

# MOMENTUM

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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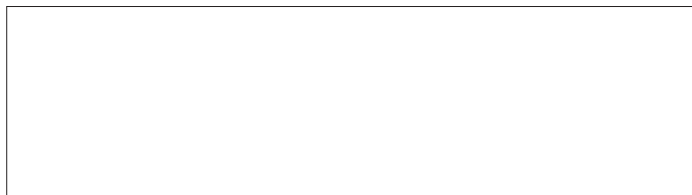


## ~ NH/ME Mensans Can Win Millions ~

Not here, of course, but you *can* win a cool Mensa Mug! Just fill out the Member Survey that may be found online, or in the March *Momentum*. If you want to be entered in the drawing, simply identify yourself when you respond.

You can respond online by completing the form, pasting it into the body of an email message, and sending it to: [publicrelations@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:publicrelations@nh.us.mensa.org). You can also snail mail your reply to NH Mensa, PO Box 7998, Nashua, NH 03060-7998.

The deadline for replies has been extended to April 7th.



The 2004 RG is over and I would like to begin this month's column by thanking once more all those who were involved in making it the success that it was. Particular mention goes to the RG Co-Chairs, Lynn Pina and John Lewicke, who were indispensable as the people taking the responsibility for the oversight of the whole production. Hospitality again was bounteous, due to Sue Barnes as Hospitality Chair, and I think that the topic of adult beverages would evoke nary an unkind word, as Bill Alleman outdid himself as Biermeister. Special thanks to Darlene Alleman who headed up a new event with a cheese and wine tasting that should prove to be a staple from now on. Joe Zanca had the assembled multitudes eating out of his hand, running the auction after the Saturday banquet - he had purportedly intelligent people fighting with each other for the privilege of buying an ordinary \$5 bill, finally coaxing \$260 out of the two winning bidders for that privilege.

Since one of the primary goals of running our RG is to raise funds for scholarships, we are beholden to Joe for raising over \$750 to that end during the weekend. For those who were unable to attend, we had 172 people partake in the festivities, from as far away as California, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Quebec, so hopefully this will give you an idea of the scope of the event. Make plans now to attend next year and see what all the excitement is about!

I would like to announce the most recent changes on the Executive Committee. Claire Natola has agreed to take over the recently vacated Secretary slot, stepping down from her position as Member at

Large. Since Nature hates a vacuum, Ann Majeske agreed to take over the vacated Member at Large position. At the Special Business Meeting held in conjunction with the RG, John McGondel announced his decision to no longer continue as Member at Large, and Bromley Baril was nominated to take over his vacated position. I would like to personally commend these volunteers for offering their services to keep the slate full on the Executive Committee and thank John for his contributions.

Since this is an election year, there will be a ballot enclosed in this issue of Momentum to allow you to cast your vote for the sole contested position on the ExComm. From what I can gather, the last time an actual paper ballot runoff was required was when Joe Zanca became LocSec, so let me take the time to go over the procedures. You **cannot** vote electronically, you **cannot** vote by calling someone on the Election Committee. Per Bylaw, the voting will run no less than six weeks nor longer than eight weeks from when this issue is mailed, so the deadline for ballots being **received** is 06 MAY. You need to mail your ballot to Jayne Britton at 150 Codfish Corner Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801-2006. For those interested, we will be publishing the time and date for when the ballots will be tabulated in the next issue of *Momentum*.

While I am somewhat on the subject of administrative things that you need to do in conjunction with your Mensa membership, let me bring up three topics - proxies, the survey and dues. As of this writing, NH/ME Mensa has had 223 members out of its 481 send in their proxy, which is on the low end of participation. By

region, Region 1 is the worst region for participation out of all regions – must just be something about living in the Northeast. Nationally, we are at a 99% response rate for getting this issue done, but please do not take the attitude that since the goal has basically been attained, your vote no longer matters. Until and unless we reach the mandated level, this is not a done deal. Since the goal is to have at least 50% of all American Mensa members respond, this means that more than 50% nationally *have not* responded. Likewise with the survey that was included in last month's *Momentum*, there have been a scant three copies of the survey that have arrived at the chapter PO Box. I sure hope that this means that you are all responding electronically!! The objective for launching the survey was to get feedback, so please, help us out with feedback. The original published deadline for the survey was 12 MAR, but we will gladly accept submissions until 07 APR. To give the survey value as a data-gathering instrument, we need to tabulate responses and act on them in a timely fashion, so we cannot be looking for responses indefinitely.

Finally, dues must be paid up by 31 MAR to continue membership. For those of you whose membership is about to expire, please consider either the 3-year or 5-year plan, or the Life Membership, if you can afford it and are so inclined. Traditionally, we always lose about 25% of the membership because dues are not received in Texas on time. Please take a moment to renew, with the added incentive that you cannot cast a ballot in the upcoming election unless you are a member in good standing (*read*: have paid your dues).

I would like to take this opportunity to bring the general readership up to date with developments that have recently taken place within Vermont Mensa. If you remember the September issue of *Momentum*, the person filling the responsibilities of LocSec in Vermont put his readership on notice that he had no intention of staying on in the position past May. Recent events have sped up that timetable and as of 01 MAR 04, the RVC has stepped in and taken over administrative control of that chapter. We had been publishing a newsletter for Vermont as a service since the JUL 02 issue, and we have received instructions to cease that effort, as well.

