



The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 27 No.4

November 2007



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## New Hampshire Mensa

**Send all correspondence to:**      *Officer Name*  
New Hampshire Mensa  
P.O. Box 217  
New Hampton, NH 03256-0217

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*MOMENTUM* (ISSN 0279-2850) is the official publication of New Hampshire Mensa (030). It is published monthly at 83 N Main Street, Boscawen, NH 03303 and is distributed to members of New Hampshire Mensa with the subscription cost of \$6.75 included in the national dues. Out-of-chapter Mensa subscriptions are \$12.00 per year. Non-member subscriptions are \$15.00 per year. Email subscriptions are \$6.00 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Concord, NH 03301.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Momentum*, 83 North Main Street, Boscawen, NH 03303-1235.

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# Etched in Stone

## LocSec Deb Stone

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Many of you know already, and many will know with this issue of Momentum, that Claire Natola (LocSec) made the decision to resign from that position effective the middle of September. As a result of some succession questions to do with our own bylaws and how they fit with the National Standard Bylaws, RVC1 Lori Norris decided, after speaking with other officers on the AMC, to appoint someone to fill the remainder of Claire's term. I appreciate her confidence in asking me to be that person, and hope that I will be able to make some contribution to the Mensa group that will always be my home group, no matter where I am! Of course, my appointment to LocSec caused a small cascade of officer positions. Once I accepted the LocSec position, I had to give up my position as Treasurer. The ExComm appointed Wayne Eddy to serve out my term as Treasurer. That meant that Wayne's Member-at-Large position opened up, and the ExComm appointed Ann Majeske to fill out the remainder of that term. The rest of the ExComm remains unchanged.

Claire brought a wonderful enthusiasm and responsiveness to her position with us. I am happy to share that, while she is no longer LocSec, she is continuing to participate in the support and leadership of Mensa both on the local and national level. So we'll continue to see her, and I hope to benefit from the very qualities that make me so sad to lose her as LocSec.

In the meantime, I'm trying to get up to speed on what is going on in our group. I've been back in NH (after almost 7 years in southern California) for almost a year now, but it's been a challenging year. Starting a new job, buying and moving into (and changing!) a new home and getting involved again with NH & ME Mensa at the local level would have been enough. In addition, however, I lost a great-aunt, a great-uncle and somewhat unexpectedly and quite tragically for our family, my dad since I have been home. So, while I have been to some events, I haven't attended as many as I might have if all of these other things were not going on. But I promise, now that I have accepted the position of LocSec, to start showing up more often!

And there is a lot going on. We have many regular events on the calendar, and I encourage any of you who can't find something of interest there to contact me about holding a one-time event or starting a new regular calendar event. Boston Mensa's RG, Pilgrimage, is later this month. And by the time you read this, our RG will be less than four months away. Have you registered yet? How about volunteering to help out? Please contact the RG Chair, the Registrar (that's me!) or any of the other officers listed on the back cover if you have any questions or would like more information.

Last, but certainly not least, we have a couple of open positions that you might enjoy. Our most recent Testing Coordinator has resigned, so we need someone to help out there. It doesn't take a huge time commitment, although there are some demands on a regular basis. You don't have to be a proctor to hold this position, although you may be (in which case you may be called the Proctor Coordinator.) The other position that's open and has been for some time is Programming. In the old days (I know I'm dating myself) we had a regular monthly event with guest speakers. I would love to see that start up again; if you are interested in seeing this happen give me a call or send me an e-mail.

I'm thrilled to be able to serve our group, and hope that you will feel free to get in touch with me any time to share your questions, ideas or suggestions. And I'll see you soon!

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## Leadership Development Workshop

The registration form for the Region One Leadership Workshop is now available on line.

To see it (and register) go to [www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org/special/index.html](http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org/special/index.html) <<http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org/special/index.html>> and click on Registration Form. The registration form is in Rhode Island Mensa's protected area, so you will need to enter your M number and password for access.

I look forward to seeing you in May at the Leadership Workshop.

