

*The*

# SCAM

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# SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: [www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org)

(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**

**F**or those who are not yet aware, May is always a special month for SCAM. May is the time we, as members, get to decide who will have the honor of running our Local Group. To this end, enclosed with this issue is the ExComm ballot. When marking this ballot, please make sure you follow the instruction exactly as written, so your vote will count.

You may notice there are only five (5) candidates listed as running for 5 ExComm positions. Even though it may not seem so, there is a small chance that our new ExComm will have one or more members who are not listed. This is because you are free to write in the candidate(s) of your choice, but there are a few conditions.

First, the candidate must be eligible to hold office. Obviously, he or she must be a current member of SCAM. Also, there are a few SCAM members who are excluded from holding office. These are the NomElCom members (for the current election) and the Newsletter Editor. So, please don't vote for me.

On other business, I messed up the Calendar in last month's SCAM. The monthly meeting at Red Ginger was scheduled for April 11 (NOT the 14th as I listed). I apologize for my error and the confusion it created.

This month's SCAM features a guest column, presented as an interview, from a California member, on the need for "right to die" laws. While not exactly an uplifting topic, for some of us this is a grim reality we will need to grapple with. Whatever your view, it does merit serious discussion.

Until next month...

**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.

As you motorcycle backseat drivers know, unless you are equipped with high tech phones, yelling or screaming from the back seat (sometimes called the bitch seat) in excess of 60 mph is very seldom heard by the driver and never ever acknowledged.

However, we macho drivers understand that our sweeties (bitches) must find ways to vent so, for those who still scream into the wind, a new technique is at hand. This was demonstrated to me by some very good friends.

A stretch of highway through the Smokies called 'The Tail of the Dragon', as you might have heard, is mountainous, curvy and very dangerous. It boasts 318 curves in 11 miles with cliffs high enough to give a seasoned sky-diver a nose-bleed and a steepjack a bad case of acrophobia.

Well, some of us overly-avid drivers have to be reminded, from time to time, that we are not 20 years old and world class motorcycle racers. This can be accomplished in various ways although the method I recently learned seems to be 100% effective but should only be used with the following circumstances:

#1 When sparks from dragging foot-pegs are melting your boots and a forest fire seems imminent—

#2 A double dose of Valium does not control your shaking—

#3 The smell of warm urine is making you nauseous—

#4 Your constant vomiting is prohibiting you from screaming and the blow-back is obscuring your vision thereby severely limiting your chances to bail—

#5 Your driver is not a member of Hells Angels—

We call this method the 'Open Handed Bop' or just 'Bop' for short.

The technique is simple and effective for slowing down a NASCAR wannabe who, for unknown reasons, thinks cameras are rolling and the eyes of the world are upon him. It amounts to slamming the open palm into the helmet of the star-struck driver.

The severity of the Bop depends on the amount of deceleration desired and should only be applied to the back of the helmet and not more than twice on the first try.

Prolonged Bopping may cause disorientation, possible brain hemorrhaging and/or parasailing off a cliff without a parasail. Some drivers, however, are slow learners and need this treatment performed repeatedly until their eyes bulge, complexions become deep crimson and carotid arteries are visible to passing motorists.

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***“How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?”***, Charles De Gaulle, in *Les Mots du General*, 1962. And he was speaking only of France. The British Cheese Board claims 700 British cheeses. Records of Hammurabi’s time (c. 1700 B.C.) show that in Babylonia there were already 20 kinds of cheese. The world-wide production of cheese varieties is infinite because new varieties and sub-varieties are being created daily.

There are several ways to categorize cheeses, but even the number of categories and what is included in each category is subject to the whim of the person listing the categories. No matter how many categories are assigned to cheeses, a particular cheese may fall into more than one category, and because a cheese is a living organism, it may move from one category to another as it ages.

