



**Montgomery-Wiregrass Mensa
Contact Information**

Local Secretary (Loc Sec): Steven Knuckles
swknuckles@aol.com (636) 346-3522

Assistant Local Secretary: **OPEN POSITION**
AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT

Newsletter Editor: **OPEN POSITION**
AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT

Treasurer: Debra Freisleben
ducky1776@knology.net (334) 396-2890

Webmaster: Brent Howard Gourley
bgrly@comcast.net (334) 792-0354
<http://www.montgomery-wiregrass.us.mensa.org>

Testing Coordinator and Proctor: Bob Akin
bob36330@gmail.com (334) 347-5336

Proctor: Christiane Robinson
germantrans1@roadrunner.com (334) 763-0424

Gifted Youth Coordinator: **OPEN POSITION**
AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT

Scholarship Chair: Charles Anderson Hightower
alwrite.charles@gmail.com (334) 271-5576

Assistant Scholarship Chair: Carter deShazo
carterdeshazo@gmail.com (334) 332-8207

Words from Steve, our Loc Sec

Hello everyone!

We have certainly experienced a few interesting months lately, haven't we? I hope this column finds everyone well.



Our monthly dinner meetings resumed in May with four of us in attendance at Venditori's Italian Restaurant in Auburn. We had a very nice turnout of nine for our May meeting at Mr. Gus' Ristorante in Montgomery. We sat three to a table which worked perfectly.

Some may recall that I accidentally switched the locations of those two meetings; therefore, our meeting schedule for the remainder of the year is slightly skewed. Our Saturday July 25th meeting will be at the Mossy Grove School House in Troy. Cason Coan will serve as the point-of-contact for the event since I will be out-of-town. Her number is 334-320-3457. Returning to the original schedule in August, we will again meet in Montgomery. I have not determined the location yet, so please call me if you're interested in attending on Saturday August 22nd OR keep an eye on our Facebook group for details.

I tried my best to schedule our fall meetings around the Troy and Auburn football schedules. Keeping our fingers crossed that they play this year, each school must have had our meeting dates in mind to schedule off dates in September and October. Troy football has an off date on Saturday September 26th and October 24th. I try to not schedule our meetings on the same dates that either team is playing in town for obvious reasons—the main one being traffic!

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

July 25, 2020
Mossy Grove Schoolhouse Restaurant
1841 AL Highway 87, Troy

August 22, 2020
Venue TBD

September 26, 2020
Venue TBD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LocSec Comments	page 1
Region Vice Chair Comments	page 2
LocSec Comments continued	page 3
Birthdays and anniversaries	page 3
Editor's Disclaimer	page 3
Group at August 2019 meeting	page 4

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

OUR RVC (NANCY CAMPBELL) SPEAKS

RVC5 Column for August 2020

This has been the busiest month since I started serving as RVC5, in spite of the fact that there can be no local group visits right now, because of the controversy about our Facebook Firehouse chat room.



As you know, two members of the AMC proposed a motion to remove Hospitality and Firehouse from American Mensa's officially sanctioned forums. Between the Board of Directors' discussions on the matter and the numerous letters both pro and con, I had to wade through about an hour and a half's worth of opinions each day for the past two weeks.

A little history: several years ago, because of complaints that many incendiary posts were occurring in the Facebook Hospitality chat room, the (then) AMC voted to divide Hospitality into two groups: Hospitality (moderated) and Firehouse (unmoderated.) I thought at the time, and still do, that the move was the right one. Predictably, Firehouse became even more objectionable as many hostile, rude, and <insert your favorite adjective here> posts began to appear.

Many comments were racist, ageist, homophobic, and downright illegal. Some posts were vicious ad hominem attacks (directed against a person rather than the position they were maintaining.) Some doxxing occurred (posting private or identifying information such as their address and phone number about a particular individual on the chat, typically with malicious intent.) Some members actually called the employers of other members and tried to get them fired!

Obviously, something had to be done. I genuinely wish that the AMC had chosen to approach Firehouse and enlist their assistance in blocking the worst of the infractions (no doxxing, no personal threats, etc.) Instead, the motion morphed from removing Firehouse and Hospitality as official groups of American

Mensa to changing them into SIGs, to combining the motions into one, to setting up a committee to deal with the situation.

