



# The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 28 No.5

December 2008



*This is a view of the editor's home as of the newsletter deadline.  
Photo submitted by David Melville*

# New Hampshire Mensa

**Send all correspondence to:**

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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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You will be reading this after Thanksgiving, but I'm still looking forward to it. It's one of my favorite holidays, because it really revolves around being with my family. And this year, it's my birthday as well. I told my NH family that I wanted to do Thanksgiving dinner at my house, and they will all be here. I have also invited several friends who may not be going anywhere else. If everyone comes, there will be 16 or so people ... but whatever the number I know I'll enjoy it. And if everyone comes, there will be five people there with November birthdays so we'll have something else to celebrate.

All this is just preface to saying (slightly late) Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. I hope you had a great day. There isn't any question that we have a lot to deal with right now, and the US and the world are facing major challenges. But we can't lose track of all of the things for which we are grateful. My top three: my family, my Mensa family, and (despite the challenges) living here, in the US & in NH.

Since I'm a little late in writing my column this month, it's the day after the election instead of a couple of days before. I, probably like many of you, am very happy that we are finally through with the two-year campaign season. But what an amazing outcome it was. Whether one supported Obama or not, one must acknowledge that an African-American president was a result that many of us thought would never happen in our lifetime.

Now to Mensa stuff. It looks like ME Mensa will really be independent by early next year. While I still have the opportunity to speak to our ME members on a regular basis through this column, let me entreat all of you to return your ballots. And let me express my support and my thanks to all of the ME members who have stepped up to help the group gain that independence. There is other good news for northern New England Mensa as well. I just attended a meeting in Bethel, VT with several VT members (and a few other Mensans including our RVC1, Lori) who are well on their way to rejuvenating the VT group as well. They have an ExComm, they have ideas for a couple of events, and they hope to grow from there. I hope I speak for our NH members in offering them our support in their efforts as well.

And finally, here's the first of my several plugs for the NH RG. By the time you read this it will be less than three months away - I'll be looking forward to receiving lots of registrations over the next few weeks. We've been stuck at about 180 attendees for several years; let's see if we can break that record! It's always a great time, and I would love to see you there.



# RVChat

## Region 1 Vice Chair Lori Norris

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Happy Holidays!

At the beginning of November, my husband and I drove from Rhode Island to Vermont to lunch with several Vermont Mensans. It was a beautiful day, but on the way home I looked out the window and did a double-take. The sun was shining but icicles hung from the granite outcroppings of rock along the highway in Vermont and New Hampshire. Now, I know that northern New Englanders and New Yorkers are probably accustomed to that sight, but here in southern New England we've barely even had to scrap car windows in the morning, only once so far.

Over the past month or so, we have been working on painting the house and garage, along with some necessary carpentry work, but now the work is done and we can set back and relax for the winter. OR I can finally start painting the upstairs and the stairwells. Home improvements never seem to be finished. This fall I have taken a major step in my life. As I mentioned previously, the law firm that I was employed at went out of business in the spring. After much consideration, I have set up a small office as a sole practitioner. I could not pass up the opportunity to have more control over my life and to be able to help people with the trials and tribulations of their lives. I look forward to the challenge and, hopefully, the satisfaction coming from helping those in need.

Attention Maine Mensans. You should have received a mailing in late October or early November from the national office. This mailing included the proposed bylaws along with a ballot relating to the bylaws and a ballot for election of officers. Please take the time to vote. I am so thrilled that the re-birth of Maine Mensa is moving forward. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact me.

Here's a suggestion for holiday gifts for your non-Mensan friends: In December, American Mensa will be offering Home Tests for ½ price: \$9 instead of the regular \$18. This will be a great time to purchase Home Tests to share with those who you think may be interested in Mensa. To purchase a ½ price Home Test, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/mht> between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31. The Home Test will not qualify a person for Mensa membership, but will give them an idea of how they will fare on the Mensa Admission Test.

