

The

SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



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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 May to all. As no doubt all who write or edit publications know, there are times when no words come forth. As I write this, I realize that, for me, this is one of those times. So, what do I say?

Next month, the ExComm election will be upon us. This is your chance to help decide the future course of SCAM. You can choose to run for a leadership position, or you can volunteer in some other capacity.

If you read the ExComm minutes or the LocSec column in this issue, you will see that there is a need for our younger members to become involved. If you are one of those younger members, this is your moment. How can SCAM better serve you? Whatever the answer, perhaps you can help make it happen.

If you are NOT one of the younger members, there is still room for you. The need to focus more on our younger members is NOT to the exclusion of our more senior members. In the long run, we will need to help each other out.

SCAM is what you make of it.

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.

Dear concerned citizens of America:

I request my name be removed from the past election ballot as candidate for president. Since the election is now over there should be no need to hurry. "Write in", a name I have used infrequently as well as "A", "B", "C", "other" and "none of the above" has placed me in a position in which I need to explain to those who were misled into believing that I was a viable and willing candidate. I was not viable and had I been, would not have served, at least with relish. I will further explain my reluctance to those who might have insisted I serve, had I been willing, which I was not, because I realized that I could not balance the budget, restore economic growth, bring prosperity to all classes, stop the war in Afghanistan and the killings in Flint and Saginaw as the leading candidates obviously can. Perhaps, as with willing candidates, a profile is in order.

My qualifications are as follows:

- Personality-----*huh?*
- Looks-----*way below average*
- Public appeal-----*below average*
- Wealth-----*food stamps*
- Education-----*below average*
- Ambition-----*whaachu mean*
- Knowledge-----*below average*
- Ethics-----*snake belly*
- Friends in high places-----*high? yes*
- Language-----*English and other*

As you can obviously see, I would make an excellent presidential candidate, however, I do have my couch potato ways which might hinder me from becoming bosom buddies with the leaders of the 200 plus nations of the world and paying them exorbitantly for the security of our ambassadors. My forte is not smiling at people I don't like but rather knowing that my ambition level has flat-lined at the bottom of the graph. This is an important asset that my friends insist I use to my advantage but, sadly, it is not enough. Couch potato is a derogatory term and very unfair to me since I was forced to the couch only when my Lazy-Boy broke. But, as unflattering as couch potato sounds it has led me to what I consider

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There is a solution to the brouhaha about toilets in schools and other public places. In some locations the law has stepped in by specifying just who can use which toilet. We need not be so severe. The easy solution is unisex toilets.

In any public facility, where there are separate toilets for each sex, and each toilet has only one WC, and the designation of the toilets are for male-female, men-women, or some such notation, the gender designation should be removed and each toilet would become unisex. The cost? Just for the new signage. And in less than a day. We do this in our homes, airplanes, busses, and any place that uses portable toilets, why not in all public areas?

Women's toilets in most public facilities have closed stalls and separate wash basins. It would require only a change in signage for them to become unisex. Men, women, and every other gender orientation could use the stalls in complete privacy.

A second step. Not as easy, not as quick, not as cheap, and not as fast. Most large men's toilets, such as in airports and concert halls, are divided into three sections; the urinals, the hand washing sinks, and the stalls. Without rearranging the plumbing, walls could be erected within the toilet to visually separate the three areas so that the urinals could not be seen from the other areas. Then males, females, and every other sexual designation could use the same toilet. Men could use the urinals and men, women, and others could use the sinks and stalls. Anyone could use the stalls who needed or desired privacy. At little additional expense, the walls and door of each stall could be extended upward and downward to preclude someone from peeking. In many, if not

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A Mensan in the Workplace?

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

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST
FOR
YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for
SCAM submittal guidelines.

On the weekend of April 16th and 17th your ExComm, plus a couple of other members who stopped by, ran a booth at Space Coast Nerd Fest in Melbourne. It was a fun event where people-watching was the main activity as fans of superheroes, Star Wars, renaissance fair fanatics, action figures and the just-plain-weird came together in costume to celebrate everything nerdy. This was a great venue for us to appear at and we talked to a lot of people about Mensa and met a couple of new and existing members who happened to be in attendance. We had great support from our national office who sent us plenty of literature and small giveaways like bookmarks and Mensa pencils. We even offered a huge discount sponsored by the national office on taking the practice test, regularly \$18...only \$1 with the special coupons they provided.

