MONTGOMERY-WIREGRASS MENSA NEWSLETTER

THE WIRE

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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: Steven Knuckles
swknuckles@aol.com (636) 346-3522

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

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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

April 24, 2021
Mossy Grove Schoolhouse Restaurant
1841 Alabama Hwy. 87, Troy

May 22, 2021
Venditori's Restaurant
2575 Hilton Garden Dr. Auburn

June 26, 2021
Mr. Gus' Ristorante
6268 Atlanta Hwy., Montgomery

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LocSec Comments	Page 1
Region Vice Chair Column	Page 2
Feature Story	Page 2
Upcoming Event Story	Page 3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	Page 3
Editor's Disclaimer	Page 3
Photos	Page 4

Words from Steve, our Loc Sec



Spring has sprung! This is evidenced by the uptick in severe weather and increased pollen that seems to permeate everything…including eyes and sinuses. Yuck.

We had a nice gathering of seven in February at Venditori's in Auburn and also gave a warm welcome to Frank Bock of Opelika. We also had a great group of seven attending our March meeting at Sinclair's East in Montgomery. Each of these restaurants offered an outstanding meal selection.

Repeating from the last LocSec column--since restaurants are open, I feel it is my obligation as LocSec to continue to schedule our regular meetings; however, I also understand that some are hesitant to gather with non-family members or have other obligations. It is all understandable.

Our April 24th meeting is scheduled at the Mossy Grove Schoolhouse Restaurant in Troy. May will take us back to Venditori's in Auburn on the 22nd. June's meeting will be at Mr. Gus' Ristorante in Montgomery on the 26th. All meetings (with the exception of November/December) are on the 4th Saturday of the month at 6:00 PM.

As of this writing, we've increased our membership to 84 in Montgomery Wiregrass Mensa! 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 either via new membership or those new to the area. Memberships expire on March 31 annually, so please check if you're current of if you need to renew.

We hope to see you at our monthly dinner gatherings and/or in 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
Cell: (636) 346-3522

OUR RVC (NANCY CAMPBELL) SPEAKS



April 2021—Election season is upon us once again, and the ballot is crowded this year. There are two candidates for Chair: LaRae Baker-ink and Timmy King; two for First Vice Chair: Peter DuDeck and Lori Norris; and four for Second Vice Chair: Antonio (Toni) Belarmino, Angela Christie, David McCallister, and Robert Salkin. There are two candidates for Treasurer, Taz Criss and James Winschel. There is only one candidate for Secretary, Ian Randal Strock, so he has been declared the new Secretary. I am still the only candidate for RVC 5, so I hope you have been satisfied with my work as RVC 5. The voting period runs from April 15 to May 15, and you must be a paid member as of March 31 in order to vote. As John Voymas, RVC 4, explained it, "Mensa uses a method called preferential voting (also known as ranked-choice voting). When you vote for Second Vice Chair, you will indicate your preference of candidate and rank them from 1 (first choice) to 4 (last choice). You do not have to rank all four - you could just put 1 by your first choice and 2 by your second choice and stop there. If no candidate gets over 50% of the vote, the fourth-place candidate's ranked votes will be distributed to the other three candidates based on the ranking of the other three candidates on ballots which chose the fourth candidate as their first choice. This method saves time and money by only having a single ballot which can be used for runoffs when no single candidate gets a majority of the votes." There is one proposed Bylaws Amendment that will be on the ballot. Currently, elected AMC terms are for two years. The proposed amendment is to change that to terms of three years, as International Mensa has done. There will be more information in the Mensa Bulletin.

Have you registered yet for the World Gathering scheduled for Houston, TX on August 24-29, 2021? (It is a *World* Gathering, not just the U.S., and Europeans tend to vacation in August.) Here's the link: https://ag.us.mensa.org/ Prices increase again on April 30th, so register now!! Stay safe and wear your mask!!

Nancy Campbell, RVC 5

(704) 533-3351

mensanancy@gmail.com

HERE ARE THE MOST ODDLY NAMED TOWNS IN AMERICA—DAVE G. HOUSER

Virtually every state in the union has one. We're talking oddly named towns. Veteran road-trippers have probably come across some of them — like Chugwater, Wyoming, Intercourse, Pennsylvania or Waterproof, Louisiana. But these names are rather Bland (Missouri), even Boring (Oregon) or downright Dull (Ohio) compared to some of the truly nutty names we've uncovered. Some towns are named for things we eat, like Chili (Wisconsin), Chicken (Alaska), Spuds and Two Egg (Florida), Fries (Virginia), Bacon (Texas) or Sandwich (Massachusetts). And we say Whynot (North Carolina)? That seems Okay (Oklahoma) to us. Surely better than eating Worms (Nebraska) or Chicken Bristle (Illinois). Strangely enough, there's also a Whynot (Mississippi).

