

Plains Peaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

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LocSec News

Hello, fellow Plains & Peaks Mensans! As always, Rent-A-Mike and I have been super busy – between work, Mensa, the bees, dogs and cats and painting the inside of the house – there just doesn't seem to be much time to spare! We did, however, take time to visit the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo one morning and had a great time – I was especially enamored with the construction equipment rodeo. (As some of you may know, my secret desire dream job is to become a heavy equipment operator!!) We watched one event where road graders had to maneuver an obstacle course, while carefully positioning the blade to do specific tasks along the course. One "job" on the course was called "Scrambled Eggs." They set an egg on top of an orange highway cone and the grader operator had to knock the egg off without touching the cone. I'll tell you – those guys could really finesse the blade into the correct position with a gentle touch! Now I don't know whether my favorite State Fair event is the construction equipment rodeo or the antique tractor pull! Or maybe it's the petting area – as we laughed and laughed at the baby pigs cavorting in their pen!!

On to Mensa business ... 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 to link it up. Also, you can have Windy link your *personal page* or *business page* to our

web-site. I've asked Windy to link up a couple of fun sites, too – like Free Rice, 100 Most Common Words, TravelPod and the Pikes Peak Beekeepers. Curious now? Visit www.plainsandpeaksmensa.org and check out Windy's Award Winning Web-site!!

The August MMMMMM (Main Monthly Meeting Mensa Mix and Mingle) was not as well attended as I'd hoped, but we may try to do a MMM (Mensa Mix and Mingle) again in October or November. Keep an eye on our calendar or the web-site www.plainsandpeaksmensa.org for upcoming MMMs nights.

In September, for our Main Monthly Meeting, we're visiting the Western Museum of Mining & Industry, which is just north of Colorado Springs. They're having a special exhibition the day we'll be there and will be firing up some of their antique equipment. After the demonstrations, there's a great little museum on the grounds that we can visit at our leisure. This would be a good event to bring the kids along, as there are hands-on exhibits, as well as two burros, Oro and Nugget. Don't forget to bring ginger snaps and carrots for the burros!!

Also in September, Scrabble, the ExComm Meeting and Dinner, Trivia Night, and Ultimate Saturday Supper. Speaking of our regular Mensa events, I recently had a Plains & Peaks

by Sandy Halby

Mensa member contact me and ask if they could attend our ExComm meeting and dinner. The answer is, of course, yes. Any event listed on our calendar is open to all our members and guests are welcome. (There may, however, occasionally be an event that might not be appropriate for our younger members, but that decision would be left to parents.) We do ask that our members respect the event host's wishes, such as no smoking, no alcohol, adults only, park only in the street, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you in September at a Plains & Peaks Mensa event!!

~Sandy

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PEP Rally



RVC7@us.mensa.org

Does your local group have crabs, grouches, stick-in-the-muds, boring (or no) programs, pathetic activities and no volunteers? Well, maybe it's not THAT bad, but still, how about a PEP Rally!

North Dakota Mensa, one of our smallest groups, hosted an enthusiastically successful PEP Rally (Leadership Development Workshop) resulting in a potential new Treasurer, new Asst. Treasurer, Asst. Editor, new Area Coordinator, 3 new scholarship essay judges, possible new Gifted Children's coordinator, 25 free meals, 5 valuable workshop programs with all materials plus incredible fun to boot! **How much did this cost North Dakota Mensa? *Nothing, zilch, nada.***

Talk up having a one-day PEP Rally at your next ExComm meeting and let me know if YOUR group would like one! Funds are available for about 3 or 4 more this budget year, but it's first-come/first served. Let me know!

MENSA TESTING DAY is coming up on Saturday, October 18. Compared to the fees charged for basic IQ testing done by professional psychologists (**\$700+**) or school psychologists (**\$350+**), the two-hour comprehensive proctored **Mensa IQ tests are a steal at only \$40**. Only four Region 7 groups have already signed up: CENTRAL IOWA, MID-AMERICA, NEBRASKA/WESTERN IOWA and LINCOLN. The rest of our Region 7 groups **need to get participation forms in right away**. Info: Lauren Fernandez (LaurenF@americanmensa.org)

DENVER Mensa is reaping the benefits of holding the Annual Gathering! A whopping 32 new members in July brings their total membership to #1 in Region 7 with 710 members! CONGRATULATIONS to Denver Mensa! Plus

by Peggy Pannke-Smith

dozens of proctored tests were given during the AG which will undoubtedly result in even more membership! Grow YOUR group - host a Regional Gathering soon. Sign up online at www.us.mensa.org "Gathering Request".

