

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 28 No.9

April 2009

**Happy April Fool's Day!**



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# New Hampshire Mensa

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*Momentum* logo by Matthew DeSmith



# Etched in Stone

## LocSec Deb Stone

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So it's March 1<sup>st</sup>, and it sounds like March is going to come in like a lion – we're expecting a nor'easter tonight and tomorrow. In today's world of round-the-clock weathercasts and interactive radar and long-range storm tracking, it may seem funny to us that it's called a nor'easter when it comes from the south or southwest. But back when the name first came about, I'm sure that the people going through the storm thought about where the winds came from, and that was the northeast (it's that counterclockwise rotation.)

Whatever the reason, if any of us hoped for an early spring, I guess that's off the table now.

At least the storm didn't happen on RG weekend! We had a great time this year, and attendance was actually up over the last couple of years. Thanks to everyone who contributed by speaking, by volunteering or just by being there. And as far as I'm concerned, we owe special thanks and lots of kudos to a few people in particular. Holly Green (and her assistant chair and husband Richard Conde) did a fantastic job putting together a great RG. Holly's program was terrific, and I had more than one person telling me that the only problem was that there were more things going on than they could see without figuring out a way to be in two or more places at once. As usual, our Hospitality crew (under chair Elizabeth Becker) provided the fuel to keep us all going at our frenetic RG pace. And from my perspective, particular thanks to Bob & Jill Oxford for bringing back the Music Room. There were always people in there, there was lots of variety and participation and guests who came to entertain, and I could hear the music from my registration table, which was great for me!

Now we start planning for next year. We are beginning the process of looking for the site for 2010. Holly has expressed an interest in being RG Chair for another year (hooray!) but as usual, before awarding the RG you all get a chance to put forward a proposal. If you are interested, please get in touch with me for guidelines, and plan to bring your proposal to the April meeting of the ExComm (April 19<sup>th</sup>.) If there are multiple proposals, the ExComm will announce the winner of the bid process in early May.

If you would like to get involved in NHM, but aren't ready to run an RG yet (!) there are several open positions that might interest you. We are looking for a new Secretary for the ExComm (this is a voting position), with responsibilities including taking notes at our meetings (both ExComm and Business) and providing them to Momentum for publication. We are also looking for a new PR Coordinator with responsibilities to promote our various activities (including testing sessions, mem-

ber events, the Scholarship Program and the RG.) And finally, John Bauman (our hard-working Proctor Coordinator) has decided he needs a break, and will be resigning from that position. That means we need a new Proctor or Testing Coordinator. Don't worry if you aren't a proctor - you can still be testing coordinator. Responsibilities include keeping track of prospects & candidates, working with National, helping develop new proctors and working with NHM's proctors to make sure regular testing sessions are offered across the state.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please get in touch with me at [nhm@stonesrealm.com](mailto:nhm@stonesrealm.com) or [locsec@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@nh.us.mensa.org) or (603) 856-7055.

And last, but certainly not least – congratulations to ME Mensa who as of about the time you read this should be their own independent group again. We owe thanks and good wishes to the entire group, especially those who have stepped up to take on leadership positions and get the group going again. Good luck!

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## Maine Mensa Update

Maine Mensa is officially its' own entity on April 1, 2009. Your elected officers are:

Anne Allen , LocSec; Sue Flaherty, Asst. LocSec; Gerald Nessmann, Treasurer; Kevin Tremblay, At-Large. Terms start April 1, 2009 for 2 years.

**The first Executive Committee (the omnipotent Ex-Comm) meeting will be held Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the home of Gerald Nessmann in Dexter, Maine. All of your elected officials will be present.** We (the Ex-Comm) will rarely be all together for a meeting as our by-laws allow for electronic attendance. It will be an important meeting where we discuss the 'soul' of our Maine Mensa and it's continued health for generations to come. (I have been listening to too many Obama speeches.) All of the rest of the positions are appointed. If you have any interest in any of them, feel free to contact me and we'll discuss. We welcome all to attend who are so inclined.

The Maine By-Laws require we publish a newsletter quarterly. Hopefully the majority of our members will opt for electronic means for receiving our newsletter and monthly updates so we save on postage. Because we are such a small group, there are no bulk incentives for us. Monthly, we'll send out calendar postcards for reminders of events. Our focus will be on a high level of web, email, yahoo groups, etc. to keep in greater contact. We will have a website/blog for constant contact and updates.