Don't forget to check out AML's Benefits and Services webpage for deals for Mensans. Some of these include A&E/History Channel (20% discount plus free

shipping); Office Depot (10% discount on purchases and 60% discount on printing); magazine subscriptions (Brain, Child; mental floss; Popular Science; Science Illustrated; and Scientific American MIND) as well as a variety of travel services (car rentals, hotel, travel agency).

***Iori***

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### **Maine Mensa Update**

Hello Maine Mensans !

First: Congratulations, America! Yet again you have changed history and realigned the focus of our country. The only thing constant is change. I am happy, proud and amazed at our ability to make fundamental changes in our society.

I will tell you that we Mensans in Maine predicted this election in July 2007. At my camp in Gray, in the summer of 2007, I had a Mensa gathering that netted 12 individuals. Later that evening, sitting around the campfire, I asked everyone to give me a 'short answer' as to who they thought would be the next President. We had a majority for Barack Obama - even at that early part of the race. We saw it coming even before the Hillary comeback in NH and way before the economical mess.

Second: The African Elephant has the longest gestation of any land animal, but the spiny dogfish has the longest gestation period of any vertebrate animal at 660 to 720 days. Also, some studies have shown that the frilled shark may have a gestation period as long as 3.5 years (1260 days).

This anecdote tells you that Maine Mensa's Birthday has been pushed back to the March, 2009 AMC meeting. The election and By-Laws ballots are in your mailbox by now. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEM, CALL ME. Ballots on both items are due by January 30, 2009 and there is no leeway in this date. Please follow all voting instructions to ensure that your vote is counted.

We have 2 choices for Treasurer - Gerald Nessman, and David A. Conary  
? Pursuant to Article V, Section 5 of the proposed bylaws any "nominees who are unopposed shall be declared elected without balloting" therefore the following nominees are declared elected:

- o Local Secretary: Anne Allen
- o Assistant Local Secretary: Sue Flaherty
- o At Large Representative: Kevin Tremblay

So until April 1, 2009, when our terms begin, we are still a part of NH Mensa.

Third: The need for Proctors in Maine is ongoing and will always be ongoing.

*Continued on Page 11*

*December, 2008 5*



**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**



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.

Paid Advertisement



# ExComm Minutes of Oct. 21, 2008

## Recorded by Ann Majeske

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Called to order 7:46pm

ExComm members in attendance: Deb Stone, Tom Shiel, Ann Majeske, Ric Werme, Wayne Eddy, John Bauman

Also in attendance: Richard Conde, Sammi Joe Stone

Deb gave membership numbers:

NH 348 (2 new, 1 reinstatement, 1 renewal, 1 move-in, 1move-out)

ME 185 (3 new, 1 reinstatement, 1 renewal, 1 move-in)

Total 533

Wayne Eddy gave the Treasurer's Report. We have some more money in our accounts than last year. Wayne is not sure exactly why, but it's not worth doing an analysis to figure it out - we should just be happy about it. It is likely that it is a combination of several factors. Our chapter is more solvent than many other chapters.

Deb gave the Young M update - Tyler is planning an event on 11/29. It looks like this event did not get into the MomentuM calendar for November, but Tyler has email addresses for all the Young M's so that shouldn't be a problem.

Deb gave the Scholarship update - Frank is looking for judges for essays. If you're interested contact Frank at [scholarship@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:scholarship@nh.us.mensa.org). The job entails reading and grading about 150 essays in January. This may not sound like much fun, but some of the essays can be very entertaining! There was a discussion of the grading rules for the essays.

John gave the testing update - National Testing Day was very successful! (Thanks for organizing this, John!!!) We had a total of 16 people testing in Lebanon, Portsmouth, and Weare. We should have a total of greater than 20 people tested in the month of October. John announced that Claudia Spiro has completed the process to become a proctor, way to go Claudia!!! There was a discussion on the difficulties in getting people to come to testing.

Deb gave the update on Maine Mensa - Maine members should be receiving ExComm ballots and bylaws shortly. Maine members please take the time to vote on the contested ExComm position and the bylaws. This is your chance to have your say in what the group is going to be!