The one clear message people sent us was a desire for activities and programs for our younger members. We have begun an initiative recently to see about doing just that. Recording Secretary George Lebovitz and current Treasurer, soon to be Editor of SCAM, Dennis Logan, have both been working to try to see what we can do for our younger members. One of the problems we face is that we don't really know who all of our younger members are, so George is creating a list of younger members interested in activities with other younger members. Some possibilities include working through the gifted programs of

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Our Regular Events:

- **C.A.B.A.G.E.:** Food Court at the Merritt Square Mall. Every Monday at 6pm. *Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636.*
- **GO!:** Books-A-Million, The Avenue, Viera. Every Saturday at 1pm. Hosted by the Space Coast Area GO Association. Contact George Lebovitz for more info: the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com.

May 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 C.A.B.A.G.E.		4	5		7 GO!
8	9 C.A.B.A.G.E.	10	11	12	13	
15	16 C.A.B.A.G.E.	17	18	19	20	21 GO!
22	23 C.A.B.A.G.E.	24	25	26	27	
29	30 C.A.B.A.G.E.	31				

SCAM Calendar of Events for May 2016

6th - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

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

EXCOMM MEETING

Tuesday, May 3 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

14th - Saturday 6:00 PM

MONTHLY MENSA GET-TOGETHER

Featured speaker this month to be announced. Please check our online Calendar for updates. Red Ginger Restaurant at Melbourne Square Mall. Hosted by: *Joe Janson, 338-5833.*

MENSA TESTING

May 21 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's test will be held June 18.

28th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hloki'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.

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

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar".

Membership Notes for May 2016

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Alexandre David-Uraz

WELCOME BACK!

Mary Erdmann
Kimberly King
Diane Mullinax

David Reed
Maribeth Salge
Queita Willison

MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

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

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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most cases, it would not require large expenditures to modify public men's toilets to three bank unisex toilets.

One group not usually mentioned in the need for special accommodations in toilets are Muslims. Traditionally Muslim men sit or squat while urinating and Muslim women stand. The use of stalls for both Muslim men and women would provide the facilities needed. Muslim men and women are enjoined to urinate and defecate privately, not to be observed by others. Toilet stalls in the U. S. do not go clear to the ceiling or floor, thus they fail to provide the complete privacy required. At little additional expense, the walls and door of each stall could be extended upward and downward to preclude someone from peeking. Also, Muslims should not face Mecca while urinating or defecating. If the existing stalls are not properly faced, a major change would be required that would mean demolishing the existing stalls and plumbing to provide space for the re-oriented commodes. If the public toilet has a handicapped stall, a cost saving solution could be integrated. As those handicapped stalls are larger than a standard stall, rearranging that one stall for Muslim use would be less expensive without changing its function as a handicapped toilet. New signage would designate which stall is acceptable for Muslims. For a background of the Muslim requirements, see my book, *The Toilet Tractate*.

A change in current building codes would be required in many cases. Building codes often require a specific number of male and female accommodations. Those codes would have to be modified to stipulate the total number of unisex facilities required without designating sex. The change in building codes would require all new construction to have unisex toilets.

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my greatest asset as candidate, if I was willing, which I am not.

Once, while hammocking in the back yard, a squirrel chattered at me. Under normal circumstances I would have shoed it away and went back to sleep but it was insistent and the more I heard the more I understood. EEEERIE! VERY EERIE!

I was sure he was telling me to get off my butt and save the world. Holy Graynoly! I was learning squirrel talk in only my first session. It dawned on me that if I could learn squirrel talk then why not the language of other animals as well. I went back to sleep dreaming of how I could save the world by uniting not only the people of the world but the animals as well. Then when my friends reminded me that animals outnumber humans it hit me---KABOOM! KAZOWEE! What if I could only convince them to vote---well!

Oh yes! You can plainly see the possibilities. But now, with my unique advantage not only dashed but splattered all over the hi-way, and not wanting to sound overly-qualified, I will rest my case here (my poor little friend became road-kill the very next day) and hope those who would have voted for me (had I actually been able to continue my squirrel lessons, which I could not) was elected and decided to serve will see that some situations simply cannot be. Such as: King Kong and Fay Rae, garlic and first dates, pizza pie a-la-mode and couch potato presidents. However, don't be afraid to dream the impossible dream. I do and I'm okay.