The RVC has sent a letter personally to every member of Vermont Mensa, asking them to offer their service to revive the chapter. There has been no deadline published; your ExComm has not been notified as to what ultimate impact this may have on our chapter, but my plan is to keep you informed of future developments to the best of my ability. Watch this column for news of any changes.

The appeal this month is a rehash of the last few months. We need someone to relieve Ann Kucera as the Gifted Children's Coordinator for Maine. She is not in the best of health and does not feel up to continuing in this position. We need a home for the FSM to take place, since June would appear to be the earliest that we would want to consider *al fresco* FSM'ing, again. And John McGondel requests that you beat the rush to replace him as Scholarship Chair by making yourself known now.

By the time you receive this, March Madness should be pretty much underway. Here's hoping that you picked the right bracket in the office pool. Peace. ■■■

## Letters to the Editor

I just wanted to say a couple things about John Bauman as a candidate for LocSec.

John Bauman was willing to come forward and take over the LocSec position under difficult circumstances. I think he has done a good job as LocSec and I think he will continue to do a good job if re-elected to the position.

*Ann Majeske  
Member at Large*

I had aspirations to be NH Mensa LocSec; but, I decided to step back and really take a look at what our present LocSec was doing. This has occurred for the larger part of the past year. What I found made me decide that I would be foolish indeed to try to take the office from someone who already is doing a good job, benefiting members all over northern New England.

John Bauman regularly produces inspiring written messages in *Momentum*, on the web site, and in email, while fulfilling his duties, which are numerous. In person, I have seen him tackle gnarly problems with an absence of malice, staying cool and collected while being assailed. He has had to lead raucous, unruly meetings (we like 'em that way) and still produce workable, good results to benefit all. He doggedly increases our membership through good choices of motivated officers and is developing areas previously neglected, such as in Mensa youth.

I've been a NH Mensa member for 24 years, and I don't remember such a happy, committed, competent team, seeking little for themselves beyond personal satisfaction. Did all of this just coincidentally happen? No - John Bauman has built a team. (John is not

a self-promoter, so I am going around him on this one.)

Please vote for John Bauman, your proven LocSec. Thank you.

*Walter S. Wakefield  
Assistant Local Secretary*

My name is Joe Zanca and I am a has-been in Mensa. I've been around the block a few times, been there, and done that. I have been RVC for six years, LocSec for four years, Assistant LocSec, proctor, and lots more. I currently run the Mensa Boutique.

This RG was a battery charger for me. We had many people express joy and/or concern about me and my family over the weekend. This and the "newbies" got first-time fright [they did NOT need to perform to be allowed into the RG (sing, dance, recite, etc.)]. The support from all around was vital, especially in raising over \$750 for the scholarship fund. We also learned that Canadians can't convert money accurately (unless the money is in color).

Laughter, camaraderie, various contests, and the atmosphere were all fantastic. I personally was called on to utilize my past experience for advice and direction. The M's and guests started my adrenalin flowing again and I felt like the Joe of ten years ago. Thank you, one and all, for this therapeutic weekend!

I especially would like to thank the RG Chairs for putting on a fantastic RG. They, the committee, volunteers, and attendees set up an amazing environment that enabled everyone to have a fantastic time.

THANK YOU!

*Joe Zanca*

In Mensa-land, March is the last month of the year. Our fiscal and membership years begin on 1 April. Now is the time for you to renew your membership and for me to settle my RVC accounts. Each RVC gets a budget based on the number of members and number of groups in her/his region. Budgeted monies must be spent by 31 March, or they are forfeited. In the next few weeks I will be looking at local groups to see if there are any small projects that could benefit from my remaining funds.

Vermont Mensa has been getting a lot of attention from me lately. Its acting Chair stepped down as of 1 March and under Mensa's Bylaws, I have assumed temporary administration, pending appointment of a pro tem Chair and eventual elections. While small, the Vermont group has some very vibrant and involved members, and I am hoping that soon the chapter will be in good health.

I spent a really wonderful day with Northern New Jersey Mensa, at their Mid-Winter Blahs Party. They had originally planned a mini-RG, and when that proved unfeasible, made it a day-long free party. Speakers, a Google marathon, and plenty of refreshments kept everyone in high spirits.

This group is also the second in our region to "go digital" using the Post Office as both printer and mailer for their newsletter *IMprint*. After they assemble their articles and pictures, a digital file is uploaded to a secure US Postal Service (USPS) website, along with a member file. It is printed and mailed within 24 hours. No more "Fold Spindle and Mutilate" monthly gatherings! Northern New Jersey joins Rhode Island Mensa (newsletter *M'Ocean*) in Region 1's digital USPS revolution.

By the time most of you read this, I will be at (or back from) the American Mensa Committee meeting in

Charlottesville, Virginia. Items on the agenda include adoption of a new budget, using outside arbitrators at hearings, and appointment of a Nominating Committee, which will be selecting candidates for next year's elections.


Here's a bit of green for St. Patrick's Day and/or the spring equinox. The word 'colcannon' is from the Gaelic *cál ceannann*, which literally means 'white-headed cabbage.'. However, the 'cannon' part of the name might be a derivative of the old Irish *cainnenn*, translated variously as garlic, onion, or leek. It can be suggested that in its earliest form colcannon may have been a simple mixture of some brassica (cabbage, kale, collard greens, etc.) and allium (onions, garlic, leeks, shallots, etc.).

