



The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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*Momentum* logo by Matthew DeSmith



# Etched in Stone

## LocSec Deb Stone

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Welcome to 2009!

Do you find that as hard to believe as I do? I remember when I was a little kid (back in the age when dinosaurs roamed the earth) and someone like my grandmother would say "The time just seems to go faster every year!" And I remember thinking that I didn't understand what she meant at all - time is time, and it doesn't speed up - does it?

Well, she was sure right. Nowadays, it seems like we're just starting a new year, and then suddenly we're starting a new year again. I guess a lot happens in between (in fact, I KNOW a lot happens in between), but how does it fly by so quickly?!?!?!?

For NH Mensa, 2009 brings a few new and exciting things. We have our RG coming up in about 6 weeks; have you registered yet? ME Mensa will be looking at their new life as an independent group again about April 1<sup>st</sup>. For those who live over on the VT side of the state, or those who like to drive, a reinvigorated VT Mensa has several upcoming events in early 2009, and a new website ([www.vermontmensa.com](http://www.vermontmensa.com).) It's great to see both of the other northern New England states coming back into their own after some time of struggle. And of course, there are other RGs, Colloquium and the AG to look forward to, as well as all of our regular monthly events here in the state.

You will note, when you examine the calendar, that FSM/ExComm is moving to Sunday afternoon for a trial run. We have been holding this event on the penultimate Tuesday evening of each month for some time, but that's a tough time for many people. I hope that on its new day, more of you will be able to come help fold, staple and mutilate Momentum and stick around for the ExComm meeting. While you may not be able to vote, we would love to have your thoughts about what we do now and what we might do in the future.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and that 2009 brings good things to all of us. 2008 was a tough year for many people around the world and here in NH - let's hope that things will be looking up. And while I don't make New Year's resolutions on a regular basis, I do try to look forward to the New Year by realizing how grateful I am for my life, my friends and my families - both blood and Mensa. My life is richer for having all of you in it, so ... Thanks!



# RVChat

## Region 1 Vice Chair Lori Norris

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Happy New Year! As I write this column, I am looking out at the first snowfall of the year; flurries don't count. The joy of self-employment - I get to choose to work from home on those days when it's just too cold to go anywhere. I'm going to enjoy it whenever

I can.

The past year was eventful, both personally and with Mensa. And the upcoming year looks like it might be just as exciting. A breath of fresh air has infiltrated Vermont Mensa and they have planned a couple of brunches and an ice-fishing expedition. I've never been ice-fishing, but it sounds like fun. Visitors are welcome, check out their website. I fully expect Maine Mensa to become a local group in a few months as the separation process from New Hampshire Mensa is completed. It's been a long time coming, but by April 1, Maine Mensa will be alive again. Maine Mensans -NOTE - ballots are due by January 30, 2009.

It's time to make reservations for the New Hampshire Regional Gathering. I understand that Friday night might be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Crock-Pot Cookoff. What shall I make? Every year I look forward to this RG, it's always a good time. Will I see you on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>? No black cats please, I'm allergic. Check out the New Hampshire website for details. And it's not too early to make reservations for the 2009 Annual Gathering (AG) to be held in Pittsburgh, PA from July 1 - 5, 2009 at the Omni William Penn. Pittsburgh is close enough to drive from most of Region 1. I know that because I was born and raised slightly northwest of Pittsburgh and have made that drive many times over the past thirty years.

January 24<sup>th</sup> will bring a Mensa trifecta to our house. My husband and I will host the R.I. book club meeting (*On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan) followed by a potluck dinner and then games night. If anyone is going to be in the area that day, you're welcome to join us.

Ron and I will be spending the holidays in Mexico. We always try and usually manage to get away for vacation during school vacation. Right now, all we know is that we're flying into the Cancun airport. From there, we'll take a bus and try to explore some of the countryside that we haven't seen yet. It's always an adventure and we get some great stories from our travels. Palm trees for Christmas, but there are as many Christmas lights on display as there are here at home. And I might be getting old, but I do seem to prefer

white sand over snow.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

*Lori*

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**Hello Maine Mensans !**

Maine Mensa's Birthday will be April 1, 2009 ! No, really! No April Fool's joke! 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 a hotly contested seat for Treasurer with Gerald Nessman, and David A. Conary both fervently wanting the treasured post ! Forgive the pun I have millions of them.

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

The need for Proctors in Maine is ongoing and will always be ongoing. To become a Proctor, to give the tests that grow our numbers, it is important to the livelihood of the organization. You'll need a Bachelor's degree and willingness to to *git 'er* done! I am enduring/enjoying the process of becoming a Proctor myself. We will have testing in Topsham on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Currently we have 191 members. If we get to 200 members, we will be able to have another At-Large member on the Executive Committee.

