

# PlainsPeaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

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<http://www.plainsandpeaks.us.mensa.org/>

May 2008

## LocSec News

Hello, fellow Plains & Peaks Mensans! Rent-A-Mike and I took a short trip in mid-April up to the Black Hills area and, boy, did we have fun! There's so much to see and do there – way more than I ever thought! We went to Mount Rushmore (naturally), Devils Tower, the Badlands, Deadwood, the Mammoth Site (in Hot Springs, SD) ... I could go on and on. (By the way, from Colorado Springs, it's 521 miles to Wall Drug.) We both enjoy stopping at all the historical markers and notable little towns, so we took backroads for the vast majority of the trip. We discovered some real "gems" like Fort Robinson, NE, which we'd never heard of before, and the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, SD, home of the biggest trout I ever saw!! We were having such a great time I was reluctant to come home. I wanted to stay on permanent vacation but I knew we had to get back to the dogs and cats and "real" world!! I can only hope I win the Lottery and can retire – like Rent-A-Mike – and travel to my heart's content! Now on to Mensa news ... we have a new Plains & Peaks Mensa Treasurer! Connor Baker has stepped forward to manage our money. Thanks, Connor, and welcome to our ExComm! (Speaking of ExComm, I sometimes have new members ask what the ExComm is. It's simply the group officers – who try to meet once a month to conduct any business we have that doesn't require the general membership. Our meetings take about two minutes, then it's on to conversation and dinner. All Mensa members and their guests are welcome at the ExComm event each month.)

Larry Lukenbill had been our Plains & Peaks Treasurer for the past few years. I sincerely appreciate the support Larry

has given our group over those years and wish to extend a heart-felt "Thank You" to him for his friendship and service.

As I type this LocSec News up in late April, I'm anticipating our upcoming CultureQuest® trivia contest! We fielded two teams this year: "Plains Brains" is captained by Jim Hunter, with teammates Terry O'Connell, Mike Halby and Diane Bayette. I'll be the captain for the "Peaks Geeks" and have Jenny Balderama, Al Ackerson and Bill Bannister on my team. As I've said in the past, it's the "afterwards" that is the best part of CultureQuest® – when we review all the questions and discuss our answers. Quite often, it's the slap on the forehead with "I knew that!!" that is so frustrating!! We won't know how we placed in the CultureQuest® contest until the results are announced at the Mensa AG in Denver in July.

In May, we'll have a very special guest speaker: Mr. Bob Russel, former El Paso District Attorney (1965-1985) and recipient of the El Paso County Bar Association Lifetime Service Recognition Award. Mr. Russel will be speaking to us about two major cases he was intimately involved with: the serial killer Ted Bundy case and the Jon Benet Ramsey case. Mr. Russel spent over a year preparing for Ted Bundy's prosecution when Bundy was jailed in Glenwood Springs in 1977. Bundy escaped from that jail and was subsequently recaptured in Florida, after several more murders. The true number of murders committed by Bundy is still unknown. Regarding the Jon Benet Ramsey case, Mr. Russel (along with close associate retired Detective Lou Smit) believes evidence points to an intruder committing the murder. Come to this meet-

ing to learn a bit more about both of these fascinating cases.

If you haven't already done so, please renew your American Mensa membership! The Mensa membership year begins April 1; annual dues are \$52.00 (unless specified in a multi-year or life plan). Your American Mensa dues cover subscriptions to the Bulletin and PlainsPeaking and our local newsletter expenses along with any other expenses our group incurs. Plains & Peaks Mensa does not charge local dues and tries to keep most events free or at a minimal cost. Now, with the Annual AG in Denver in July and the great local programs we have coming up, it would be a shame to miss out on all the fun!!

And check out our fabulous web-site at [www.plainsandpeaks.us.mensa.org](http://www.plainsandpeaks.us.mensa.org), which is kept up to date by our webmaster, Windy. There's a calendar section and current and past PlainsPeaking newsletters, as well as photos of our events and member activities. If you have a favorite Local Link, or a Fun & Games web-site you think other Mensans might enjoy, contact Windy at [windy@windyhaddad.com](mailto:windy@windyhaddad.com) to link it up. Also, you can have Windy link your personal page or business page to our web-site.

Well, that's about it for me .... I'm on Midnight shift right now and it's about 11:00 am... so I think I'll close this up and get to bed! Hope to see you soon at a Plains & Peaks Mensa event!!

-Sandy

Region 7 News

by Peggy Panke-Smith

**May Excitement!** NORTH DAKOTA is ready for fun at the **Potluck Picnic and Fireworks** Regional Gathering on May 31 and June 1 in Valley City (about an hour west of Fargo). 1920s ragtime in a big historic President’s House. Contest to name the new “Mensaboat” and races with the Knudson canoe. Horsehoes, fireworks and potluck picnic. Registration is only \$12 and includes a pizza lunch! Last minute contact SHIRLEY STARKE at sstarke@nodaknet.net or (701) 845-2382. I’ll be there to meet and greet. See you there!