Your fellow M,

Tom Padwa  
RIM LDW Committee Chair

# RVChat

## Region 1 Vice Chair Lori Norris

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November: the traditional month for giving thanks. But as I discovered years ago, life is much simpler when I make the effort to be thankful every day or at least most days. And I'm thankful for: my family, my husband, that my son is happy. I'm thankful for a job that I enjoy. And I'm continually thankful for Mensa, the friends I'm making, the fun that I'm having and the increased self-confidence I've achieved. But, of course, I still enjoy celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends. I confess I am one of those people out shopping in the wee hours the morning after Thanksgiving. We shop for Adopt-a-family for Christmas gifts and we get some great buys. It feels good to shop for those less fortunate than us and even better to be able to get more for less.

In October, Ron and I attended Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa's MensAutumn. It was a very interesting weekend. First off, all the meals were included in the price of registration and the food was good. Speakers were varied and included dance lessons, Celtic lore, TV from the sixties and now and, to continue the dog tradition, a representative from Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation brought her foster dog to spend some time with us. If you've ever been interested in raising a seeing eye dog, check out their website. Okay, there's food and speakers, what have I forgotten. Oh, the people. We spent time with a couple from Ohio who were spending a week touring New England. I also had the pleasure of meeting a former national chairman from Australia. Bill Fisher and his wife Cyndi are combining a six-week vacation touring the U.S. and enjoying as many Mensa events as they can. They flew out the day after the RG heading for Yellowstone Park and plan on returning for Liberty Bell and then Chicago's Weem. So far, I haven't made it to Weem, but from what I've heard it's one heck of a party! Someday, hopefully, we'll be able to attend.

As I write this column, Ron and I are awaiting the arrival of our guests for a games night. Our Australian friends taught me a new way of playing scrabble, fast-moving and competitive. It requires a quick mind and fast fingers. It's called Grabble and I look forward to playing it.

November brings Summer of Love brought to us by Boston Mensa. Come celebrate the summer of 1967. I was much too young to remember that year, but I'm sure it'll be great fun. And my husband gets to wear some of his tie-died t-shirts (how can one man own so many). Check out the website at <http://bostonrg.org/>. Hope to see you there or somewhere.

*Lori*

# Upcoming Testing Sessions

## Tell Your Friends!

Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at [nh.us.mensa.org](http://nh.us.mensa.org). Anyone 14 or older who wishes to take the Mensa Admissions Test should pre-register with the respective proctor listed below, who can provide testing site information. The test costs \$40; a photo-ID is required.

Date	Proctor	Location
02 November 6:00 p.m.	Claire Natola <a href="mailto:mensabear@gmail.com">mensabear@gmail.com</a>	Orono, ME
03 November 10:00 a.m.	Claire Natola <a href="mailto:mensabear@gmail.com">mensabear@gmail.com</a>	Orono, ME
14 November 7:00 p.m.	John Bauman 603-883-7494	Nashua, NH
17 November 10:00 a.m.	Bromley Baril <a href="mailto:bromleybaril@comcast.net">bromleybaril@comcast.net</a>	Portsmouth, NH

Due to the advanced nature of deadlines there may be other testing dates that did not make it to press in time for this issue. Please refer to the NH Mensa website (<http://nh.us.mensa.org>) or contact the Testing Coordinator (see back cover for contact information) for more up-to-date information.

### THE ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSTORE



**WANTED:** All publications of Mensa, Intertel, I.S.P.E., new or old. Especially need all pre-1980 Mensa *Bulletin*, NH/ME/VT/MA local publications, registers, other paper material and pins. Wanted for preservation and access for research to members of these organizations. I will pay \$ for your items, but donations greatly appreciated. Help preserve our past.

Actively BUYING/trading collections/accumulations of old and new books, magazines, comics, sheet music, postcards, photos, prints, music CDs, adult/erotica in all forms.

Bring to The Antiquarian Bookstore at 1070 Lafayette Road (U.S. Route 1, adjacent to old Yoken's Restaurant), Portsmouth, N.H. 03801-5408 or call Walter Wakefield at 603-436-7250. New Hampshire's largest used/rare bookstore since 1973. Over 1/4 Million volumes in stock. Usually open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Sometimes at club events -- call.) Thank You.