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! Sue and I think we'll be doing the original Newsletter as we have not had any volunteers to grab this prominent, worthy, highly-paid position.

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'.



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## **ExComm Minutes of Nov. 18, 2008**

### **Recording Secretary Liz Modesitt**

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Members Present: John Bauman, Yvonne Crocker, Wayne Eddy, Liz Modesitt, Tom Shiel, and Deb Stone

Others Present: Richard Conde, Holly Green, and Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 8:10pm

There are 353 in New Hampshire, with 2 new members, 3 re-instatements, 2 move-ins and two move-outs. There are 188 members in Maine, with 1 new, 1 re-instatement, and one move-in. Overall, there are 533 members, and 52, 263 members nationally.

The Treasurer had nothing to report.

On the Young Mensa front, Tyler Doherty cancelled his planned event due to lack of participation.

Scholarship Chair Frank Matranga is looking for judges for next year.

There are now two members in New Hampshire/Maine with member numbers under 10. John Bauman suggested that somebody interview them, possibly for Momentum.

The numbers are in from National Testing day in October. 22 people tested, 10 people passed, and 6 have sent in their registrations. There were 3 people who tested from Vermont.

From April 1, 2008 to November 2008, only 10 people have tested in Maine. Deb Stone will talk to Anne Allen regarding their testing program and will keep working with them.

The Maine Mensa ballots have been mailed out, and are due by January 30. There is one contested position and the bylaws need to be approved.

Vermont Mensa is trying to get started again. They have a full Ex-Comm and are going to start planning events. Currently they only have about 67 members.

Holly Green is still looking for a Kids Room Chairperson and an Assistant RG Chairperson. There is a possibility that Bob Oxford will be in town for the RG

and Deb Stone will talk to him about maybe doing a Music Room again. Deb will also take flyers for the RG to Pilgrimage in Boston. The hotel is not renewing their contract with the U-Mass Lowell beyond December, but the question of security and no beer in the hallways is still an issue.

There were 13 members at Temperance League in November, 4 at the Second Sunday Brunch, 14 at the Nashua Dinner, and at least 10 members at Games Night.

Deb Stone presented the National News Update. Colloquium 2009 will be on the topic of weather and will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the end of February 2009. There will be a 60 Minutes story on Mensa sometime soon. Right now, current or past military members can submit prior evidence for free. Dues will be increasing to \$59 in 2009, so renew now to lock in the \$52 rate.

At the December Ex-Comm meeting. Assistant Loc-Sec John Bauman will be testing that day, and Loc-Sec Deb Stone may not be present due to family issues. In their absence, Treasurer Wayne Eddy would run the meeting.

Wayne Eddy motioned to adjourn, and Tom Shiel seconded the motion. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

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## **Business Meeting Minutes of Nov 18, 2008**

**Recording Secretary Liz Modesitt**

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The Business meeting was called to order at 8:40pm.

The question was raised of how many new member handbooks to print, as we are almost out of them. Claire Natola has the Pagemaker file of the new member handbooks and will send it to the appropriate person.

Wayne Eddy motioned to adjourn the Business Meeting, and Richard Conde seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, and the Business Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm

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## **News from Members**

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Joe Zanca has reported that our local Project Inkslinger has collected about 1000 books. He has sent 14 boxes of them to restock an elementary school library in Watseka IL.

Thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause, and many many thanks to Joe for organizing this book drive.

# Gifted, ADD, or Both Part I

by Fran Tishkevich

---

Several years ago, Bette Lewicke and I wrote a series of articles on Attention Deficit Disorder and Giftedness. While hoping to not repeat (and certainly not to contradict) anything we wrote earlier, I'd like to revisit the topic.

Traits of an A.D.D. child (from DSM-IV, 1994):

- ◆ Often fails to give close attention to details, or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work or other activities.
- ◆ Often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks and play activities.
- ◆ Often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly.
- ◆ Often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores or duties in the workplace.
- ◆ Often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities.
- ◆ Often avoids, dislikes or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as schoolwork or homework).
- ◆ Often loses things necessary for tasks or activities.
- ◆ Is often distracted by extraneous stimuli.
- ◆ Is often forgetful in daily activity.
- ◆ Often blurts out answers before questions have been completed.
- ◆ Often interrupts or intrudes on others (ex. butts into conversations or games).
- ◆ Often talks excessively.
- ◆ Often leaves seat in classroom or other situation where remaining seated is expected.