**Sending Warm Thoughts** to DARLENE CRISS, one of Region 7’s valued former RVCs, former editor of the Isolated M and member of numerous AMC committees. Darlene is in hospice at home and would appreciate a card (2311 S. Santa Fe, Wichita KS 67211.) Her daughter has a Caring Bridge website where you can leave a warm note in the guestbook. (www.caringbridge.org/visit/DarleneCriss). UPDATE: DARLENE has lost her battle. Condolence message made be made on the same website.

**Welcome New Editor** JOANN BROKAW is our newest Editor for South Dakota Mensa.

What’s new on the Mensa website?

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*Sign in with your member number upper right; enter your password and you’re in.*

**Scholarship News** Region 7 Scholarship Chair WARREN WALKER announced a whopping 401 essays judged in our Region 7 scholarship contest. Every group (except Sunflower) participated in this essay contest. RHONDA JOHNSTON, Chair of Mid-America Mensa and her team judged 106 essays! Other local chairs were: MARIE MAYER, Central Iowa; JESSIE THOMPSON, South Dakota, GAY RAWSON, North Dakota, ANDREA MILLER, Missouri Ozarks; TARA NAUGHTIN, Nebraska/Western Iowa; RANDY YODER, Lincoln; TIM WINKELMAN, Denver; JAN REDDING, Boulder/Front Range; SANDY HALBY, Plains & Peaks; DONNA SCOTT, High Mountain and FRED COLES, Wyoming.

A huge THANK YOU to all our Chairs and judges! **Winners and amounts** will be announced at the **Annual Gathering’s Awards Luncheon** at the Sheraton Denver Hotel (formerly called the Adams Mark) in July 2008.

**Are you a NEW MEMBER?** (Or a NEWLY ACTIVE MEMBER?) Check the website for the “MEMBERS” button and go to “MEMBER PRIMER” – you won’t believe how much info we have for NEW MEMBERS (Nobody’s Perfect, Young Members, Questions Answered) as well as news, a directory of every member, officer resources including HANDBOOKS on line; EVENTS lists a **calendar of events** for the rest of the year; GAMES is a **free game room** with a dozen free games; GROUPS – find Special Interest Groups listed, world connections, and FREE WEB SERVICES including **FREE WEB HOSTING for your group**; PROGRAMS include the incredible member benefit, the **SIGHT program**. Mensa members travel around the world staying FREE with other Mensa members in the United States and 40 countries.

**Okay, I’ll repeat that: Mensa members travel around the world and stay for FREE with other Mensa members. Do you travel? Check out the valuable SIGHT program for members.**

**Website** Our Region 7 website is up and revised, thanks to our talented Region 7 Webmaster, BILL SCHIEB. Visit <http://region7.us.mensa.org> to learn the latest. See what other Region 7 groups are up to and to share your group’s ideas and events.

**The Death of Common Sense**

by Lori Borgman

Three yards of black fabric enshroud my computer terminal. I am mourning the passing of an old friend by the name of Common Sense.

His obituary reads as follows:

Common Sense, aka C.S., lived a long life, but died from heart failure at the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was, his birth records were long ago entangled in miles and miles of bureaucratic red tape.

Known affectionately to close friends as Horse Sense and Sound Thinking, he selflessly devoted himself to a life of service in homes, schools, hospitals and offices, helping folks get jobs done without a lot of fanfare, whooping and hollering. Rules and regulations and petty, frivolous lawsuits held no power over C.S.

A most reliable sage, he was credited with cultivating the ability to know when to come in out of the rain, the discovery that the early bird gets the worm and how to take the bitter with the sweet. C. S. also developed sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adult is in charge, not the kid) and prudent dietary plans (offset eggs and bacon with a little fiber and orange juice).

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, the Technological Revolution and the Smoking Crusades, C.S. survived sundry cultural and educational trends including disco, the men's movement, body piercing, whole language and new math.

C.S.'s health began declining in the late 1960s when he became infected with the If-It-Feels-Good, Do-It virus. In the following decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing federal and state rules and regulations and an oppressive tax code. C.S. was sapped of strength and the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, criminals received better treatment than victims and judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional baseball and golf. His deterioration acceler-

ated as schools implemented zero-tolerance policies. Reports of 6-year-old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing classmates, a teen suspended for taking a swig of Scope mouthwash after lunch, girls suspended for possessing Midol and an honor student expelled for having a table knife in her school lunch were more than his heart could endure.

As the end neared, doctors say C.S. drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments regarding regulations on low-flow toilets and mandatory air bags. Finally, upon hearing about a government plan to ban inhalers from 14 million asthmatics due to a trace of a pollutant that may be harmful to the environment, C.S. breathed his last. Services will be at Whispering Pines Cemetery. C.S. was preceded in death by his wife, Discretion; one daughter, Responsibility; and one son, Reason. He is survived by two step-brothers, Half-Wit and Dim-Wit.

Memorial Contributions may be sent to the Institute for Rational Thought.

Farewell, Common Sense. May you rest in peace.