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## ExComm Minutes of Sep. 18, 2007

### Recording Secretary Liz Modesitt

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Voting Members Present: John Bauman, Mark Becker, Wayne Eddy, Liz Modesitt, Tom Shiel and Deb Stone

Others Present: Jim Barnes, Sue Barnes, Elizabeth Becker, Anne Majeske, David Melville, Walter Wakefield and Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm

John Bauman reported that we have 321 members in New Hampshire and 166 members in Maine, for a total of 487 members.

Claire Natola resigned as Local Secretary. Our bylaws do not adequately cover what to do in this situation (according to National), so RVC Chair Lori Norris appointed Deb Stone as Local Secretary.

Deb Stone resigned as Treasurer.

Liz Modesitt motioned to appoint Wayne Eddy as Treasurer. Tom Shiel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with one abstention.

Wayne Eddy accepted the Treasurer position and resigned as Member-at-Large.

Both Anne Majeske and Walter Wakefield expressed an interest in the vacant Member-at-Large position. The Ex-Comm took a vote, and Anne Majeske was appointed as the new Member-at-Large.

Deb Stone will give all of the officer changes to Bill Alleman for the website.

Deb Stone reported on the state of our finances as well as plans for National Testing Day. There are several people from Maine training to become proctors.

The RG Committee stated that they are trying to negotiate a contract with a hotel in Nashua. They will make sure that both National and RVC Chair Lori Norris approve the contract. A theme of "Celebrate 08" was decided on.

A plan was discussed to offer brand new first-time members who qualified March 2007 or later a \$10 coupon for use on their Celebrate 08 RG Registration. John Bauman will send these out, as he is Membership Secretary.

Wayne Eddy motioned to adjourn. Mark Becker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm

# What Are *Your* Expectations?

by Claire Natola

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In mid-September, I sent out an email to let everyone (whose email addresses we had on file) know that the North Country Lunch was moving from a now-closed restaurant in Bartlett to a different restaurant in Ossipee. I received a response from one of our members, which I reprint here in its entirety:

"Why does that not surprise me. I'm close to the VERMONT border -- ever have anything in THIS area?

- {name} on the west coast of NH"

I responded to this member as follows:

"Hi, {name}!

Of course there's the monthly Peterborough dinner, but that might not help you if you are along the northern edge of the Vermont border. You'll be pleased to see a dinner in Whitefield (30 miles from St. Johnsbury, VT) listed in your October Momentum. It's at the Tavern at the Mountain View Grand Hotel. I hope you can make it!

You'll also be happy to know that Vermont Mensa is getting back on its feet, so you may very well see Vermont events listed in NH's newsletter in the not-too-distant future. I have offered to proctor a test in St. Johnsbury for them, so perhaps a few new members in that area will get something going.

Let me know also if you'd be interested in hosting your own events for the people in your area! I'll be happy to do what I can to help publicize it!

All the best,  
Claire"

Unfortunately, I did not receive a response from this member indicating an interest in hosting an event.

This episode inspires me to begin a discussion here in these pages: What do you expect from your Mensa membership as regards social events? How willing are you to host events yourself? If you are willing, but shy about doing it for

the first time, what would help you get started? If you are not willing to host events, do you expect that other volunteers are supposed to "take care of you"? If you are a volunteer who frequently hosts events, what are your thoughts?

I bought my clunky ten-year-old car in December of 2004, when it had 115,000 miles on it. It now has 191,000 miles on it. That works out to an average of 2,300 miles driven per month. I only work 10 miles from home, so fewer than 500 of those miles per month are spent driving to work and back. That leaves 1,800 miles per month which have PRIMARILY been spent driving from my home in central New Hampshire to Mensa events and meetings. I'm not complaining; I have a lot of fun when I go to trivia nights in Portland, ME; to dinners in Peterborough, NH; to lunches in Bartlett, NH; to shindigs in Ripley, ME. But I have also driven to some places to host events for members like the one who emailed me - members who live in places underserved by our regular calendar - and had no one show up. My "Roving Salon" series of events two years ago was only a moderate success.