It is a very exciting time to be a part of Maine Mensa. **If you want to be on the 'Short List' emails, let me know. If you want to make sure your email address is correct** so you can at least be on the 'Update List', contact me also. **If you are planning on coming to the Ex-Comm meeting, let me know.**

Anne W. Allen, Loc Sec Maine Mensa  
[locsec@me.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@me.us.mensa.org) or 207-577-6362  
4 *Momentum*



# RVChat

## Region 1 Vice Chair Lori Norris

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April Fools Day is upon us. I haven't celebrated that in years. I'll have to think of a good prank to pull on Ron this year since he won't be expecting it.

Proctors are one of our most important assets in Mensa. They are usually the first Mensan a potential member meets. Proctors give up their valuable free time to administer tests and, occasionally, no one will show up. Their service is greatly appreciated. They are patient and friendly. Does your group have a proctor who is especially wonderful? April 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to nominate that person for the Proctor of the Year Award. Last year, MoNNY's own Joe O'Malley was awarded that honor. Also the Mensa Education and Research Foundation is seeking nominations for the Copper Black Award (self-nominations are welcome) and Distinguished Teach Award. The deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Speaking of the Foundation, I was honored to be included as a judge in the regional scholarship judging event. Does your group participate?

Speaking of MoNNY, preliminary plans are underway for them to host a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in fall 2009. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know. The last LDW held here in Rhode Island in May 2008 was a success and I even learned a few (okay, many) things I was not aware of beforehand. There's always something new to learn.

Elections: MIL and AML are both holding elections this year. While I have already been declared elected as RVC1, the elections are still important as national officers are being elected and there are several important bylaws referendums. Should you have any questions about the current election, you may contact the election committee or me and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

Testing: Do you know anyone who might qualify for membership but are a little bit shy about taking the test? During the month of April, the home test is discounted by \$5 and if they return the completed test by May 31, they'll receive a \$5 off coupon for the Mensa Admission Test which will be valid until July 31. Buy the home test in April, maybe a Mother's Day gift OR have your adult children take the test as a gift to you.

Upcoming Events: Boston Mensa's Cape Cod weekend will be held the second weekend of May. Mind Games® will be held in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky the weekend of April 24 through 26. It's not too late to think about attending, it's a great time for the gamer in you.

*Lori*



**No time to pay by check?  
Renew your membership online  
at [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) or  
call 817-607-0060  
ext. 199**



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## Upcoming Testing Sessions

**Tell Your Friends!**

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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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Proctor</b>	<b>Location</b>
8, April 7:00 p.m.	John Bauman 603-883-7494	Nashua, 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 inside back cover for contact information) for more up-to-date information.



## ExComm Meeting 24 Feb. 2009

Recorded by Deb Stone

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Called to order 7:47pm

In attendance: ExComm member: Deb Stone, Anne Majeske, Tom Shiel, Wayne Eddy, John Bauman, Yvonne Crocker, Mark Becker

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Becker, Nicholas Becker, Ric Werme, Holly Green, Richard Conde (and Sammi!)

Liz has resigned (officially) as Secretary. We will be looking for a replacement.  
Mark has resigned (officially) as PR Coordinator. We will be looking for a replacement.

Membership: Deb gave membership numbers (NH 374, ME 190, Tot 564)

\* We printed 30 additional copies of membership handbook to hold us over until updated.

\* We had two requests on behalf of ME members for dues subsidies. ExComm discussed: no official dues subsidy program put in place although we have a draft, and since the membership year for both would be 4/1/2009 forward, when ME will be an independent group, the ExComm feels that it isn't appropriate for NHM to pay these dues. John will communicate with Anne Allen.

\* Deb reminded group that 03/31 (end of membership year) is coming quickly. Anything we can do to encourage members to renew is good. Momentum will continue to be sent to lapsed members for at least two months (April, May). Once we see lapse rate, we will determine whether we do something like a mailing or phone tree.

Treasurer – RG report: all receipts not in yet, but it looks like we will make at least a couple of hundred dollars profit.

Young M – no report

Gifted Children – no report

Scholarship – Local judging completed and forwarded on to next step. Fewer applications/essays this year than prior years – why? Maybe publicity went out too early?

Testing – Real success in January where 13 were tested (compared to 4 in 2008.) John said of 6 recent testees where he knows they were offered membership, 5 have already joined. Also, John is member of national Testing Task Force. John announced that he is resigning as Proctor Coordinator but will continue as proctor. Currently 6 proctors in NH; Deb will see if any will become coordinator or if not, is there anyone to be Testing Coordinator. John will stay on for now while we look for replacement.