## COLCANNON

- 4 pounds new gold potatoes (these mash very nicely), cut into small cubes - do \*not\* peel!
- 1 pound chopped mustard greens (or try kale, collard or turnip greens); frozen will do nicely
- 8 large scallions
- about 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- white pepper
- kosher salt

Chop the green parts of the scallions into small pieces. Place in large mixing bowl with the oil and about 1 teaspoon white pepper. Steam the potatoes with about 1 teaspoon salt. Remove the potatoes from the steam pot and use the potato water to steam the greens. Frozen greens will take about 5 minutes to steam. Adding about 2 cups at a time, mash the hot potatoes in the olive oil mixture. Add a little more oil if potatoes don't look fluffy. When potatoes are all mashed, stir in the greens. Pack colcannon into a large glass, stainless steel or non-stick pan that

has been greased with olive oil. Cover top with plastic wrap and let stand at room temperature overnight for flavors to develop.

In addition to eating at room temperature, colcannon can be eaten hot. You can also pan fry your cold leftovers. 

## Good Wine Cheap (and good food to go with it)

John Grover  
jgrover@berk.com

Catalonia is the source of this month's wine. This Spanish region bordering France at the Pyrenees to the North and the Mediterranean Sea to the East is World famous for its wines. The wine will be matched to some classic comfort food from the country side of France.

The 2000 Sangre de Toro from the winery of Miguel Torres remains as one of the very good affordable wines still available. This wine translates to the "Blood of the Bull".

The blend of Granacha and Carinena (Grenache and Carignan) grapes produces a deep red color and a spicy aroma. It presents a complex series of tastes including pepper, blackberries and perhaps a hint of licorice finishing with a warm velvety feeling over the tongue. This wine matches well with the hearty dish below and is frequently used as the base for real Spanish Sangria. At \$8 a bottle it makes for a great every day wine.

### Quick Cassoulet

(A recipe from our friend Mandy who is one of the true Kitchen Goddesses of the Hudson Valley)

Ingredients: 3 each chicken legs and thighs; 6 Italian sausages; one 16 oz. can stewed tomatoes; two 20 oz. cans cannellini beans; 2 tbsp. butter; 1 onion, chopped; 1 garlic clove, minced; 1 tsp. thyme; 1 bay leaf; one quarter cup white wine.

Saute the chicken and sausage in butter. Brown the onions and garlic. Add tomatoes, thyme and bay leaf. Cover and simmer for ten minutes. Add beans and wine. Simmer until meat is done, about 45 minutes.

This produces a flavorful dish that serves 4 to 6 persons. The adventurous may want to mix in some hot Italian sausages.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines. I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

  
*John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley of New York.*

# Executive Committee Meeting

16 February 2004

Claire Natola

**Officers Present:** Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, Bromley Baril, John Bauman, John McGondel, Claire Natola, Lynn Pina, John Sheehan, Tom Shiel, Walter Wakefield, Eric Werme

**Members Present:** Jim Barnes, Sue Barnes, Ann Majeske, Christine Bartlett

**Others Present:** Eileen McGondel, John Swett

The meeting was called to order at 8:19 p.m.

John Bauman read an e-mail from Stormie Kullman, Chair of National Nominating Committee, looking for volunteers for the Committee. John Bauman also read a memo from Tony Jackowski about reconvening a task force for Area Coordinators. Because we do not have any Area Coordinators at this time, it is unlikely that we would be fielding anyone for this task force.

RG Update: Everything appears to be in line for the RG. The RG trailer may go back to John Lewicke's at the conclusion of the RG for a temporary period of time. Bromley Baril will ask Joe Zanca about the possibility of the trailer being housed on his property in Northfield.

Darlene reported that the laptop was purchased with RG funds. Since that time, one of our regular CD's has matured, and she is willing to transfer some of that money back to RG funds if desired. Ann Majeske suggested that we make that decision after we see what our RG funds look like after the conclusion of this RG.

John Bauman inquired whether we have had enough room-nights purchased by RG attendees. Lynn reports that she intends to check with the hotel again prior to the RG, but that we appear to have already met our 114 room-nights goal to avoid an extra charge.

Membership: We have realized a net gain of 8, bringing our total to 479 members.

Survey Update: John Bauman reported on the discussion between him and John Sheehan regarding prizes for survey returns. Several prizes will be awarded at the RG, and again to winners in the second wave that come in electronically or by mail after the RG. John Sheehan's company is footing the bill for the prizes.

John Bauman raised the subject of the Leadership Development Workshop. Interested participants are Claire Natola, Bromley Baril, John McGondel, and Lynn Pina. Each will make his/her own arrangements to attend if feasible.

John Bauman wants to submit both our website and *Momentum* for the 2004 Publications Recognition Program.

John Sheehan should find out this week if space in the Tower Building in Manchester may be available for the next FSM/ExComm (Monday, 3/15). Much discussion ensued. John McGondel moved to have FSM/ExComm at Milly's again on 3/15. Walter Wakefield seconded. By a show of hands, the majority voted to return to Milly's.

John McGondel moved to elect Claire Natola as Recording Secretary. Darlene Alleman seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Alleman moved to elect Ann Majeske as Member-At-Large. Darlene Alleman seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Alleman moved to adjourn. Tom Shiel seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. 

