charge de membres de l'Institut*) next to a similar caricature of the mathematician, Fourier (heads in full color, bodies lightly drawn in pencil). This caricature drawing (of a man with a huge head of flowing white hair, thin face, and sinister-looking eyes) is the only known picture of the great mathematician. If I had a choice as Legendre: I would have kept the portrait of the other more handsome Legendre <grin>.

References:

1. Grattan-Guinness, I. (1970). "The Development of the Foundations of Mathematical Analysis from Euler to Riemann". Cambridge Press, MA.
2. Hancock, H. (1958). "Theory of Elliptic Functions". Dover Publications.
3. Pintz, J. (1980). "On Legendre's Prime Number Formula". *American Mathematical Monthly*. 87(9), pps. 733-735.
4. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 8th ed.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

**July 31,
2014**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$735.66
Reserve Fund	1208.56
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	\$1944.22
 <u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$732.88
Mensa Funding	163.90
Newsletter Printing	161.12
Newsletter Subscription	0.00
Misc.—Maintenance Fee	0.00
Ending Balance	\$735.66
 <u>Reserve Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$1208.51
Interest	0.05
Ending Balance	\$1208.56

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The SCAM calendar (*click on "Calendar" from the SCAM home page*) has been converted to Google. Clicking on an event brings up pertinent information and can be coordinated with many calendar and scheduling programs automatically.

Give In To Beer Pressure will be conducted on the 3rd Friday of each month at Squid Lips, located at the end of Eau Gallie Blvd., 1477 Pineapple Ave. in Melbourne, starting at 5 o'clock.

George Patterson will be conducting his first Salon (Per Wikipedia: "*A **salon** is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation.*") on September 9th with continuing salons on the second Tuesday of each month. Details, including directions to George's house, to follow.

The ExComm then discussed reinstating plans for conducting an RG (*which had been cancelled due to the abysmal attendance and financial loss at our last one*). We felt that we need to move the tentative date out closer to the cooler winter weather and ensure that we are not competing with other RGs.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, September 2nd, in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

¹ *General Fund: \$735.66, Reserve Fund: \$1,208.56, Total Assets: \$1.944.22.*

² *Contacted 5 candidates for the first time. Contacted 12 candidates for the second or third time; tested 2. Next test session is August 16, 2014 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.*

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can help with testing sites, logistics, or even training to become a proctor.

Thomas George Thomas

Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

Text: [RVC10@vtext.com](sms:RVC10@vtext.com)

Since my previous column, several things have happened right on top of each other on the National front. The minutes of the March 29 Board of Directors meeting were posted on the American Mensa website, having been approved at the July meeting, then the minutes of the July meeting were posted, having been approved unanimously via email vote. This should bring us up to date, but it's too much information to cover in a single monthly column, so I'll point you to the minutes on the website and hope that will suffice: Log in to <http://www.us.mensa.org/meetingreports>, then choose the meeting from the dropdown and click "Minutes". You can also select the September meeting in Grapevine, TX to see the upcoming Agenda, which is short but promises to engender a lot of discussion.

The main points in the upcoming Board meeting include:

- H2. Restoration of a Nominating Committee rule pending a vote on a Bylaw amendment,
- H3. Increasing the AG Registration discount for members,
- H4. Setting a new dues rate (revised since the July meeting),
- H5. Approval of the Local Group Revitalization Program and pilot project,
- H6. A consolidated Bylaws amendment that addresses both housekeeping and substantive changes which apply to all fourteen articles of the Bylaws.

I expect that many of you will have feedback on several of these topics, as well as on the motions that were passed in our previous two meetings. A good place to start is the Region 10 Discussion list. Most local group officers are already on this list, and if you'd like to join you can subscribe at the following link: <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/region10>. Discussions are also taking place on the Mensa Region 10 Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/641128319231852/>) and the AML Community Forums, particularly the "Mensa Matters" Forum (<http://community.us.mensa.org/forums/19.aspx>).

In Regional news, Southwest by South Florida Mensa is once again holding their Bikers vs Brainers trivia event in Fort Myers on October 26. This has been a good public publicity magnet, with proceeds going to their scholarship fund.

Speaking of Scholarships, the 2014-2015 Mensa Scholarship Program has launched, with Dr. Laura Peralta once again serving as our Region 10 Scholarship Chair. I hope that your group is participating!

I also hope your group is participating in Mensa Testing Day this year on Saturday, October 18. Let your friends and acquaintances know, and contact your Local Group Testing Coordinator or Executive Committee (ExComm) if you

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The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, August 12th, 2014, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:05 pm.

Members Present: Wynn Rostek, Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, Dennis Logan, and George Lebovitz. **Guests:** George Patterson Val Valek.

The minutes of the July, 2014 minutes as published in the SCAM were approved.

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

Treasurer's report¹. Joe Janson reported that he had paid for the speaker's and speaker's husband's meals at the last dinner event and requested that half the amount, \$30, be compensated. The request was unanimously approved.

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported July testing via email²

The ExComm decided that a committee was needed to organize and schedule the recurring SCAM Get Together/Dinner/Speaker events. Joe Janson will be the Chairman of the committee with members Val Valek and George Lebovitz. Although the Red Ginger offered excellent food and service, the venue was deemed unacceptable due to the fact that private dining was split into two small rooms, an untenable situation for a speaker who is presenting. Suggestions for alternate venues included Amici's, the New Century Buffet, Red Ginger in the Melbourne mall, and Domenicos. Committee members were tasked to investigate whether these places had suitable accommodations for a party of 20-30 in a private dining area. The next dinner/speaker event will be held on September 13 at 6:00 pm at a location yet to be determined and will feature guest speaker Don George, a biologist who worked as a wildlife conservator on Cape Canaveral for more than 34 years. Don is a scientist who is possibly one of those most acutely aware of the fragile Indian River Lagoon estuary and the problems that it faces. He has been studying the lagoon for most of his career and continues his observations even though he has now officially retired. Don has incredible insight into the ecosystem and has specific ideas about what is really needed there that goes far beyond the usual media banter about lawn fertilizer and oysters.

SCAM needs to expand and grow. It was suggested that we join the Cocoa Beach Chamber of Commerce and attend their frequent events which bring together hundreds of people from the area. However, before doing so, we need to produce something to hand out; a brochure, preferably with some sort of sample Mensa test. We will contact Mensa national to see if something of the sort is available.

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