I will not attempt to list the various categories that cheeses fall into, but to me, the first category is the animal that supplied the milk for the cheese. Milk, by definition, comes only from mammals. Among the animals that generally produce milk for cheese are, but not limited to, cows, sheep, goats, yaks, reindeer, mares, and buffaloes. Although it is possible, I have not heard of any cheese made from mouse, whale, or lion milk.

A second category is whether the cheese is factory made or farm made.

In a cheese factory the microorganisms are cultured and standardized and thus limited.

In farm cheese the microorganisms are naturally introduced from the ambient atmosphere of the cave or curing rooms in which the cheese is ripened. Each cheese thus produced will be slightly different from the same type of cheese made in a farm next door. A truly farm made cheese will vary depending on the season, particularly on the grass or other feed that the animals ate, whether it was made from morning milk or evening milk, the season of the year, and the variations of the fermenting organisms in the cave or other location in which the cheese was ripened. Some farm made cheeses approach the definition of a factory made cheese because of the control over the cows’ feed and the fermenting organisms by the farmer.

Artisanal cheese will generally have a microorganism flora much more complex than a farm made cheese because many an artisanal cheese maker will carefully save and reproduce his selected flora so that each batch of cheese will be identical to all his previous batches.

Another category is the degree of ripening that the cheese is subject to. Fresh, unripened cheeses have no distinct curds. Examples are Cream Cheese

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and Neufchatel. Most of these cheeses are factory made. Kraft makes two brands of Cream Cheese, Philadelphia and TempTee. The ingredients are different. TempTee has no ingredients other than milk and cheese culture. Philadelphia has other ingredients. Are these two different varieties?

Curd cheeses are fresh, have distinct curds and are mild flavored. Cottage Cheese and Farmers Cheese are in this category.

Soft Ripening cheeses ripen from the outside in. They are mold ripened with an edible rind. Their flavors increase as they ripen. They are soft when ripe. When over ripe they have a distinct ammonia smell. Limburger, Liederkranz, Camembert, and Brie are the best known.

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Braking is usually instantaneous and, in most cases, accompanied by rising blood pressure, *(this is definitely the time to bail if he is wearing outlaw colors)* blurred vision, migraine and profane words that only sailors and prison inmates can understand and appreciate. It can be a life-saving method, or otherwise, although it is very sobering for a driver who is suddenly dragged from an imaginary spotlight in his moment of glory and reduced to bitch status.

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## **A Mensan in the family?**

**A**re 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?

*Editor's Note: In the following column (transcript of an interview), you will see references to SB 128. Please note this does not refer to a Florida legislative proposal. This proposal is being considered in California, where this author lives. While this issue, to my knowledge, is not currently being considered here, I believe this to be an important topic that will be facing many of us as we get older or develop terminal health issues.*

**B**allots and candidates, initiatives and proposals—Mensans, at this very moment are discussing, debating, and deciding on the future of Mensans. Sylvia Bombay is considering the platforms and candidates related to Mensa, but she's also interested in how SB 128 could affect the future of Californians. Sylvia is a Lifetime Mensa member who is urging Californians to vote "Yes" on this controversial bill. I recently sat down for a telephone interview to understand why Sylvia thinks the "End of Life Option Act" is important.

**Michelle:** *Sylvia, Thank you for sharing with our members the particulars of this issue. Can you explain why you became interested in this issue?*

**Sylvia:** Nerve damage from medication has increased pain over my entire body, incurable, and somewhat controlled by opiates, but of course with all the deleterious side effects of opiates. I've been experiencing this for over six years. I also have other conditions, mostly caused by medications. I thought about this issue for a long time, but the death of my cat Bobby was a major influence. Eight years ago, my cat, Bobby, suffered kidney failure. I thought, "At what point do I take action?" A lot of people keep their pets alive at great cost to the animal's comfort and dignity. I resolved to euthanize Bobby so that he wouldn't suffer. It occurred to me that we force people to stay alive? Do we not have the same level of compassion for human beings? Apparently not. It occurred to me that my kitty had more rights than I do.