Richard gave the RG Report - About 8 people attended the RG planning meeting. The UNH Speakers Bureau limits us to 3 speakers with a 10 week lead time, so we need to decide on which speakers we're interested in contacting through the Bureau very soon and we need to find more speakers from other

*December, 2008 7*

sources. Anyone who has an idea about a speaker or who would like to speak at the RG please contact Holly at [rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org). Deb gave a report on the Hotel walkthrough. Some of the renovations of the first floor executive rooms won't be completed before February, but we should be able to work with the rooms the way they are. Most of the other rooms on the first floor have been updated with new paint, carpets, etc. The Hotel will have a dedicated link on their website for RG participants to use to make their hotel reservations. Make your reservations now!!! Pete the Bartender has agreed to grace us with his presence again this year! Details haven't been worked out yet, but I'm already looking forward to one of his Mudslides!

Deb passed on a request from Joe Zanca for help with a project he is working on. Joe is working with Project Inkslinger to collect children's books for libraries in need. Joe organized the whole project on his own and has already publicized collections places and dates of October 20th to November 3rd. Joe's request was for money from the group to help defray the shipping costs. At this point we don't know which libraries will be getting these books. It is likely that one of the libraries will be in the south or midwest. The other might be in Maine. There was a discussion on how much the shipping costs would be. It's hard to say, we don't know how many books there will be or how much they will weigh. If one of the libraries is in Maine, New Hampshire and Maine members may be able to coordinate a caravan to deliver the books. Wayne made a motion that New Hampshire Mensa donate \$100 to Joe's project to help with shipping costs. Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion on moving FSM/ExComm to some time other than Tuesday night. Wednesday night was suggested, but John has a conflict. Thursday night and Sunday afternoon were also discussed. Deb made a motion that we move FSM/ExComm to Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm for a 3 month trial starting in January. Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Deb made some announcements:

Election Code & Petition process for 2009 for national elections are available online.

Colloquium 2009 (Weather or Not) will be in Atlanta 02/27/09-03/01/09. Ric is planning on attending (I wouldn't be surprised if he knows more than the presenters, though)

The 60 Minutes story on the Mensa AG will be aired sometime between late September to early November.

John brought up an issue he's noticed with the testing prospect list he gets from National. The National web site that prospects can use to find a testing location near them has changed. You used to be able to enter your zip code and see the list of testing locations before you entered any personal information. Now you have to enter your personal information before you can see the list of sites. John has seen a very large increase in the number of prospects because of this. The reason this is a problem for our chapter instead of a benefit is that our chapter sends a two month free subscription of the Momentum to all prospects. So, we are facing a large additional cost of sending the

MomentuM to all of these new, potentially less serious, prospects. We discussed several ways of mitigating this issue including only sending the MomentuM to people who have attended testing and sending the email version to prospects that supply an email address. A big concern is that we not burden Ric or John with too much additional work. We decided that the best thing to do is to send a one month free subscription of the MomentuM to all prospects for now and to revisit this next month.

Holly showed up at the end of the meeting to make sure that Richard hadn't missed an information in his RG update :)

Meeting adjourned 9:10 pm

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## Treasurer's Report Submitted by Wayne Eddy

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Amounts as of October 17, 2008

Checking	\$4,100
RG Checking	\$3,600
Total Checking	\$7,100

Net worth including checking, CDs, and cash \$11,930

For comparison: Amounts as of October 20, 2007

Checking	\$3,300
RG Checking	\$3,700
Total Checking	\$7,000

Notes:

All amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100

As of October 20, 2007 we had not paid \$1,500 deposit for the RG Hotel.

As of October 17, 2008 we have paid \$1,500 deposit for the RG Hotel.