I remember in July of 2003 when Bill and Darlene Alleman hosted their Second Sunday Brunch Bunch event at the Boathouse Grill in Meredith. I had just become a Mensan four months prior. At that time there were no regular events on the calendar in central New Hampshire, so I was tickled pink about meeting other Mensans who lived near me. Alas, I was the only other person besides Bill and Darlene who attended. We are lucky to be Mensans in a chapter that has members like Bill and Darlene (Bless them!) who travel all over to host events.

We have some amazing volunteers who give untold hours of their time to perform the functions that keep this chapter running, and these people pay the same membership fees that you do. If any of them are hosting an event in your area, won't you consider attending? If you can't attend because of a conflict, but would have wanted to, won't you send them a quick note saying that you appreciate their efforts? (Sometimes just confirmation that the event *would have* attracted you can mean so much.) Perhaps most important of all: Won't you consider hosting your own event? We have all the tools you need to help publicize it: the newsletter, the discussion group, email lists, and even money for postage. (The notice "Event hosts may petition the Executive Committee for funds to promote events via postcard to members within a proximate geographic area" is published in every issue of our newsletter. This stems from a motion that was passed by our ExComm a couple of years ago in an effort to assist hosts of new events that might need help getting off the ground.)

I look forward to hearing our members' thoughts about this; feel free to write a Letter to the Editor in response to the questions I've posed. And, as always, I hope to see you out at an event soon!

# No Child Left Behind: Its Effect On Gifted Children

by Fran Tishevich

NCLB is a well-intentioned federal act that mandates closing gaps in student achievement and emphasizes proficient, or grade-level, test scores for entire schools and specific subgroups of students. As such, NCLB seems to be a way to “raise the bar” for all students. To meet this goal, each state has created a high-stakes test to evaluate student achievement. Educators must teach the content described by the state standards. Students must show “adequate yearly progress” on the test. None of this addresses the progress of the individual child toward excellence, how much actual learning is accomplished beyond what is already known, nor what is the quality of the instruction delivered. With the emphasis on group comparisons there is no incentive to develop the talents of individual students.

Marcia Gentry describes a consultant’s work with a school on strategies to increase the school’s test scores. The consultant told the teachers that they needn’t worry about the students who scored in the top or bottom quartile. Why? Students in the middle had the power to improve the most. The consultant, using taxpayer dollars, encourages the teachers to give the middle students the most attention, leaving behind both the lowest scoring as well as the highest scoring students.

By requiring proficiency, rather than excellence, services for gifted children are often cut and the funds reallocated to remedial programs. There is a pervasive notion that gifted students will make it on their own. Additionally, if gifted students excel, and raise their test scores, the achievement gap between students will widen.

The deficit-based approach to education, intended to improve weakness, often consists of remedial drill exercises. These are usually of little interest to students and teachers, alike. They take valuable time away from creative, engaging, challenging, empowering learning activities that promote higher level thinking. A study by Amrein and Berliner should be of concern to gifted students and their parents. Besides boredom and an increased drop-out rate, states with high-stakes graduation exams have experienced a decline in ACT, SAT and AP scores, all measures of overall academic achievement. This has been attributed to too much time spent teaching to the state test, and too little time on more substantive, meaningful and contextual learning.

What is often downplayed, but should still be of concern to all is cheating by educators in response to the high-stakes testing. While Texas, and its “Texas Miracle,” may have been the most egregious example of cheating, other less obvious examples can be found around the country. Teachers “helping” with a test, dubious test-prep practices, retention and reclassification of students

(indicating a student is in grade 9 rather than grade 10 to allow for an extra year of test prep, or indicating a student belongs to a different subgroup), expulsion, exemption, and under-reporting drop-out rates all undermine the intent and validity of the tests.

How does this effect the gifted student? Many gifted children are especially attuned to complex social issues. They struggle to reconcile justice and fairness when issues of cheating on state testing become newsworthy. Additionally, gifted students feel a responsibility to score well. If they don't score well, they can acutely feel disappointment and guilt. (As an aside, in my son's Honors English class, all students scored either "needs improvement" or "basic" on the statewide assessment. They were devastated! Later, they all went on to score 700 - 800 on the verbal portion of the SAT. It does make one wonder.)