**M:** *Sylvia, can you give our readers a brief description of the bill?*

**S:** Senate Bill 128, which goes to a vote this year, is modeled on the Oregon law which allows a person to end his/her life, at the time s/he chooses, with dignity. Most people became aware of the Oregon law, "Death with Dignity," when (terminally ill) Brittany Maynard of California, elected to move to Oregon so that she could legally end her own life. That young lady spent her last months advocating for right-to-die legislation and establishing the Brittany Maynard Fund under the aegis of the group Compassion and Choices, which advocates for the legalization of right-to-die in all fifty states. SB 128 allows personal choice end-of-life similar to the Oregon law. Protections against prosecution are written in for doctors and other health care workers, and hospitals. Protective

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provisions have been proposed for those who suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia. These provisions will ensure that no one can be persuaded or pushed against his/her will. The bill is not perfect, but it's a first step.

**M:** *Sylvia, I've read the bill, and I noted that the language as written makes no provision for someone in your circumstances, to wit: "A person may not qualify under the provisions of this part solely because of age or disability." SB 128 will only benefit those who have a condition diagnosed as terminal and with a prognosis of six months or fewer to live. You are supporting this bill even though it won't help you personally. Can you comment on that?*

**S:** Again, passing the bill is a first step. There's the possibility of a rider that might be added to this or a future amendment that would expand the law to provide for those who don't meet the current bill's criteria.

**M:** *If the bill is passed, what would be the next step?*

**S:** Just passing the bill would not be enough if you can't find health care workers who support your aim. It would be great to have at least 10 religious leaders—priests and rabbis—who would declare their support for the bill. Additionally, vigorous support from doctors and health care facilities will be needed.

**M:** *Do you have any advice for readers regardless of the bill's outcome?*

**S:** First, I'd say that the time to make sure that you know physicians and health care facilities that support your wishes is now, before you need them. Those interested in learning more can contact "Compassion and Choices" at (323) 452-5923 or [compassionandchoices.org](http://compassionandchoices.org). They can send you literature on this issue. J. C. Rowe, of C&C, is available to speak to groups, and can be contacted at (502) 422-2323. I'd be happy to speak to people between 9 am and 3 pm. My number is (650) 515-4533, but I need to limit the conversation to ten minutes due to my own condition. 808 Byron Drive, SSF, 94080 send me your phone number. I don't use a computer or other internet dependent device.

**M:** *Thank you, Sylvia, for speaking to us about SB 128. Do you have any final thoughts? (Pardon the pun.)*

**S:** (laughs) Thank you for allowing me time and space to enlarge on the issue. I'd just finish by saying that I would like everyone to understand that I am not at

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I don't normally talk about politics very often, but the upcoming SCAM ExComm elections have got me pondering what has changed. Years ago, we (SCAM) would have a full slate of candidates for the ExComm, and it was not unusual to have ten or more names on the ballot for the local elections. For the past five or six years, SCAM has been hard-pressed to find a full slate to put on the ballot.

I don't know if this is a result of the greying of SCAM, resulting in fewer members interested in the details of the running of SCAM, or if it is more fundamental. I suspect that the reasons are mostly more fundamental, and I believe the main reason for the gradual decline in active participation in SCAM can be traced to the rise of social media.

More and more people today are connected to a vast web of "friends" via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media sites. In its heyday, these services were not available, and one of the few ways to socialize with like-minded individuals was through social organizations such as Mensa. We had a broad range of ages that participated in games nights, dining excursions, and often, hours of cards at member's homes.








As the World Wide Web's fortunes have risen, so have SCAM's fortunes sank. Our group size has not changed much over the years, hovering between 200 and 250, but the number of core members that are active in the organization has shrank from about 40 to 50 in the days of old, to more like 15 to 20 today. I can't help but wonder if the group can continue to exist with this small a core of active members.

Is SCAM still filling a need in your life, or have you moved on like so many others. While National's membership numbers are still pretty good, I worry about the long term health of the organization. What niche will Mensa fill in the future? What value can it provide in an over-connected world? What of value can it provide to its members? Many programs National promotes do not hold a candle to the services provided by organizations such as AARP.