## 2004 RG Wrap-Up

*RG Chair  
Lynn Pina*

**W**ow. That's all I could think when I looked around at the sea of people in Hospitality and beyond on RG Saturday and Deb Stone told me we had 173 attendees in total, including approximately 10 of the non-Mensa program speakers who registered and stayed for at least a portion of the day. When Registration closed on Friday night, we had exceeded our total RG weekend 2003 count by one, for a total of 151. Awesome.

This year, we had goody bags and icebreaker game pieces waiting for first-timers and solos at the Registration table. We gave out halves of Finish Lines quotes and halves of nut and bolt sets so that folks had to find their match (multiple possibilities) in the crowd. Prizes were given to winners drawn from the pool of those who returned their completed sets. We had the RG Primer for the first-timers that night, a beer tasting (Biermeister Bill Alleman's selections are always a big hit), and the usual ice cream sundae binge and shrimp feast. We need to remember to get more ice cream for

next year's crowd – I think we set a speed record this year for how quickly the ice cream went! A lot of folks turned out for the Sexual Trivia Challenge, which was this year's replacement for Sexual Fishbowl.

This is the second year in a row Bette Lewicke has graced us by taking care of Saturday breakfast – there's nothing better than waking up after a late night and stumbling into Hospitality, following the smell of freshly made pancakes. Saturday started with posted puzzles and eyeball bender games, workshops, and games tournaments. The Lunch in Acapulco was a huge success – all the food was GONE by 1PM! The evening events started with a new twist on the usual wine tasting, a cheese tasting event hosted by Games Chair Darlene Alleman, with wines chosen to compliment the various cheese varieties. The Saturday buffet dinner was plentiful, and ended with a live auction hosted by Joe Zanca for benefit of the Scholarship Fund.

Then the most raucous fun of the evening began as Membership Coordinator (and RG Bartender) Bromley Baril rushed to crank out Headhunter drinks in coconut Tiki cups as fast as she could to the waiting crowd, and the contests began! We had many advertised, but less time and fewer participants than anticipated, so it boiled down to the Best Hawaiian Shirt contest and the How-Many-Mensans-Can-You-Fit-in-a-10XL-T-Shirt? Contest. The funniest moment came when the kids came running down the hall from the Gifted Children's Room to plow into the t-shirt of the winning team (2 adults, 6 kids, for a total of 8). Despite the best efforts of Co-Chair John Lewicke, modeling his choice selection of used t-shirts to attract potential participants, a co-ed wet t-shirt contest never materialized – neither did the male version when the two registered participants were way too tired from the day's events.

Late that night, we had the Like Water for Chocolate Orgy and International Coffee and a Tiki Pool Party at the hotel pool. Sunday was the usual warm, wrap up and good-byes before people traveled home – Sunday brunch, some Hospitality fare and Games, then clean up began and we had the NH Mensa Special Business Meeting concerning this year's elections. Many thanks to Co-Chair John Lewicke for spearheading cleanup while many of the RG Committee members were delayed in that meeting.

Over the course of the weekend, Rich Conde, Movie Chair, manned the Movie Room with his entertainment selections and hosted the kids' popcorn party. He also backstopped Youth Coordinator (and chapter Young Mensan Coordinator) Ben Thompson in hosting the Teen Lunch and Teen Pizza Party out of the Movie Room on Saturday. We didn't have a

Gifted Children's Chair this year, so Julie Thompson coordinated the Toothpick and Marshmallow Sculpture Contest (the Bean and Spoon Race didn't materialize due to lack of participants) and Ben Thompson and I delivered craft materials, including those for a bead party, at staggered intervals throughout Friday night and Saturday to keep the younger folks entertained.

One of the most gratifying things about chairing an RG is overhearing membership feedback. During the months of planning, we brainstormed, we asked various members for input, we put out requests for volunteers in *Momentum* and on the website, but we really didn't start getting feedback until members arrived on site. A couple of things that I remember most were the comments of several folks coming through Registration saying that they were very pleased that the RG program was available on the NH website prior to the RG – we'll strive for that again. Mothers told me the 10XL t-shirt contest was the biggest hit for the kids. Several folks told me they really enjoyed the cheese tasting – that the selection of cheese and wines to sample was excellent.

Speaking of feedback, I would VERY much like to hear from you how we did this year, what you liked that was new, what you missed that was old, what was great, what was less than spectacular, anything toward what needs improvement and what was a great hit that we want to bring back. Several folks mentioned the overwhelming appreciation for our own catering efforts concerning hot meals over the hotel Saturday dinner offering. We'd very much like to hear from other members how they feel about the traditional hotel-offered Saturday dinner and whether they'd

*(continued on Page 12)*

# 2004 NH/ME Mensa Elections

## Biography of LocSec Incumbent John Bauman

John Bauman has been a member of Mensa since 1983. He was a member in Florida for many years and was a Proctor in Florida for about 5 years. He moved to New Hampshire in 1998 and became a member of the ExComm in 2001.