ME Mensa update – still expecting ‘rebirth’ date to be 04/01/2009.

RG Report –190 attendees in total. Deb mentioned that the number of registrations that weren’t full weekend was up, but we had great attendance nonetheless. Final bill received from hotel; reviewed and turned over to Treasurer for payment. We had some discussion of what went right and wrong. Major issues were with lack of volunteers (need active volunteer coordinator) and with the hotel (mostly space/layout related.) Holly/Elizabeth/Deb will start looking at hotels for 2010 RG. Some discussion of possibly moving dates, but since tentative theme (from Holly) is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our RG, it seems like it should remain on Presidents’ Day weekend. Holly provided example publicity/flyer and a tentative timeline, committee and budget. Deb will solicit other proposals in next column.

FSM/ExComm will remain on penultimate Sunday for now until revisited for vote (motion Eddy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shiel, vote unanimous.) Deb said that once the snow is gone she will even be happy to provide food (as soon as she can get to grill!)

Moved to adjourn (Eddy), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Shiel), vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned 9:45pm



## **Business Meeting Minutes of Feb. 24, 2009**

**Recorded by Deb Stone**

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### Business Meeting (02/24/2009)

Called to order 9:45

No old business

No new business

Moved to adjourn (Shiel), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Bauman), vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned 9:46pm

## Spring Mountain Climb May 15-17, 2009 North Conway, N.H.

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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!

The Mountain Climb will take place at David Heimann's ski club lodge, Skiwheelers Ski Club, located in North Conway, NH (see "[www.skiwheelers.org](http://www.skiwheelers.org)" for further information). The lodge is a lovely 19th century building, originally built as an inn. In the 1970s it was used as the location for the movie "Return of the Secaucus Seven". It is close enough to the center of North Conway to be easily accessible to all the shops and activities there, yet far enough away to enjoy the peace and quiet of the woods, trees, and country roads.

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 'no hike'; a short walk or drive amidst the new leaves and flowers, some shopping (North Conway has a few places!), 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. Registrations without accommodations are \$30 (North Conway has various hotels and lodgings, as well as some good nightspots).

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. For Saturday lunch, the hike groups stop at a store for people to buy sandwiches and the like before heading out on the trail. 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, 65 Cornwall St. #206, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. 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 (617)524-4531, send him e-mail at

[heimann.david@gmail.com](mailto:heimann.david@gmail.com), or call Bob & 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!



## Letters & Emails

Hi Mark,

I was wondering if this could be run in Momentum:

Ragnar had so much fun playing at the RG, that Cathy and Ragnar are contemplating getting a group together to play D&D or possibly some other RPG once in a while. For the moment we are putting out this inquiry to see who might be interested. If you are interested, please email [csegone@enigami.com](mailto:csegone@enigami.com).

thanks so much,  
Cathy Segone

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

By John Grover

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It is time to say goodbye to Winter's last chill. The prospect of beautiful Spring days helps me to focus upon two of my numerous obsessions. These are of course, the wines from New York's Finger Lakes region and a good meal peacefully bubbling away in our slow cooker. What else does a fellow need?

This month's wine is the 2007 Vidal Blanc from the Thirsty Owl Wine Company on New York's Cayuga Lake. The Vidal grape is a French-American hybrid, and the source of much of the sweet dessert ice wines produced in New York State and Ontario. I prefer the way this particular example is made, resulting in an elegant semi-dry white wine. It starts with a nose characterized by pineapple, orange zest and hints of flowers. In the mouth, this wine balances the lively fruit of green apples and grapefruit with a refreshing acidity. The taste is not too sweet, not too tart; but, is "JUST RIGHT" (Can guess the last bedtime story that I read to my grandson?). This wine matches well with many Southwestern and Asian dishes. I have found it locally for about \$9 to \$12 a bottle.

**Chicken Chili** (From the Best of Country Slow Cooker Recipes, Volume II from the publisher of *Taste of Home* magazine; and, available for sale on numerous internet websites.)

**Ingredients:** 1½ lb. boneless chicken breasts cut into ½ inch cubes; 1 cup chopped onion; 3 tbsp vegetable oil; 1 can (15 oz.) cannelloni or white kidney beans, rinsed and drained; 1 can (14 ½ oz.) diced tomatoes, not drained; 1 can (14 ½ oz.) diced tomatoes with mild green chilies, not drained; 1 cup frozen corn; 1 tsp salt; 1 tsp. ground cumin; 1 tsp. minced garlic; ½ tsp. celery salt; ½ tsp. ground coriander; ½ tsp. pepper; **Optional:** serve with sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese.