Other town names seem sort of rude or insulting, like Big Bottom (Washington), Coward (South Carolina), Idiotville (Oregon), Looneyville (Texas) or Jerkwater (Pennsylvania). Still others appear to be pleasant, inviting places, like Welcome (South Carolina), Happyland (Connecticut), Allgood (Alabama), Love (Arizona) and Little Heaven (Delaware). Quite the opposite of being told to go to Hell (Michigan) or Dismal (Tennessee). To wrap up this essay on naming nonsense, here are some town names that are so Peculiar (Missouri) that they deserve special attention.

Take Zzyzx (California) for example — a one-time natural spring resort in the Mohave Desert, now a popular birding site. It was named by someone who thought he was creating the last word in the English language. He was wrong. That word is Zyzzyva, the name of a tropical South American weevil. But wait! There's more. Try to imagine why anyone would want to live in a town named Toad Suck (Arkansas), Scratch Ankle (Alabama), Slickpoo (Idaho), Foul Rift (New Jersey), Humptulips (Washington) or Ding Dong, (Texas). Somehow, so far, Colorado has gotten left out of this weird name review. Reason why? No Name. It's next door to Glenwood Springs.

https://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/here-are-the-most-oddly-named-towns-in-america/travel-hospitality-event-management

AN EVENING OF LANGUAGE AND LAUGHTER



Mensa Bulletin language columnist Richard Lederer, author of *Anguished English*, will take you on a joy ride through the glories and oddities of our marvelous English language, in which you drive in a parkway and park in a driveway and your nose can run and your feet can smell.

Senior *Mensa Bulletin* language columnist Richard Lederer is the author of more than 50 books about language, history, and humor, including his best-selling *Anguished English* series and his current titles*, A Treasury of Halloween Humor* and *A Treasury of Christmas Humor.* He is a founding co-host of "A Way With Words," broadcast on Public Radio.

Dr. Lederer has been named International Punster of the Year and Toastmasters International's Golden Gavel winner.

South Coast Mensa is hosting a special evening with speaker Richard Lederer.
Saturday, May 22, 6:30 PM Central Time

We are inviting South Mississippi Mensa and Northwest Florida Mensa. They used to be part of South Coast Mensa years ago until splitting off due to driving distance. We are also inviting all of the Alabama groups (Central Alabama, North Alabama, and Montgomery/Wiregrass Alabama).

Editor: A Zoom link will be provided in our MWM Facebook group a few days prior to the event or email swknuckles@aol.com for the link.

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 thewireeditor54@gmail.com, Steven W. Knuckles, 11 Crabapple Trace, Montgomery, AL 36117-4224.

Happy Birthday Wishes in April

James McCommon	Apr 5
Thomas Funk	Apr 10
Bill Taylor	Apr 18

Happy Birthday Wishes in May

Travis Neal	May 8
Leslie Brasher	May 12
David Bennett	May 17
Robert Akin	May 24
Leopold Babin	May 24
Allison Shelley	May 26

Happy Birthday Wishes in June

Benny Walton	Jun 10
Onastasia Gunlogson	Jun 12
Victor Raines	Jun 16
Darren Reed	Jun 20
Kimberly Gallo	Jun 24
Kemper Franklin	Jun 25
Debra Freisleben	Jun 27
Jason Wohlford	Jun 30

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

Membership Anniversaries in April

Angela Eaton	1 year
Haley Roberts	1 year
Kiara Robinson	1 year
Joseph Yates	4 years
James McCommon	13 years
Charles Hightower	18 years
Mark Wintersole	27 years
John Surbat	42 years
Anida Wishnietsky	46 years

Membership Anniversaries in May

Steven Hayden	1 year
Anna Sims	3 years
Gregory Hayes	3 years
David Bennett	6 years
Amir Farooqi	7 years
Debra Freisleben	33 years

Membership Anniversaries in June

Kathleen Connolly	1 year
Eva Luckie	1 year
Selina Sun	8 years
James Nelson	19 years
R Ladner	29 years
J Nichols	37 years
Faye Love	38 years





AUBURN AND TROY MEETING PHOTOGRAPHS



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

Newsletter Editor
Steven W. Knuckles
11 Crabapple Trace
Montgomery, AL 36117-4224
swknuckles@aol.com