ILLUMINATE

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July Newsletter

Missouri Ozarks Mensa
814 E. Weldon Drive
Nixa, MO 65714



The Newsletter of Missouri Ozark Mensa

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LocSec Thoughts

Nothing from me this month but to wish everyone a happy 4th of July. Anyone feel like a potluck picnic in late August through mid-September?

This month, we have a submission from Patrick, our Publicity Coordinator, which is enough extra reading this month.

Publicity Coordinator Thoughts

My Fellow Mensans,

Though I am relatively new to the organization, I have been aware of Mensa for most of my life; indeed, its reputation for being the social club of an intellectual elite is well-recognized. From my perspective, Mensa membership is comprised of two camps: those seeking social satisfaction, and those seeking to bask in the glory of the membership unto itself.

It is to both parties I issue an appeal. Please, dismiss whatever notions you may have preventing participation in events, and come out for another. There is such a joy in discovering another intellect similar to that which a given Mensa member possesses, particularly in a societal climate of intellectual regression.

Further, we could be considered to have something of a responsibility to coalesce and determine solutions for the problems around us. I see no reason why this chapter is incapable of enjoying the same prominence as any other, if only we could all take the simple steps towards building that. A little faith may go a long way!
Thank You,
Patrick Flynn

Regional Vice Chairman July Thoughts

July is the best time to be a Mensan! Hopefully you can make it to the Annual Gathering in Fort Worth. The Mensa Foundation will kick things off with an exciting Colloquium on June 30, with experts discussing a variety of factors affecting brain health. Stop by and see me at the Region 7 meet and greet on July 1 at 1:30. I'm also looking forward to the Foundation's "Challenge 2026". The gala dinner will feature a leading advocate against cyberbullying, Monica Lewinsky. If you're there and you just want to get out of the air conditioning for a while, Fort Worth has some hidden architectural gems such as the Kimbell Art Museum by Louis Kahn or the Water Gardens by Philip Johnson. There is also the Stockyards District to give you that truly historic feel of Texas.
The AMC Board remains as vibrant as it has been since we welcomed a new group of members a few months ago. Our new "Pillars" strategic structure is taking shape and being filled with volunteers. If you're interested in being involved, please contact the Pillar lead to find where you can help. Tabby Vos is Chair of the Strategic Planning and Oversight Committee, Rob Madeira is Chair of the Technology and Operational Efficiency Committee, Beth Weiss is Chair of the Sustainable Revenue and Events Committee, and Laura Hatton Chair of the Trust, Culture, and Safety Committee. You can also contact me if you have any questions or want to be introduced to the new Strategic Plan.

Tamesha has been doing a great job making the Executive Director position her own. June was a difficult month, but we can look forward to the second half of 2026 to rebuilding stability and provide the foundation for growth we need to see in the coming years. The structure of the National Office is being modernized to give us the tools we need to accomplish the goals we're setting for the future.

Feedback is always appreciated. You can send me your thoughts at rvc7@us.mensa.org.

Steering Committee/Volunteers

We've had more folks volunteer for positions so there are a couple of positions still open. If you want to volunteer for one of the vacant Volunteer Positions, please email the LocSec at locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Local Secretary (LocSec):	Lonny Burger
Vice President:	Jonathan Long
Recording Secretary:	Felicia Ellis
Treasurer:	Felicia Ellis
Ombudsman:	Wes Young
Illuminate Editor (Non-Voting):	Lonny Burger

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Calendar Editor:	Lonny Burger
Gifted Children:	Austin Sandberg
Hosting:	Vacant
Membership:	Austin Sandberg
Testing Coordinator:	Charles Myers
Testing Proctor:	Charles Myers
Publicity:	Patrick Flynn

Public Relations:	Patrick Flynn
Puzzle Master	Wes Young
Scholarships:	Austin Sandberg
SIGHT Coordinator:	Vacant
Speaker Coordinator:	Vacant
Webmaster:	Lonny Burger

Membership Report

As of June, we're down to 80 members in Missouri Ozarks Mensa because of lapsed memberships. If you've let your membership lapse, please renew. If you know people who might be interested in joining, please direct them to the Membership Page of the Website.

Membership Corner

Moving? If you are moving or have a change of address the simplest way to have your records changed is to log in to your MENSA account at https://www.us.mensa.org/. If you don't have an account with American Mensa, it is a simple process to create a new account.

If your membership has lapsed, you can renew at by going to the American Mensa website and clicking on JOIN at the left of the top menu bar, then Rejoin from the dropdown. You can also rejoin by phone or mail to American Mensa, 1315 Brookside Dr., Hurst, TX 76053, 1-817-607 0060.

Treasurer's Report

Nothing from the Treasurer as of newsletter close date.

Events Calendar

JULY 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Lunch Bunch
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Coming Events

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST CALENDAR/ILLUMINATE SUBMISSIONS

July 10th at 5pm: This is the deadline for submissions of Events and Articles for the July Newsletter/Website update to assure we have time to get them posted to the Website and included in the Newsletter in time for printing and mailing. Please email your events and any articles you want to include in the newsletter to the LocSec (locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org).

JULY SATURDAY LUNCH BUNCH

July 25th at 1pm (4th Saturday). New York Style Pizza at The Big Slice! We had the Steering Committee Meeting there and it was pretty good. The address is 1454 E. Sunshine, Springfield, MO 65804. For a good head count, please let me know by 5pm, July 17th by email at locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org if you will be attending. Remember that family and friends are always welcome to attend. Let's have a good turnout this month.

July Birthdays

George Casey (26)
Felicia Ellis (26)
Marjorie Farmer (31)
Jonathan Long (29)
Jennifer McCroskey(1)
Charles Meyers (8)
Elizabeth Rogers (4)
Milton Vernick (6)
Brenda Whalen (29)

July Anniversaries

George Carey (7/31/2012)
Kaleb Haskin (7/10/2023)
Ronald Hutcheson (7/12/2013)
Catherin Primrose (7/11/2002)
Charles Wisdom (7/31/1980)
Carter Zoromski (7/25/2018)

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