Since 2001 John has served in a variety of positions including: Member at Large, Proctor, Assistant LocSec, LocSec, Acting Proctor Coordinator, and Acting Membership Officer. He is currently the most active Proctor, giving regularly scheduled monthly tests. ■

## Campaign Statement of LocSec Candidate Lynn Pina

Some time ago, a non-Mensan friend asked me about my activities, and when I told him the things in which I was involved, he responded "Man, when you join a group, you REALLY join a group!". Yes, he was right – at the time I was hosting Appetite for Discussion in Portsmouth (October 2002 through August 2003) and Mensa Shooters in Barrington. I've hosted Outback Special, a striped bass fishing charter out of Portsmouth, and "Finding Nemo" at Chunky's Sanford in addition to all the events I've attended as just a participating member. I was a volunteer at the 2003 Granite Gathering, where I volunteered to be the Programming/Speakers Chair for the 2004 Granite Gathering. In May 2003, I volunteered to be the 2004 RG Chair when it looked like no one was forthcoming, and John Lewicke later backstopped me as Co-Chair when it wasn't clear whether a job search would take me out of NH for the actual RG. That situation didn't materialize, and my role as this year's RG Chair is the best indication I can give of my commitment, as a member, to the membership as a whole and to new and closet member outreach in particular. Given my joining date of August 2001,

I'm proud of my active Mensa career in such a short time span. It's been great fun. I think volunteering to host an event is the best way a new member can get into the flow of things and find a core group of other Mensans with the same interests and chemistry.

So why am I running for LocSec this year?

It's a natural extension of the experiences that prompted me to volunteer to be this year's RG Chair and to focus as we did on new and closet member outreach through that. In October 2001, I decided to attend Appetite for Discussion as my first Mensa event, and my first contact person in all of NH Mensa was then-hostess and Proctor Coordinator, Laurie Levesque. I can't tell you what a great experience I had due to Laurie's gracious hospitality. I've run into fellow members since then who did not have benefit of such sponsorship – they were left on the periphery at their first event. I've only met one of those who never came back – a friend who decided not to join. I've met a number who came back despite that kind of beginning, assured them all events were not like that, and pointed them to events I attended that I thought they would

enjoy. My experience as this year's RG Chair was a great opportunity to touch base with members I knew who would not have come if not personally invited, and to think of new ways to reach those I didn't know. The results, even before the actual RG, were extremely rewarding, it gave me a great renewal of energy and enthusiasm concerning the membership and I decided I wanted to continue this work. The RG Chair is also an appointive officer position on the Executive Committee (ExComm), so I was exposed to the working of the ExComm through the monthly meetings during my tenure, and realized that I could be of ongoing help beyond the RG in a leadership position there. I think I bring the perspective and people skills necessary to reach out to new and closet membership, and to increase the chances of making their first Mensa interactive experience a good one so they want to come back and keep coming back. I think the best place for my skills would be in a leadership position to create the best network toward outreach efforts. This would be LocSec, the position that, with the right person, facilitates and amplifies the efforts of the Membership Coordinator, Public Relations Coordinator, and Proctor/Testing Coordinator as the first new member local contacts. I think I could bring enthusiasm and energy to this network, creating the environment to make it more than the sum of its parts.

### Why Choose Me?

I commend our interim LocSec for stepping up to a position of considerable work and responsibility when we lost our last LocSec last June, and we both share common objectives concerning the good and growth of the chapter. I feel my

perspective, resulting vision and the particular skill set I possess conducive to achieve that vision is different. I feel I can add much more to a history of chapter growth.

- I have a history as an active and committed member.
- I've shown a trend of dedication to new and closet member outreach.
- I bring a fresh perspective and new ideas.
- I also have rapport with past LocSecs and ExComm officers to tap into the wisdom of the past.
- I have chapter ExComm experience with the current officers.
- My professional life, mostly financial and administrative, gives me professional organizational experience that would benefit administrative chapter leadership and the external/PR duties of the LocSec position.
- I see my role, if elected LocSec, as one of leadership through service through this position. I would strive to bring out the best in the ExComm, to expedite administrative procedure, to build consensus and facilitate the decision making process.
- My results so far indicate I have what it takes to promote new/closet member enthusiasm, build teamwork, and grow the chapter if given the leadership position to do it.

**VOTE LYNN PINA FOR LOCSEC 2004!**

But, however you vote, please DO vote! 🗳️



**RG**



**Many Thanks to Al Beecy,  
Phil Baril, Julie Thompson,  
and Ann Majeske for the  
photographs!!**



# 2004




prefer if we provided that meal, even if it meant additional RG registration cost to cover that. It all depends on your feedback and the number of volunteer staffers we have next year to make our own catering possible – it takes quite a bit of work and coordination for that portion of Hospitality. Please send me your thoughts at Lpb52@cotse.net, or use the NH Mensa P.O. Box address on the back of this Momentum if you have to use snail mail. I'm going to be working on the first draft of the RG Handbook, which will be nothing short of an invaluable collective effort by the veterans of this year's RG Committee and those past. It will probably be drafted as we go through the 2005 RG process, as this one was such a blur, due to the late start we got this summer.

Lastly, I'd really like to thank our speakers and staffers for all their efforts. The NH Mensa website at <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm> contains the full RG 2004 Program for those who could not attend, and the full line of speakers are mentioned there along with their bios. The best attended workshops were Dann Maurno's "Paranormal as Early Science," Free State Project, Canterbury Shaker Village and Shoot for the Stars, but they were all well-attended. Our RG Committee members are listed in the back of the program as well as at <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rg2004.shtm> ,

and I give them all a big thanks, especially Hospitality Chair Sue Barnes for the incredible amount of work Hospitality alone takes, and a special "thank you" to Deb Stone for coming all the way from California to be our Registrar this year.