**May Birthdays**

Aimee Willoz	May 3
John L McClelland	May 10
Morris C Bealmer	May 16
Patrick Hollenbeck	May 20
Eric Locke	May 24
Sonya Downey	May 26

**NOTE:** If you don't see your birthday posted here, it's probably because that information (and perhaps more) is marked "non-releasable" on our rosters. If you'd like to check on your personal information release status, please contact American Mensa (1-800-66-MENSA) or go to [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and under Member resources, select the PDQ section.

## May Calendar

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 pm: Reservations for May ExComm Meeting and Dinner due.** Call Sandy at 528-5483 or e-mail her [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net) to reserve your seats at the table on Tuesday!!

**Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm: May ExComm Meeting and Dinner.** The May ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be at Paravicini's Italian Bistro, 2802 W Colorado Avenue in Old Colorado City. Visit <http://www.paravicinis.com> for a peek at the menu. Please join us for a short (very short) Executive Committee meeting and then dinner afterwards. As with all our events, Mensa members and their guests are welcome. (Note: Paravicini's has recently been re-decorated with some furnishings from now-closed Buca di Beppo and they've upgraded their menu. If you've not been to Paravicini's recently – it's time for a visit!!)

**Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 pm: RSVP for Poker Night.** Call Dave & Jen at 442-6451 to RSVP for Poker Night!

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm: Poker Night.** Dave & Jen will host a Just-for-fun nickel-dime-quarter poker game at their house. Beginners are welcome. Snacks and diet sodas will be provided. Bring your own drinks if you want something else. Allergy alert – friendly cats.

**Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm: Trivia at the Overtime!**  
**NOTE: This is a new location for Trivia Night!!** Join us at the Overtime Sports Bar and Grill at 2809 Dublin Blvd for few brisk games of trivia, a drink or two, and something to nosh on! All Mensa members and their guests are welcome.

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm: Main Monthly Meeting - Guest Speaker Former District Attorney Bob Russel.** Mr. Russel, former El Paso District Attorney (1965-1985) and recipient of the El Paso County Bar Association Lifetime Service Recognition Award, will be speaking to us primarily about the Ted Bundy and Jon Benet Ramsey cases, as he was intimately involved in both. We're meeting at Sandy's house, 6066 Del Rey Drive (near Flintridge and Dublin); call 528-5483 or e-mail [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net) for directions. Wine, beer, soda and snacks provided. As with all our events, all Mensa members and their guests are welcome. Allergy alert – dogs and cats.

**Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm: Scrabble®!** Meet at Sandy's house, 6066 Del Rey Drive (near Flintridge and Dublin, call 528-5483 or email [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net) for direc-

tions) for an afternoon of Scrabble®. Sodas, wine and snacks provided. If you have a Scrabble® game, please bring it with you!! All Mensa members and their guests are welcome. Allergy alert – cats and dogs!

**Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper!!** Call Al at 635-4910 to let him know to expect you at the On the Boulevard Bar and Grill on Saturday!

**Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper at On the Boulevard Bar and Grill!** Meet us at On the Boulevard Bar and Grill, 2855 N. Murray, for some plain ol' American bar food and lots of good conversation with fellow Mensans! All Mensa members and their guests are welcome.

### Plains and Peaks Mensa Officers

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:00 PM Reservations for Ex-Comm Mtg	5	6 6:30 PM Ex-Comm Mtg & Dinner @ Paravicini's	7	8 8:00 PM RSVP for Poker Night	9	10 6:00 PM Poker Night
11	12	13 6:00 PM Trivia at the Overtime	14	15	16	17
18 6:30 PM MMM with Bob Russel	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 1:00 PM Scrabble® at Sandy's	26	27	28 8:00 PM Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper	29	30	31 6:30 PM Ultimate Saturday Supper @ On the Boule- vard Bar & Grill

**Welcome and Farewell**

**WELCOME TO PLAINS & PEAKS MENSA:**

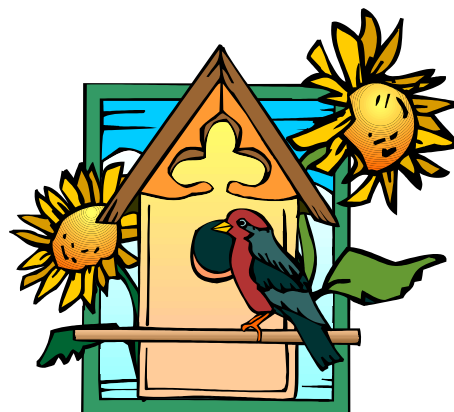
Cathryn Paradise, a new Mensan!  
Michael Volpe III, who moved here from Denver.

**WELCOME BACK:**

Emily Astor, Candace Harvey, Teresa Machacek, and Shannon Smith, all who are rejoining our group! Welcome back, everybody!

**FAREWELL:**

Walter Milgroom, who moved back east to South Carolina. Good luck!  
Sean Rea, who now resides in Arizona. Farewell!



## PlainsPeaking

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