National often points out that its membership costs are lower than say the IEEE or the ACM. But membership in these professional organizations often translate directly into take home pay. I've seen scant evidence that Mensa membership does so. I believe the comparison is a sham, Mensa membership is more akin to my membership in the ARRL, an organization that represents my hobby, and lobbies on my behalf both at the local and national level, as well as the international level. Their publication, QST is a glossy, full color monthly magazine with many times the contents of

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# May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 C.A.B.A.G.E.		6	7		8 
10	11 C.A.B.A.G.E.	12	13	14	15 	
17	18 C.A.B.A.G.E.	19	20	21	22	23 GO!
24	25 C.A.B.A.G.E.	26	27	28	29 	
31	<b>MAY 22—25: MARGARITAVILLE 2015—TAMPA BAY MENSA REGIONAL GATHERING</b>					

## SCAM Calendar of Events for May 2015

### 1st - 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 - Saturday 6:00 PM

#### MONTHLY MENSA GET-TOGETHER

Featured speaker Joe Janson will speak about the uses of drones. Red Ginger Restaurant at the Melbourne Square Mall.

Hosted by: *Joe Janson, 338-5833.*

### 16th - Saturday 6:00 PM

#### SALON

Come join us at George and Barbara's, 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic, for an evening of "enlightened ?" discussion. 6 PM til whenever.

Hosted by: *G. & B, Patterson 474-4074,5 or george314159@gmail.com*

### 30th - Saturday 5:45 PM

#### S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hioki's**, 3200 NE Dixie Hwy. (US 1) in Palm Bay. It is about 2 miles south of US 192. **Contact:** *George, 474-4075 for details.*

#### EXCOMM MEETING

**Tuesday, May 5** at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

#### MENSA TESTING

**May 16** 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. Next month, testing will be held June 20.

**Contact:** Hank Rhodes, [mentstest@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mentstest@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](mailto:the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com)

## Membership Notes for May 2015

### WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Gabe Green

### WELCOME TO SCAM

Desmond Macauley  
Diane Mullinax

Thomas Shaw

### WELCOME BACK!

Michael Cooper  
Cypryan Klish II  
Aron Travis

Cary Wood

### MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

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

### 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.**

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all seeking pity for my condition. I am concerned only for what I consider to be unfair and inhumane policies. I want everyone to be able to leave this world peacefully, respectfully, and legally.

I thought about my conversation with Sylvia long after we hung up the phone. I was struck by her candor and sense of humor, both quite robust despite her illness. While reading more I came across this ironic fact: Pentobarbital is no longer available due to pharmaceutical companies' unwillingness to support its use for executing the death penalty in the US. Those who wish to end their lives must now use Secobarbital or another barbiturate.<sup>1</sup> Our nation sanctions the death penalty, but criminalizes an individual's choice to end his/her life in peace and dignity. Perhaps one day we might avail ourselves of the same level of peace in choice that Sylvia's kitty enjoyed. SB 128 is, indeed, a first step. For more information regarding the Brittany Maynard Fund, follow the link below. To see how one religious leader responded to her choice:

<http://www.people.com/article/vatican-official-condemns-brittany-maynard>

1. <http://time.com/3551560/brittany-maynard-right-to-die-laws/>



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the Mensa Bulletin. Dues are on the same order as Mensa, but ARRL has gotten many laws passed in the past few decades that benefit members. They have something real to point to.

Exercise your right to influence the course of SCAM, and vote in the upcoming elections.

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST  
FOR  
YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for  
SCAM submittal guidelines.

**O**fficial American Mensa Committee (AMC) recommendations are not reliable; members must look elsewhere this year to be well-informed. Happily, these days, a cornucopia of further resources exists to assist all members, including:

Candidates' websites and blogs (1), some including their positions on the proposed bylaws amendments (PBA);

Articles in local group newsletters, by an increasing number of contributors;

Official documents on the AML website (AMC meeting agendas, minutes, special reports);

AML Community Officers' ShareHouse (OSH) postings (2);

Relevant historical essays (3);

Continuing discussions on Facebook, Yahoo! Groups (4), the Mensa Online Community forums and in person; and

Online or telephone conversations with the candidates themselves.