To wrap things up, pictures can also be seen at <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm>, and, for all of you who took pictures at the RG but have not submitted them, we will wrap up the Best RG Picture Contest April 15<sup>th</sup>, so please get your pictures to webmaster Bill Alleman at [Webmaster@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:Webmaster@nh.us.mensa.org) or via the NH Mensa snail mail address. If you didn't get your RG t-shirt at the Granite Gathering, no fear! Email me, RG Chair Lynn Pina, at [Lpb52@cotse.net](mailto:Lpb52@cotse.net) and let me know your size and how many you want, I'll let you know what we have and give you the mailing address for your money order or check to "NH Mensa." It's \$10 each for S-M-L-XL and \$12 each for 2XL and 3XL (plus shipping via USPS). Yes, if you want, we will sell you one of the remaining 10XL t-shirts!

Thank all of you 173 people who came and made this year's RG a record-breaking success! We hope you will enjoy your RG memories and be thinking of them this time next year, so you join us again then to see the results how we deal with our dilemma as to how to top this year's RG! 

For more years than I can remember (some won't believe that!), I have been graciously invited to RGs. My Type A work ethic has always kept me busy six or seven days a week, going back to when I opened a store in 1973, so hearing of weekend fun always sounded like something I could "always do," but didn't. I don't want to imply that I'm an old fuddyduddy by being a workaholic -- I know how to take my relaxation; and, I give as much as I take, as that active crowd can attest.

At the never-missed Appetite For Discussion in Portsmouth August 22, I learned Lynn Pina had singlehandedly decided to create an RG for 2004 after many had felt it just couldn't feasibly happen for that year. I saw her iron will to make this experience happen for the Mensa Family (the capital F is not a mistake), no matter the cost to her. She and Sue Barnes entreated me to participate, so I saw this was really going to be something worthwhile; and, not to miss another opportunity, I agreed. Since I'm not known to break my word, this was a contract as strong as any could be. So, I dutifully sent off my money when the announcements were made, giving me a reason to relate to another dear Mensa Friend (again, the capital F is not a mistake), Registrar Deb Stone, who encouraged my participation.

I arrived at the 12th Floor of the magnificent venue in Manchester, NH, after trepidation for closing early and on a Friday (This was traumatic!). Right off, Deb Stone was there at the greeting desk, issued my artistic name tag and let me pick my "approach label" of green/yellow/red. Next I received my surprise "goody" shopping bag. I have seen these

given out at Oscars and wondered if I had actually struck it rich with exotic jewels, clothing, essences... But no -- practical stuff only, to which much thought had gone ahead of time I quickly found: a local map, a program for the RG, a sturdy cloth carry bag, a pretty decoration like you'd get in Hawaii, etc. Got my buffet and brunch tickets, too, and I was all set.

My longtime friends were there to greet me, and many new ones soon to be had. (Is this an emotional experience for others, too?) I found a closet for my greatcoat and doodads, more convenient than at home! Right away, I was tempted by the cooking of shrimp chowder, venison stew, endless treats and drinks of every kind imaginable (Jim Barnes: How did you learn to make coffee BETTER than Dunkin' and Starbucks?), all capably produced and provided by Sue and Jim Barnes, who worked from long-before-beginning to end to make this gatherin' nice for all these people, some 170+ I later learned!

There was no pressure to do anything, but there were temptations to join in conversations and fun activities all around. I never felt even one moment that I was in the wrong place. Old Friends and acquaintances from decades past appeared in my purview to catch up with; some, truly, in mystical and magical encounters that won't be forgotten. This went on until what I came to find was 1:45 a.m., which seemed like "just getting started." Tired? Not me! This was the common experience. I had to run errands and wanted to process a roll of film I made this evening, to bring back five sets the following day.

For Saturday, 21 February, the anticipated buffet time came; we

met there in the special room set up for this, with lots of round (Mensa) tables just for us and a really good meal, for both the vegans and the carnivores.

Afterward, Auctioneer (man of MANY hats) Joe Zanca (he also ran the Mensa Boutique from his hotel room for us, where I found TOO many goodies to resist, going away with two bags full and a thinner wallet) took out a \$5 U.S. currency note and said it was to be auctioned. The money was to go to Mensa scholarships. This was going to be a good thing. But how much would someone feasibly pay for \$5? About \$132, actually. Someone had apparently also donated some rare and unusual books, etc. (and an antique XXX video featuring John Holmes) at the last moment. They were sold, too, but the \$5 bill generated the most capital gain. The video was a tough sell; in protecting buyers' identities...by the way, Eileen, was it a good flick? There was one rare book our own Claire Natola wanted to buy, an 1870s tome on the history of New Hampshire with a folding original hand-colored map. She bought it and immediately re-donated it for auctioning again! There was also a fun book sale in a room, and a silent auction of many desirable goodies, all of which ended up bringing in some \$750 for the scholarships, and fun for all participants.

Some people liked the movie room, some found the games more than adequate, and all the kids seemed to be having at least as much fun in their activities as the more subdued parents. I found people everywhere I could talk to, to relate with, using good words and arcane language without having to carry around dictionaries.