**Instructions:** In a large skillet, sauté chicken and onion in oil for 5 minutes or until chicken is browned. Transfer to a 5 qt. slow cooker. Stir in beans, tomatoes, corn and seasonings. Cover and cook on low for 5 hours or until chicken is no longer pink (You may want to turn the cooker up to high for the last 20 minutes for a higher serving temperature.). Garnish with sour cream and cheese if desired. This should produce about 6 servings.

**Cooking/ Serving Tips:** If you can't find the tomatoes with chilies, just use the corresponding amount of regular diced tomatoes and add a small can (3 or 4 oz.) of the green chilies found almost everywhere. Also, serving with tortilla chips or crusty bread is a nice addition. And, for you who are tempted to add hot sauce, go right ahead; but, I think that you will find that there is already a lot of flavor in this dish.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto:jgrover@berk.com). 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.

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## **Boy Am I Old! by Paul Victor [Reprinted from L.A. Mentary, newsletter of Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa, January, 2004; Arvin Tseng, Editor]**

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One of my grandchildren asked me the other day, "What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up in Germany?" "There was no fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was slow." "C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?" "It was a place called 'home'," I explained. "My mother cooked every day and when we got home, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she had cooked I was allowed to sit there until I liked it."

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my early childhood, if I had figured that his system could have handled it:

Most parents did not own their house, wore only Levis, never set foot on a golf course, never traveled out of the country and there were no credit cards. In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. But that card was good only at Sears Roebuck. There is no Roebuck anymore. I think he died. My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. We didn't have a television in our house because... it had not yet been invented. All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers. I did too, six days a week. It cost 7 German pennies, of which I got to keep 2. I had to get up at 4 am every day. I also had to collect the money from the customers. I liked those customers best who told me to keep the change.

In my grandfather's days all there were was horses and carriages. He too had those. He knew how to get the horse to walk, but he had a problem steering it. A neighbor once asked him "Where are you going, Simon?" And he answered, "Ask the horse!" When my dad cleaned out my grandmother's house (after she had died) he brought me an old bottle with a bunch of holes in the top. I thought someone had tried to make a salt shaker out of it. But it actually was the bottle that would sit on the end of an ironing board to "sprinkle" clothes with because there were no steam irons yet.

Boy, am I old!



# Notes from National

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As of this morning (12, March 2009, editor), American Mensa had 56,935 members. This is our highest membership number ever, surpassing our previous peak of 56,929 members in 1989.

Thanks to every member who volunteers his or her time and talents toward making American Mensa a thriving organization. We're proud to know that record numbers of people have found friendship, intellectual challenge and personal growth through their memberships. This is truly a milestone to celebrate!

As we look toward March 31, please check that you've renewed your membership so that you'll have non-stop access to the benefits of membership. To renew, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/renew> or give the National Office a call at 888/294-8035 ext. 199.

Congratulations to all. We're looking forward to continued growth and success!

Russ Bakke  
Chairman  
American Mensa, Ltd.

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The votes are in! American Mensa, the high IQ society, announces their top 50 Web sites list as voted on by their membership. More than 10,000 votes were cast by members during the selection process.

The Top 50 Web sites include:

- Hulu ([www.hulu.com](http://www.hulu.com))
- Pandora Radio ([www.pandoraradio.com](http://www.pandoraradio.com))
- Mental Floss Magazine ([www.mentalfloss.com](http://www.mentalfloss.com))
- The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))
- Google Earth ([www.google.com/earth](http://www.google.com/earth))
- How Stuff Works ([www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com))
- Merriam Webster Dictionary Online ([www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com))
- Wired ([www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com))
- Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com))

To view the complete list of Web sites, visit [www.us.mensa.org/topsites](http://www.us.mensa.org/topsites).

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# Calendar of Events

## April 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01 Deadline for May events	02	03 Temperance League	04 VT Brunch
05	06	07	08	09	10 Brady Bunch	11 Games Night
12 Second Sunday Brunch  Mid-Maine Dinnah	13	14	15	16	17 Winnipesupper  Japanese Dinner	18 Nashua Temp League  SSecond SSaturday
19	20	21	22	23	24 M & I	25
26 FSM/ ExComm	27	28	29	30		