Another welcome guide is the online supplement to the printed *Bulletin*, which includes ALL qualifying pro and con statements on the PBAs. (5) Also online is the *Bylaws Committee (BC) Statement for Spring 2015 Referendum*. (6) Members have expressed overwhelming opposition to Amendments 1, 7, 8 and 11 (PBAs the BC *Statement* supports). Members support Amendments 4 and 10 (which the BC *Statement* opposes with no apparent basis). It is not surprising that a simple spreadsheet (*PBA Positions Analysis: Proposed Bylaws Amendments Overview* (2)) illustrates that BC *Statement* recommendations are diametrically opposed to member sentiments. (7)

In considering my personal votes, I utilized all of the above resources. I conducted face-to-face and email conversations with current AMC members, local group officers, other leaders and trusted members. I asked myself: What are each candidate's priorities, and how do they propose to implement their ideas? How do they plan to address members' concerns and restore trust in the AMC and the National Office? If they are currently on the AMC, what motions have they authored, presented, voted for or against? Which PBAs do each of the candidates support or oppose – and why? And why are AMC-proposed amendments and BC *Statement* recommendations so at odds with the majority of member-submitted statements, notably on the most controversial issues?

By these criteria, the most promising candidates seem to be the following:

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Chairman: STONE  
1VC: KEMPER  
2VC: NEEMIDGE  
Secretary: FARRAR, NORRIS  
Treasurer: DAVIS, SALKIN

Published member sentiment on the PBAs can be summarized as follows (7):

NO on PBAs 1 – 7 – 8 – 11

YES on PBAs 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 9 – 10 – 12 – 13

Considering the candidates' positions on these PBAs, and the other insights I have gained, the positions summarized above appear to be generally in the best interest of the membership. These are observations only; my own research continues. I urge you to clarify your personal criteria for evaluating the candidates and proposed bylaws amendments, learn all you can about them and then cast your own well-informed, *intelligent* vote.

### **References:**

As of this writing: [debstoneforchair.wordpress.com](http://debstoneforchair.wordpress.com), [nicksanford.com](http://nicksanford.com), [baker-ink.com](http://baker-ink.com), [lorinorrisforsecretary.wordpress.com](http://lorinorrisforsecretary.wordpress.com), [farrarand-away.wordpress.com](http://farrarand-away.wordpress.com), [billdavisfortreasurer.com](http://billdavisfortreasurer.com), [www.gruebele.com](http://www.gruebele.com), [www.rvc4.blogspot.com](http://www.rvc4.blogspot.com), [www.tazcriss.com](http://www.tazcriss.com)

AML Community OSH: <http://community.us.mensa.org/media>. AML Website – READ – ONLINE COMMUNITY to reach the AML Community, then select Officers' ShareHouse.

[amyx.org/mensa](http://amyx.org/mensa), [www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~sander/mensa](http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~sander/mensa)

Including [M-Pol@Yahoogroups.com](mailto:M-Pol@Yahoogroups.com) and [m-grapevine@Yahoogroups.com](mailto:m-grapevine@Yahoogroups.com)

[www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/proposed-bylaws-amendments](http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/proposed-bylaws-amendments). To view pro and con statements, click on an amendment and scroll below the black line. I recommend starting with #13 and working your way UP the list.

Chaired by Past Past Chair Bakke, the AMC-appointed Bylaws Committee includes current Chair Burg and Executive Director Donahoo, plus three other (voting) AMC members and four non-AMC (non-voting) members.

As quantified by the number of pro and con statements submitted by AMC-associated writers (including former Chair Jean Becker) vs. those submitted by “regular” members. See *PBA Positions Analysis: Proposed Bylaws Amendments Overview* on the OSH (2), above.