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Nebraska/Western Iowa on their new Bylaws! Big pat on the back to MIKE NOLAN, RON KROENKE and the whole team there. Next up will be Lincoln in the final stages of new Bylaws. Thanks to JEAN DANIELSON, BURNILL SOFTLEY, STEPHEN BURNHAM and the Lincoln team.

Plains and Peaks Mensa Officers

Sandy Halby (LocSec/President)
6066 Del Rey Dr, COS 80918
719-528-5483
mandshalby@comcast.net

Jennifer Browning
(2nd Vice Pres. for Membership)
2034 Devon St, COS 80909
719-591-0189
JennyReal@aol.com

Connor Baker (New Treasurer)
PO Box 50602
Colorado Springs CO 80949-602
(719) 219-9703
connor.baker@usa.net

Betsy Ogan (*PlainsPeaking* Editor)
1061 Hummingbird Ct, COS 80921
719-481-1199
Bogan54@aol.com

Windy Haddad (Webmaster)
1465 Stella Dr. COS 80921
719-201-4743
windy@windyhaddad.com

Al Ackerson (Past President)
3627 Hayman Court, COS 80910
719-635-4910
Alackerson@msn.com

Acts of Kindness

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation's mission is "to help inspire people to practice kindness and pass it on to others." You can download school lesson plans and community activities free at www.actsofkindness.org or you can try some of these ideas:

- ◆ Every day for a year, jot down one thing you love about your husband/child/friend/parent. At the end of the year, give the person your one-of-a-kind list.
- ◆ When you run across an article or cartoon strip you find interesting, cut it out, attach a note and drop it in the mail to a similarly like minded person.
- ◆ When someone leaves a dish or bowl at your home, return it with something tasty inside.
- ◆ When a guest brings a bottle of wine, jot their name on the label. When you finally drink the wine, call them up and let them know you're enjoying their gift.
- ◆ Send a note to a former teacher, telling him/her how much he/she inspired you.
- ◆ If someone goes beyond their job description to help you, call or e-mail their supervisor and praise them.
- ◆ Overtip your breakfast waiter. They probably put forth as much effort as someone on the evening shift, but make less due to the lower menu prices.
- ◆ When someone looks lost, stoop and ask them if they need directions.
- ◆ When stocking up on school supplies, pick up a few extras and give them to your child's teacher to pass on to students whose families cannot afford them.
- ◆ Instead of tossing magazines and books, drop them off at a local women's shelter.
- ◆ Program the local animal shelter's number into your cell phone so you can alert someone quickly if you see a stray animal on the street.
- ◆ Pay for the drive-through order of the car behind you.
- ◆ Leave your change in the soda machine for the next person to find.
- ◆ When you make an in-person donation to a non-profit organization, drop off some snacks for the people working there.

- ◆ Carry plastic bags when you're hiking and pick up litter along the way.

"Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster. Your life will never be the same again.

Og Mandino



Dues to Increase January 1

Inflation rates across the country have soared in the past year, and American Mensa has felt the impact throughout our budget. In the past year, expenses in areas including fuel, paper and postage have increased nearly 45%. We have balanced most of these increases by "tightening our belts" in every budget category, but a dues increase has still become necessary.

Effective January 1, annual dues will increase to \$59. Second family member rates will increase to \$39, 3-year memberships to \$160 and 5-year memberships to \$260.

Please note, you may renew at the current rates until December 31, 2008. Visit www.us.mensa.org/renew or call 888-294-8035 ext. 199 to renew this year and lock in current rates for a 3-year, 5-year or Life Membership.

September Calendar

Sunday, Sep 7th, 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 for directions) for an afternoon of Scrabble®. Sodas, wine and snacks provided. Allergy alert – cats and dogs!

Thursday, Sept 11th, 6:00 pm: September ExComm Meeting and Dinner. We'll be meeting at Solo's, 1665 N. Newport Road (one block east of Powers on Fountain Blvd), for a short meeting and then dinner. You can preview Solo's at www.solosrestaurant.com. As with all our events, Mensa members and their guests are welcome.

