# ILLUMINATE

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May Newsletter

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




The Newsletter of Missouri Ozark Mensa

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## LocSec Thoughts

Thanks for the good turnout for the March Lunch Bunch! It was great meeting everyone and I'm looking forward to seeing a good crowd at the April and May Lunch Bunches.

Now that the weather is nice, I've been thinking about another get together at the Nature Center for a hike, so let me know your interest and a good Saturday to plan this event. Also, it would be nice to have a potluck picnic sometime this summer. Are there any interest and thoughts on a good weekend for this?

Many thanks to Austin Sandberg for volunteering to lead the Membership, Scholarships, and Gifted Children's programs. "The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children." - Dietrich Bonheoffer

## Regional Vice Chairman May Thoughts

Happy May Day fellow Mensans, when we celebrate the Haymarket affair in Chicago or International Worker's Day or Beltane, or maybe it's just another day we go into the office. In any event, I hope the day brings you wonder and joy.

I'm writing this just as I'm coming home from the AMC meeting in March. We have an exciting Board that is bringing a lot of new energy into the organization. We've passed a significant restructuring of our Strategic Plan. As mentioned in my article last month, the strategic plan is divided into five strategic pillars to prioritize and develop our goals and priorities over the next three years. These pillars are "Membership, Growth, and Outreach," "Member Experience and Retention," "Technology and Operational Efficiency," "Sustainable Revenue and Events," and "Trust, Culture, and Safety." This is largely a reorganization of existing committees, but if any of these pillars sound interesting to you please reach out. We're always looking for interested people who can provide new ideas and perspectives.

While I'm looking forward to the structure and organization this will bring our planning in the coming years, an effort I'm really excited to watch develop is our 'better together' campaign. We are aligning the complimentary roles of Mensa and our sister organization, the Mensa Foundation. The Foundation presented several initiatives to increase transparency and communication so we can coordinate our resources and provide services to all of Mensa while also opening to the broader community in way that reinforces our brand and attracts potential new members. One of our core purposes is to "identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity." Mensa as a social organization is great at bringing together people with shared interests or experiences. The Foundation goes beyond the top 2% to invest in scholarships and research that can help our broader communities grow. Together we will work in tandem to unlock and elevate human potential. Feedback is always appreciated. You can send me your thoughts at rvc7@us.mensa.org.

## Steering Committee/Volunteers

Thanks to those who cast their ballots for the Steering Committee. Below it the full list of Steers and Volunteers. 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: | Vacant |
| Gifted Children: | Austin Sandberg |
| Hosting: | Vacant |
| Membership: | Austin Sandberg |
| Testing Coordinator: | Charles Myers |
| Testing Proctor: | Charles Myers |
| Publicity: | Vacant |
| Public Relations: | Vacant |
| Puzzle Master | Wes Young |
| Scholarships: | Vacant |
| SIGHT Coordinator: | Vacant |
| Speaker Coordinator: | Vacant |
| Webmaster: | Lonny Burger |

## Membership Report

As of May, there are 87 members in Missouri Ozarks Mensa. 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

| | |
|---|---|
| February Opening Balance | 11,657.50 |
| Receipts | 0 |
| Expenditures | 55.90 |
| April Closing Balance | 11,601.60 |

## Events Calendar

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

# Coming Events

### Deadline for Calendar/Illuminate Submissions

May 8 at 5pm: This is the deadline for submissions of Events and Articles for the June 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).

### April Saturday Lunch Bunch

During discussions at the February Lunch Bunch, let's Lunch Bunch on April 18th at 1pm at Asian King Buffet, 3130 S. Glenstone Ave, Springfield. So that we can provide a head count, lease email me by 5pm, April 10th at locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org if you will be attending. Thanks so much and we hope to see a good group. Remember that friends and family members are welcome to attend.

### May Saturday Lunch Bunch

May 16th at 1pm. Let's do McAlister's Deli again in Springfield. 210 W Sunshine St, Springfield, MO 65807 since it has been popular in the past and they have a variety of entrées at a range of prices. For a good head count, please let me know by 5pm, May 9th by email at locsec@missouriozarks.us.mensa.org if you will be attending. Remember that family and friends are always welcome to attend.

# May's Thought

Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity, nothing exceeds the criticisms made of the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well-warmed, and well-fed. - Herman Melville

## May Birthdays

Arnold Ray (25)

## May Anniversaries

James Byers (5/18/1992)
Lawrence Campbell (5/21/2007)
Isabella Eagan (5/15/2024)
Jayden Factor (5/25/2021)
Mary Garbriel (5/18/2024)
John Gould (5/11/2006)
Kurt Hellweg (5/3/2013)
Sue Hollis (5/1/1973)
Skylar Jain (5/1/2023)
Taylor Jones (5/14/2010)
David Leek (5/16/1996)
John Summer (5/13/1982)
Michael Thomas (5/19/1981)

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