Despite its original intentions, NCLB is creating a climate where learning is carefully controlled by state standards. But who selected those standards? A message is being sent to all involved, administrators and teachers in the schools, and students and parents at home, that it is the school's job to teach to the standards. As long as the standards are reflected in the high-stakes testing upon which the school is judged, nothing more, nor less, should be expected.

In an effort to leave no child behind, students of all levels are being marginalized. The bare-bones, one-size-fits-all educational system offers little for those who may need enriched, accelerated, or extended curricula.

No longer is the goal of education to help each student reach his or her full potential and assist him or her to become a productive citizen. Rather, schools have met their obligation to educate when students have met the standards.

Are our gifted kids better off with or without NCLB? Be sure to let your lawmakers know.

#### References

Amrein, A. & Berliner, D. (2002) An analysis of some unintended and negative consequences of high-stakes testing. Tempe: Arizona State University, Educational Policy Studies Laboratory. (EPSL No. 0211-125-EPRU)

Gentry, Marcia. (2006, Fall). No child left behind: neglecting excellence. *Roeper Review*, 29, 24-27.

Gentry, Marcia. (2006, October). No child left behind: gifted children and school counselors. *Professional School Counseling*, 10, 73-81.



# Calendar of Events

## November 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01 Deadline for Dec. calendar entries	02 Temperance League  Margarita's Mensan Mingle	03  Bangor Buffet Bash
04	05	06	07	08	09  Brady Bunch	10
11  Second Sunday Brunch	12	13  Dining Around Portland	14	15  French Film	16	17
18  MA Bridge Night	19	20  Pre-FSM Dinner  FSM/Ex-C- omm	21  North of Boston Dinner	22	23  Menstel	24
25	26	27  Portland Dinner and Pub Quiz	28	29	30	

Mensa members are welcome to submit calendar listings to the Calendar Editor (calendar@nh.us.mensa.org) before the first of the month prior to the cover date. ♦ Event hosts may petition the Executive Committee for funds to promote events via postcard to members within a proximate geographic area. ♦ It is NH/ME 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 group-sponsored events. ♦ Hosts of home-based events reserve the right to restrict attendance due to space or other appropriate reasons. ♦ While our hosts endeavor to provide accurate directions, attendees are well-advised to use their mapping medium of choice to determine their own best routes. ♦ In addition to being proper etiquette, R.S.V.P.'ing makes logical sense; it helps the host plan for the proper number of attendees and allows you to be kept abreast of any changes or cancellations.



## A Sampling of Next Month's Events\*



Friday, 07 December, 7:00 p.m.	Temperance League, Manchester, N.H.
Sunday, 09 December, 10:30 a.m.	2nd Sunday Brunch, N.H.
Friday, 14 December, 7:00 p.m.	The Brady Bunch, Peterborough, N.H.
Saturday, 15 December, 6:30 p.m.	Games Night, Concord, N.H.
Tuesday, 18 December, 5:30 p.m.	Pre-FSM Dinner, Bow, N.H.
Tuesday, 18 December, 7:00 p.m.	FSM/ExComm, Bow, N.H.
Wednesday, 19 December, 6:00 p.m.	North of Boston Dinner, Peabody, MA.
Thursday, 27 December, 6:30 p.m.	French Film, Chelmsford, MA.
Friday, 28 December, 7:00 p.m.	Menstel, Portsmouth, N.H.

\*Events are subject to changes of date, time, location or even outright cancellation, as life sometimes gets in the way. Don't forget to refer to next month's *Momentum* for the most up-to-date information.



Announcement: Looking for a new host for Winnepesupper. Gail Meinholz is no longer able to host, and someone else is needed to continue this popular event. If you go regularly and are willing to be the contact person, notify the Calendar editor, and it will be reinstated. Or, if there are 2 people who are willing to alternate months, that could work too! Keep this event happening!