Wayne Eddy



# NH Mensa RG 2009

February 13th -15<sup>th</sup>

## Love Potion '09

### A Mix of Magic and Romance

*Great Crockpot cook-off returns! Magical Ice Cream Sodas! Witch's Brew!  
Sweetheart Chocolate Feast! Pete, the Bartender! And much more!*

Location: **Radisson Nashua** (formerly the Sheraton Tara)  
11 Tara Boulevard, Nashua NH 03062

**PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY**  
**FOR DISCOUNT ROOM RATE (603) 888-9970**  
Single/Double (adults) \$99.00 Triple/Quad (adults) \$109.00

***Make your hotel reservations early (you can always cancel if necessary.) The hotel has a busy weekend, with another group in that same weekend. Without a reservation you may be locked out of our special rate, or may not be able to get a room at all!***

For more info call Deb Stone @ (603) 856-7055 or Holly Green @ (603) 428-7267

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Registrar: **Deb Stone, 6 Fox Meadow Drive, Bow, NH 03304, (603) 856-7055, [nhr@stonesrealm.com](mailto:nhr@stonesrealm.com)**

Registration: \$60 until 11/15/2008, \$65 until 01/15/2009, \$75 thereafter and at the door  
8-17 years old, \$15 less than standard adult rate, 18-20 years old \$10 less than standard adult rate.  
Children under 8, free. Day rates available (please contact registrar.)

# of registrations: Adult \_\_\_\_\_ 18-20 yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 8-17 yrs \_\_\_\_\_ <8 yrs \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to NH Mensa – RG. Or MC/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Dt \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued From Page 5*

To become a Proctor, to give the tests that grow our numbers, is important to the livelihood of the organization. To be a proctor, you need a Bachelor's degree and a willingness to to git 'er done!

If we add another 15 members, we will be able to have another At-Large member on the Executive Committee.

Finally: We need to start thinking about our Maine Mensa newsletter, our Maine Mensa calendar, our Maine Mensa email lists, etc. Ideas for the name of the newsletter, etc, should occupy us most of the Winter ! Ha! Ha!

Communication is the key. Email or call whenever you want to communicate (vent). If you do want to know all the details, I can add you to the email 'short list' for minutiae. Keep in touch, and I'll try to keep you all informed of any 'big doins'.

Anne W. Allen

Maine Mensa Acting Loc Sec  
25 Quaker Meetinghouse Road  
Durham, Maine 04222

[locsec@maine.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@maine.us.mensa.org) or [wilsnanni@comcast.net](mailto:wilsnanni@comcast.net)

207-577-6362



## Announcing the NH/ME Mensa Great Crock Pot Cookoff!!

*Friday Feb. 14th at Love Potion '09 RG*

Bring your pot full of your favortie dish for all to taste and enjoy. Our secret judges will rate them, and everyone at the Friday night dinner can vote for thier favorites. The winner will be given an award and have their recipe printed in a future issue of Momentum.

*Please contact Hospitality Chair Elizabeth Becker if you plan to participate:  
603-744-3757 or [c21elizabeth@consultant.com](mailto:c21elizabeth@consultant.com)*



# Letters & Emails

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Dear Mark,

We wish to thank you for your assistance in Projcet Inkslinger. It has been a very successful program as we have collected over 1000 books and they are still coming. We are very proud of everyone's contribution to this project.

Sincerely,  
Joe Zanca

Letter to the Editor:

It is in troubled times like these that we need to pull together all of our resources to solve our financial woes.

I, Joe Zanca, have the solution to the budget deficit and bailout for the financial problems we face.

We need to encourage President-elect Barack Obama to get those millions of people who gave him \$5 donations to reroute to me the \$5 bills to auction off to the highest bidders.

In one fell swoop we will solve the budget deficit, Wall Street bailout, auto industry problems and home foreclosures.

Mensally yours,  
Joe Zanca  
NH Mensa

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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>
17, December 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.

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# Calendar of Events

## December 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 Deadline for Jan. events	02	03	04	05 Temperance League First Friday	06
07 Strawbery Banke	08	09	10	11	12 Brady Bunch	13 Games Night  SSSeco- nd SSat.  Boston Brunch
14 Second Sunday Brunch  Mid-Maine Dinnah	15	16	17 FSM ExComm  North of Boston Dinner	18	19 Winnipesupper  Japanese Dinner	20  Nashua Temp League
21	22	23	24	25	26 M & I	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Party			