Where did the time go? It got to be 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning, and we had our very own intrusion by three

street punks who somehow got into our domain, where quick thinking intelligence soon subdued them to slink away from us in defeat. There was a whole lot more to this, but I can say that this "event" gave me my BEST opportunity to contribute to the weekend, to keep everyone safe. After good conversations in the wee hours with Richard Schwartz and John McGondel as Sentinels, my time came to shower and shave and get 1-1/2 hours sleep, only to be awakened by friendly sounds of activity renewed.

Continental breakfast had been set up; life was percolating as only we could wish it to every day, not just at this Shangri-La. Oh, it's Sunday morning! I had a date with Deb Stone and John Bauman for brunch, where we found round tables again, in the breakfast area of the Inn, enjoying a few hours of abundant food and quiet conversation. I got to meet fine people from not just New Hampshire, but from all over New England and further! The people had heard of, or been past participants in, our fine RG hospitality. I was Walter-come-lately, but now really felt part of the Family.

At 1:30 p.m. it was the scheduled last activity: a Special Business Meeting where I, as well as 16 others of our leadership, handled important matters at hand, including setting up Nominations for Officers, and getting the Scholarship Awards program lined up for this year's awardings. These are our good representatives who handle all the matters that come up. That done, the final cleanup was in motion, and leaving was 4:30 p.m.

I thought coming would be traumatic. No, it was leaving! Why can't we have these RG things once a month???

Respectfully,  
Walter S. Wakefield  
(24-Year Member)

## Special Interest Groups

**M-TREPRENEUR:** Due to John Lewicke taking a regular job, M-trepreneur will be moving to online-only status. Please contact [lewicke@yahoo.com](mailto:lewicke@yahoo.com) to join our group. We can continue to discuss ideas online, and when we have something that we want to pursue, we'll get together in person.

**HIRE-A-MENSAN:** If you're an unemployed or underemployed Mensan looking for a job, please join us — maybe we can help each other. How do you join? Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Hire-A-Mensan-SIG/> then click "Join this Group" and follow instructions. When you receive the approving email, be prepared to make a post introducing yourself (there are others as examples), to post a list of job titles for which you wish to apply, any geographic limitations, and your resumé as well. All we guarantee are extra sets of eyes and an online place to exchange tips, resources, possibilities, etc. If you have any other questions, contact Lynn Pina at [Lpb52@cotse.net](mailto:Lpb52@cotse.net).

**FILM LOVERS UNITE!** At least once a month, I make the drive from the Lakes Region to the Portsmouth Music Hall just to see a decent film! However, the Music Hall's schedule is not often publicized early enough for me to post an event in *Momentum*. If you are a lover of rare, independent, and international films, and would enjoy the opportunity to see these films on the largest screen north of Boston with like-minded film lovers, drop a note to me (Claire Natola) at [mensabear@hotmail.com](mailto:mensabear@hotmail.com) or call me at (603) 279-9986, and I'll be sure to contact you whenever I plan a trip to the cinema.

## Classifieds

**I CAN FIX IT** Whatever it is, from industrial electronics to engine rebuilds, and lots of things that aren't in between. Numerous Mensa and non-Mensa satisfied customers. John Lewicke, (603) 878-2610 or [lewicke@yahoo.com](mailto:lewicke@yahoo.com).

## Announcements

**SUBMISSIONS WANTED** I am soliciting short stories, essays, poems, etc. from members of NH Mensa, to be published by PlatoEuclid Press (my small press). Any proceeds above costs will go into our NH Mensa scholarship fund. Anything may be submitted, fiction or not, up to 2,000 words. Must only be submitted digitally, online or through mail, and using 12 pt, Times New Roman, and either as a text only or as an RTF. RTF much preferred. No submission fee. First run of books will be approximately \$17.00 each. Book should be published in April of this year. Email John McGondel for details at: [jteacher1@hotmail.com](mailto:jteacher1@hotmail.com), or mail to: P.O. Box 183, Chester, NH 03036.

**M-VESTOR** meetings have been put on hiatus.

**WORKOUT PARTNER WANTED:** Looking for workout partner for World Gym in Nashua for exercise and/or yoga classes. Call Christine Bartlett if interested. (603) 566-1441.

## Special Events

### **Cape Cod Mini-RG: A Whale Of A Good Time May 7-9, 2004**

Join us on beautiful Cape Cod for a weekend of dining, shopping, swimming (heated indoor pool), socializing and great hospitality. Take a day trip to Provincetown, go whale watching, antiquing, bicycling, or just sit back and listen to the ocean!

Hotel rooms are only \$59.95 until 3/31 and \$64.95 after 4/1. Send your check, made out to Resort Motels, directly to them at: 41 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639. Make your reservations early as the Corsair and Crossrip fill up quickly. Hotel information: 800-332-2279.

Adult registration is still only \$35 until 3/31; \$40 from 4/1 until 4/30; \$45 at door. Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$1 per year of age.

Send your name(s), age(s) of children and a check, payable to "Boston Mensa" to: Al Beecy, Registrar, 32 Bromfield Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

### **Spring Mountain Climb Woodstock, New Hampshire May 14 - 16, 2004**

New England has wonderful mountains, enjoyable seashores, and lively cities. New England also has Mensa! This spring, we combine the mountain part with the Mensa part for a wonderful weekend!

This is when the cold and ice have gone and the bugs have not yet arrived. This is the best time for wonderful hiking weather. The mountains are there for our enjoyment!