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our local school districts as well as working with one of the so-called “maker space” programs of which there are now at least two in the Melbourne area. If you are a younger member (or the parent of one) interested in being on the list for future Mensa youth activities, please send email to recsecretary@scam.us.mensa.org and George will add you to the roster.

I remain interested in hearing from any member of SCAM about thoughts or ideas for future activities. This organization is what we members put into it. I encourage all of you to join us at events and get to know your fellow members. You’ll find people ready, willing and able to engage you in conversation and friendship. Please write to me at locsec@scam.us.mensa.org or give me a call to talk. My phone number is posted in the front of every monthly SCAM bulletin. I hope to hear from you!

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met on the weekend of March 19 in San Antonio, Texas, and besides several presentations that were offered, there were only a handful of motions passed: A change in the new member subsidy from \$5 to \$1 per member (to be replaced by a new Local Group support proposal), approval of the 2016-2017 budget, approval of an amendment to the National Publication Guidelines to move responsibility for handbooks and guides from the Communication Committee to the Leadership Development Committee, and creation of a recognition program for community service at both the national and local level. There was also a motion to create a search committee for candidates for the AMC, but after numerous amendments were proposed, the motion was tabled until the need was demonstrated and/or clarified. I hope and expect that Election Committee Chair Megan Edwards will have some input on that. A video of the meeting may be viewed by visiting www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/, selecting 2016-03-19 – San Antonio, and clicking Video Recording. (*Warning: The video is 7½ hours long, and it's not as fun as binge-watching Netflix...*) There will be a teleconference on May 18 where the minutes will be put to a vote, and they will probably be posted shortly after that.

As usual, the most interesting presentation was on the results of the latest Membership Survey (*which starts at 4:43 in the aforementioned video*). The results are too long to outline here, but there are some interesting points that jump out. One, our Net Promoter Score (NPS) increased since the last survey. (*The NPS ties to the question "How likely is it that you would recommend Mensa to a friend?"*) Bulletins and Local Group Newsletters are still identified as the two most important and satisfying benefits. Our new members are 65% Millennials and Homeland (Gifted Youth), while our leaders are 78% Boomer and GenX. The top reasons new members join is for intellectual stimulation, to meet intelligent people, and for intellectual validation, and 45% of new members are very or extremely satisfied, while only 20% are slightly or not at all satisfied. Recommended actions from the survey are to diversify events to meet the expectations of new members, while welcoming and engaging new members as they join.

Thomas George Thomas

Minutes of the April 2016 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, April 5th, 2016, called to order by LocSec Joe Janson at 6:07 pm.

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

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

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Dennis Logan reported a balance of \$2053.86.

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email¹.

The minutes of the March, 2016 meeting as published in the SCAM were approved. Joe reported that no action has yet been taken on the bylaws he submitted to National. It was recommended that we set a date and announce that if we have not received any feedback by that date, that we will assume that everything is in order and that the bylaws have been accepted and will be put into effect.

Joe has been contacted by a parent in Vero who is looking for potential assistance with her gifted child. George met with the Brevard County Schools Gifted Student Coordinator to discuss how SCAM may be of assistance with their programs (see separate article in this issue). Dennis also has been contacted for information regarding how SCAM might be able to contribute to the development of another gifted child in Brevard. Tentative plans are to try to coordinate a meeting with both Joe and Dennis’s contacts to see how we may be able to help. As an adjunct, Dennis and George intend to visit Space Coast FabLab, a complete prototyping facility available free or at cost to the entire Brevard County Community, to determine whether a resource of this type would be beneficial in developing our gifted program.

We are going to staff a booth at the Space Coast Nerd Fest, April 16-17 at the Rialto Hilton near the airport. To try to attract attention to our booth, we are looking into the possibility of obtaining a number of helium filled balloons.

T C Shaw has resigned his position as Assistant LocSec due to illness.

The Red Ginger event scheduled for Saturday, April 9th has been cancelled.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, May 3rd 2016 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

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¹Contacted 1 candidate for the first time, 10 candidates for the second or third time; tested 1. Next test session will be Saturday, May 21st, 2015 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa (no test in April). Prospective candidates should contact us at men-satest@cfl.rr.com.