PRO considerations (remove American Mensa Firehouse and American Mensa Hospitality from American Mensa's list of officially recognized forums): The existing forums are an embarrassment to American Mensa because of their freewheeling, occasionally illegal, conduct. American Mensa cannot afford them from a Risk Assessment standpoint, both financially in case of a lawsuit, and from a PR perspective. Many people think all Mensans are that rude/hostile/etc. when they encounter Firehouse, rather than seeing the situation as individuals who happen to belong to Mensa.

CON considerations (DON'T remove Firehouse, etc.): Firehouse has a warning label that it is unmoderated. Firehouse is a Monument to Freedom of Speech. No one is forced to go there, and no one is forced to stay. If Firehouse is not your cup of tea, don't go there – go to Hospitality. If you don't like someone's posts, "block" them. A huge percentage of the CON emails said that Hospitality is boring, that they loved Firehouse – that it was "family" to them. One strong argument was that it was a terrible time to squelch Firehouse, since there are few in-person events during COVID and this online forum was beloved. Firehouse has more than 2,000 members. Somewhere between 75 and 100 post regularly.

The motion passed, eight for, five against, one abstention because a family member works at Facebook. The committee is being chosen as I type this. About 125 members watched this AMC meeting, an unprecedented number, showing the amount of interest in this issue.

I only hope the situation resolves itself amicably. I am still aghast at the way it unfolded.

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

Words from Steve, our Loc Sec Continued from page 1

We still need someone to fill the roles of Assistant Local Secretary and Gifted Youth Coordinator. Each role requires very little time. Basically, the Assistant LocSec would step in if I'm unavailable and would also plan our monthly gatherings. Our Gifted Youth Coordinator would plan fun, educational events for our younger members and other younger family members. If you are interested in serving in either role, please let me know.

As of this writing, we have 80 members of Montgomery Wiregrass Mensa! A big "Thank You" to each of you who either renewed your membership or rejoined Mensa...and a super-huge welcome to those who are new to our group.

We hope to see many more of you at our monthly dinner gatherings. Please watch our Montgomery Wiregrass Mensa Facebook group. If you're not on Facebook and would like updated meeting information as warranted, please call or text me at 636-346-3522 or email at swknuckles@aol.com.

That's it from here for now.

Take care!

Loc Sec Steve

Happy Birthday Wishes in July

Charles John Ganther	Jul 3
Steven William Knuckles	Jul 16
Gregory Preston Thompson	Jul 24
Haley Elena Roberts	Jul 26

Happy Birthday Wishes in August

Michael I Wegner	Aug 1
Vincent Raymond Courtney	Aug 2
Faye B Love	Aug 3
Sandra G Newman	Aug 11
James M Nelson	Aug 24
James P Golson	Aug 29

List may be incomplete because 36 MWM members have restricted information as to date of birth.

Membership Anniversaries in July

Ken D S Sullivanne	2 years
Christian L Taylor	4 years
Roger Corley	5 years
Christiane Robinson	9 years
Timothy French	16 years
Martha Johnson Whitt	18 years
Thomas Gregory Funk	38 years

Membership Anniversaries in August

Benny Brooks Walton	2 years
Haley Elena Roberts	3 years
Tina Chappell	3 years
Michele L Waters	5 years
Henry John Kravec	34 years

Membership Anniversaries in September

Jenny Baek	2 years
Leslie Reid Brasher	2 years
Sarah E Connors	3 years
Jason B Grice	5 years
John Simmons Jr	5 years
Onastasia Gunlogson	11 years
Casimir Christian Lukjan	15 years

EDITOR'S DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed herein are those of the writer — not of Mensa nor the editor unless he is the author. Anyone with an opposing or supporting view is encouraged to respond, and to include any other submissions to editor.the.wire@gmail.com, Robert Akin, 104 Windwood Lane, Enterprise, AL 36330.



AUGUST 2019 MEETING PHOTOGRAPHS



**American Mensa Ltd
P. O. Box 525129
Grand Prairie, TX 75053-5129**

**Interim Newsletter Editor
Bob Akin, 104 Windwood Lane
Enterprise, AL 36330-8260
bob36330@gmail.com**