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“FloRanGe 2015 – Another Excuse to Eat Chocolate!” gathering on Labor Day weekend. Visit <http://www.broward.us.mensa.org/rq.php> for their registration information. In-between those two is the Annual Gathering, this year in Louisville, KY. I plan to be at all of these, and look forward to seeing many of you there!

*Thomas George Thomas*



### **A Mensan in the Workplace?**

**A**re you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of “support” (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from you.

**R**egion 10 did very well with membership growth in 2015. At the close of the fiscal year on March 31, our increase in membership stood at 5.13% – more than twice the percentage of the next Region. American Mensa had an increase of 740 members over the year, 215 of which came from our Region. Only one out of twelve local groups in Region 10 had a decrease this year, and that was only 2 members (statistically insignificant). The group with the highest percentage growth was Manasota Mensa, with an outstanding 9.49% increase, while Central Florida Mensa added a stunning 59 members to their roster, leaping past Tampa Bay Mensa to become the largest group in Region 10, and into a tie for 21<sup>st</sup> largest group in the country – the highest ranking any of our groups has achieved since I started tracking it in 2008. Central Florida Mensa also had the most improved retention numbers in Region 10, although Tallahassee Mensa did better percentage-wise with a 32% reduction in lapsed members from 2014 to 2015.

Manasota Mensa had another noteworthy achievement when a panel of three member judges selected Ruth Danielle as one of four winners of the Member Event Contest! Ruth won for Manasota Mensa's Professional Meet & Greet, and her local group received a prize of \$150.00 for support.

As mentioned last month, on the weekend of April 10-12 Central Florida Mensa operated a booth at MegaCon, the Southeast region's largest fandom convention. David Fleming led a fine team of volunteers to promote Mensa at this multi-genre convention catering to the comic book, sci-fi, animé, fantasy and gaming communities (thanks to Edgar Coudal for that description), and based on the photos on the Central Florida Mensa Facebook page, the event was a colorful success – there were even Mensa Superhero banners to draw attention! This is the proactive approach that helped Central Florida achieve their terrific growth last year, and they will be sending lists of prospective members to each of the other local groups in Region 10 who offered to participate.

On a national level: You should have received both your American Mensa and Mensa International Ltd (MIL) ballot materials by now. Please be certain to familiarize yourself with all the materials and vote! While many of you will be able to vote online in the American Mensa elections, Mensa International is limited to paper ballots only. Nevertheless, it is still vitally important to make your voices heard in the International Election, as a sizable portion of your dues go to the international component, which is determined by the MIL board.

Don't forget: At the end of this month on Memorial Day weekend, Tampa Bay Mensa will kick off the summer with their "Margarita Bay" Regional Gathering in Oldsmar. Visit [www.tampa.us.mensa.org](http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org) and click on the owl for details and to register. At the end of the summer, Broward Mensa will be holding their

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**Minutes of the April, 2015 ExComm Meeting**

**T**he ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, called to order by LocSec Wynn Rostek at 6:14 pm.

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

**(Honored) Guest:** George Patterson.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** The March report was not available at the time of the meeting.

**Testing:** Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email<sup>1</sup>.

The minutes of the March, 2015 minutes as published in the SCAM were approved.

Joe Janson will be representing SCAM at the upcoming Megacon in Orlando. The May 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting at Red Ginger will feature Joe speaking about drones.

Positions on the NomElCom for the upcoming ExComm elections have been filled!

The draft of the new SCAM Bylaws needs to be enacted in order to put in place several corrections, efficiencies, and the ability to conduct ExComm business electronically.

The SCAM hard copy opt out option was accepted by some 60+ members and should result in future publication and mailing cost savings.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.

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<sup>1</sup> *Contacted 3 candidates for the first time, 16 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. Next test session will (tentatively) be Saturday, April 18th, 2015 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Prospective candidates should contact us beforehand to ensure that the session will be conducted as scheduled.*