Saturday, Sep 20th, 9:45 am: Main Monthly Meeting: Western Museum of Mining & Industry! We're heading to the northern outskirts of Colorado Springs to visit the Western Museum of Mining & Industry and joining their staff for "Outside Machinery Day"! They'll be firing up the Osgood Steam Shovel, a compressed air locomotive and the gold refinery, just to show us how the industrial revolution helped Colorado's hard rock industry. After the demonstrations, we can wander through the museum, which features mining equipment, scale models of equipment and mines, displays about home life in mining towns, and hands-on education experiences. While we're there, we can say hello to Oro and Nugget, the resident burros, who enjoy ginger snaps as treats and were the 2004 Mascots of the Year in the Pikes Peak Region. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for military/AAA, \$6 for students and seniors, and \$4 for children 3-12. (Visit the WMMI web-site for a \$1 off adult and senior coupon.) Go to www.wmmi.org for a preview; the museum is at 225 North Gate Blvd (I-25 exit 156A and go east). Please meet in the parking lot at 9:45 am, as the tour starts at 10:00 am – just look for Sandy by her red Ford Explorer.

Tuesday, Sep 23rd, 6:00 pm: Trivia at TGI Fridays! We're playing NTN Buzztime Trivia at T.G.I. Friday's, 7061 Commerce Center Drive (I-25 and Woodman). Good eats, good prices, and plenty of TVs to look at and control boxes to play with. Look for a Mensa "M" flag at a table in the bar and join us for a fast paced Trivia round!

Wednesday, Sep 25th, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper!! Call Al at 635-4910 or e-mail him at alackerson@msn.com to let him know to expect you at Easy Street Cafe on Saturday!

Saturday, Sep 27th, 6:30 pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper at the Easy Street Cafe. Let's go north this month and try

the Easy Street Cafe, 6995 Lexington Drive, located conveniently on Woodman and Rangewood road just south of the Walgreens. The Easy Street Café has recently upgraded the menu and ambiance. Flavors range from 'melt-in-your-mouth' ribs (so tender you don't have to use a knife) to fajitas, pasta, seafood, and fresh greens. Flavor is paramount, prices are very reasonable; portions are large so bring your appetite!

Advance Notice: Wednesday, Oct 8th, 6:00 pm: October ExComm Meeting and Dinner. The October ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be at Pizzeria Rustica. Pizzeria Rustica has gotten rave reviews from both the Gazette and the Indy. For a peak at their menu, go to www.pizzeriarustica.com. And you can read those rave reviews at: http://www.gazette.com/entertainment/pizza_39069__article.html/rustica_one.html or <http://www.csindy.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A28722>

As with all our events, Mensa members and their guests are welcome.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 1:00 pm: Scrabble®! At Sandy's	8	9	10	11 6:00 pm: Ex- Comm Meet- ing and Dinner at Solo's	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 9:45 am MMM at Western Mu- seum of Min- ing & Indus- try
21	22	23 6:00 pm Trivia at TGI Fridays	24	25 8:00 PM Reservations due for USS	26	27 6:30 pm USS at the Easy Street Cafe
28	29	30				

Welcome and Farewell

September Birthdays

FAREWELL TO:

Cathalene Martell, who moved to Texas. We'll miss you, Cathalene and Delbert. Please keep in touch!
Shannon M Smith, who moved just a little east, out to Oklahoma.
Glenn Spencer, who moved back east to Virginia. Good luck to you!

WELCOME TO PLAINS & PEAKS MENSA:

Our newest Mensans: David J Biersack, Christopher S Graber, and Robert Hirbernik. Welcome to Mensa!

WELCOME BACK TO:

Robert Oliver Meyer, who is rejoining our group. Hello, again!

George Proeller	Sep 2
Troy Engle	Sep 3
Stanley Palmer	Sep 6
Mary Moran	Sep 9
Nancy L Freeman	Sep 10
Cathalene Martell	Sep 10
Julia Rogers Allen	Sep 12
Joseph W Davidson III	Sep 15
Deborah Smith	Sep 16
Sandy Halby	Sep 17

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 and under Member resources, select the PDQ section.

PlainsPeaking

AMERICAN MENSA LTD.
229 CORPORATE DRIVE WEST
ARLINGTON, TX 76006-6103

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