As we look at our gifted children (or ourselves) we notice that many of the traits above describe them, too. Especially when dealing with schoolwork. However, little attention has been given (especially in the schools) to the similarities and differences between gifted and ADD children. Seeing the differences is not easy. Unfortunately, there is little training for school personnel to assist them in making competent decisions and recognizing the differences between ADD and giftedness. Recognizing the differences is essential to developing an educational plan that will maximize the potential of the child.

How can we distinguish between the two? First, it's important to examine the situation where the child's behavior is problematic. A gifted child will typically not exhibit a problem in all situations. One classroom teacher may describe ADD behavior, while another may not. The child may be seen as ADD at school, in general, but not at scouts or in music lessons. Often looking closely at the troublesome situations will reveal some other factor prompting the behavior.

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By comparison, the ADD child will exhibit the behaviors in all settings, both school and home, although their behavior may fluctuate depending upon the structure of the setting.

The gifted child's perceived inability to stay on task in the classroom might be related to boredom, the curriculum, a mismatched learning style or some other identifiable factor. As we know, the gifted child may spend up to one half of the classroom time waiting for others to catch up, and their level of academic achievement is often two to four grade levels above their actual grade placement. The response to the slow-moving classroom situation, and emphasis on facts rather than thinking skills, is often "off task" behavior or disruptions. It is this attempt at self-amusement, fostered by boredom and difficulty focusing on tasks that were learned long ago, that is often the cause for referral for an ADD evaluation.

A high energy level, or hyperactive behavior, is often attributed to both gifted and ADD children. The gifted child's high energy level is generally focused and directed. They can concentrate for long periods of time on tasks that interest them. And, they do not need immediate consequences, or immediate completion of those tasks. Unfortunately, their interests may not coincide with the expectations of parents or teachers.

By comparison, the ADD child will have a very brief attention span, and high energy level, in virtually every situation (except watching TV and video games). Their activities are constant, continual and random, not goal directed.

Gifted children may actively question rules, and sometimes create complex rules that they expect others to obey. They may sometimes engage in power struggles with others they perceive as less competent than themselves.

Difficulty adhering to rules and regulations can be a trait of ADD. It is the adherence to the rules, the result of oppositional behavior, rather than the questioning of the rules that distinguishes ADD and giftedness.

Gifted children usually maintain high grades and consistent effort in classes where they like their teacher and are intellectually challenged. While they may resist completion of some aspects of the work, especially repetitive tasks that are perceived as dull, they will usually produce a product that meets their self-imposed high standards.

The ADD child, meanwhile, tends to be highly variable in task performance. In almost every setting they will be highly inconsistent in the quality of work produced and the amount of time used to complete tasks.

*Continued on Page 12*

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207-577-6362

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

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

Bring your pot full of your favorite dish for all to taste and enjoy. Our secret judges will rate them, and everyone at the Friday night dinner can vote for their 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)*

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## Upcoming Testing Sessions

**Tell Your Friends!**

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>
7, January 7:00 p.m.	John Bauman 603-883-7494	Nashua, NH
17, January 10:30 a.m.	Bill Alleman 603-529-4446	Weare, NH
18, January 1:00 p.m.	Nicole Bissonnette 207-272-5870	Topsham, ME

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.

*January, 2009 11*

**2009 New Hampshire Beer Survey!**

Please *ONLY* fill out this survey if you're planning to attend the 2009 Mensa RG in New Hampshire, and are 21 or older.

BeerCan't stand it! 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Love It!

Ale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Ale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cream Ale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark Beer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IPA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Low Alcohol	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike's Hard Lemonade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Alcohol	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocktoberfest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sam Adams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
_____	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
_____	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
_____	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(Don't be shy, tell me what kind of beer you want!)

Please clip and return to: Or email  
MensaBeer@gmail.com

David Melville  
161 Lake St  
Bristol, NH 03222

*Continued From Page 10*

Determining whether a child has ADD can be difficult, especially when that child is also gifted. Behavior checklists are often relied upon to determine if a child has ADD. However, if the checklist is the sole piece of evidence, it will only address the expression of the behavior, rather than the cause, possibly confusing ADD and giftedness. "There is little doubt that in at least some cases, students of high ability are being 'cured of their giftedness' in an exchange for controlled compliant behavior." (Baum & Olenchak, 2002).

References:

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NH Mensa RG 2009  
February 13th -15<sup>th</sup>

# Love Potion '09

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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.  
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# Calendar of Events

## January 2009

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