Our venue is Pembroke Lodge. Home base for many Appalachian

Mountain Club trips, Pembroke Lodge is surrounded by woods with a snow-fed brook flowing by, with the Pemigewasset River a short walk away. It has country bedrooms and a deck, a homey dining room open to a large kitchen, a secluded sitting room, and a basement with its own refrigerator and shower. It also has a clock that each hour chirps out the sounds of different birds, including, of course, a Mensa owl!

The weekend is low-key and basically unstructured. The one major piece of structure is; you guessed it, hiking! We generally have two hikes. One goes to a mountain peak or other destination worthy of a good day hike. The other takes a few hours over easier terrain to reach a viewpoint, waterfall or other point of interest. Of course, there's also the 'null hike': a short walk or drive amidst the new leaves and flowers, some shopping, or relaxing around the lodge.

The weekend includes two nights' accommodations, two full breakfasts, Saturday dinner, and snacks and soft drinks (BYOB for anything stronger), for just \$60 per person. For Saturday lunch, the hike groups stop at a store for people to buy sandwiches and the like before heading out on the trail.

Once the sleeping spaces at the lodge, around 15, are full, registrations without accommodations are \$30 (the town of Woodstock with a number of inns and motels is a couple of miles away). There are also some good nightspots in town.

We generally pick out the hikes on Friday night. The mountain hike leaves right after Saturday breakfast while the shorter hike leaves an hour or so later. As for the cooking and housekeeping, we do them cooperatively using a chore sign-up

sheet, which definitely increases the feeling of closeness and camaraderie.

To sign up and reserve a place, send a check for \$60 per person to David Heimann, 149 Water St. #5, Wakefield, MA 01880. You'll receive confirmation and directions to the lodge by return mail, e-mail, or phone call. If you have questions or need more information, call David at (781) 245-2087, send him e-mail at heimann@world.std.com, or call Bob and Brendy Horn at (781) 843-5581.

So there it is: wonderful weather, wonderful mountains, invigorating countryside, and Mensa friends, all in one wonderful weekend. Be sure to sign up early to guarantee a place!

### **Bonaire SCUBA Trip May 29 - June 5, 2004**

The SCUBA SIG of American Mensa invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a week of SCUBA diving the Caribbean island of Bonaire May 29 to June 5, 2004 (Saturday to Saturday). Cost of \$1086 includes lodging at the Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, air from Miami, a daily boat dive, unlimited shore diving, car rental, and breakfast. Windsurfers, snorkelers and beach-sitters are welcome, too. Details at <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/scubasig-announce> or contact Brian Bloch, SCUBASIGTrip2004@scuba.us.mensa.org, 245 W. Tujunga Ave #209, Burbank, CA 91502-2842, 818-840-8450 (PST).

### **Cancun Club Med SIG Gathering September 4 - 11, 2004**

Mark your calendars for a splashing good time at the Club Med SIG Gathering in Cancun the week of September 4 to 11, 2004. Mensans over 50 are especially invited, so age is no excuse! Enjoy sailing, windsurfing, waterskiing, kayaking, snorkeling, tennis, dancing, and French food (with wine). All lessons are included. All sports equipment is included, even sailboats. All meals and bar drinks and snacks between meals are included! Registration is free.

Even better, with the Mensa group discount, the price for everything is only \$98 per day (per person), the lowest price ever! Solo travelers are welcome, and Club Med will match you with a same-sex, same-age roommate, if desired. Single rooms are available at a higher rate, but that's no fun! Optional tours of Mayan ruins and SCUBA trips are available at an additional charge. The Mensa price is good until July 1, or until the Mensa rooms are full, whichever comes first. (Due to the open bar, children must be 18 or older.)

For more information and the secret Mensa code, e-mail Erica Byrne of the Club Med SIG at [EMByrne@attglobal.net](mailto:EMByrne@attglobal.net). Or, check out the SIG website at [www.MensaClubMed.org](http://www.MensaClubMed.org). (If you have never been to Club Med, more information can be found on their website at [www.ClubMed.com](http://www.ClubMed.com).)

# Calendar of Events

## April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 28</b> 12:30 pm Fourth Sunday Lunch	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>January 1</b>  <i>April                      Fool's Day</i>	<b>2</b>  7:00 pm Temp League	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>  <i>Daylight                      Savings                      Time                      Begins</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  7:00 pm Mensa Testing in Nashua	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  3:00 pm Central Maine Meet and Munch  5:00 pm Second Saturday Supper
<b>11</b>  10:30 am Second Sunday Brunch Bunch  5:30 pm Portland Dinner	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  7:00 pm Dinner with Eric	<b>17</b>  9:00 am Young Inventors Program  1:00 pm All-You- Can-Eat Buffet
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  7:00 pm FSM/ ExComm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Stage Door Divas  6:30 pm Appetite for Discussion	<b>24</b>  Stage Door Divas
<b>25</b>  12:30 pm Fourth Sunday Lunch	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>

Calendar listings must be in the hands of the Calendar Editor before the first of the month prior to the cover date. It is N.H. Mensa policy to avoid conflicts as much as possible, but no conflicts are allowed to group-sponsored events. Mensans, members of their household, and invited guests are always welcome at N.H. Mensa events. Many thanks to our event hosts, without whom this calendar would be quite barren. E-mail your events to [Calendar@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:Calendar@nh.us.mensa.org).

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