

The

SCAM

page oast rea ensa



Volume 28, No. 7

July, 2010



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)

Executive Committee

Local Secretary

GEORGE PATTERSON

301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic, FL 32903
777-3721 george3141@cfl.rr.com

Assistant Local Secretary

JOSEPH SMITH

4317 Sherwood Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935
259-4966 jsmith@arachnaweb.com

Treasurer

BUD LONG

660 Alaska Rd., Merritt Island, FL 32953
422-5011 budlong@bellsouth.net

Recording Secretary

KAREN FREIBERG

876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955
633-1636 Karen@freiberg.com

Member-at-Large

TERRY VALEK

626-8523
wb4zuz@amsat.org

SCAM Appointees

Proctor Coordinator

HANK RHODES

MensaTest@cfl.rr.com

Membership

KAREN FREIBERG

Membership@scam.us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T.

KAREN FREIBERG

Sight@scam.us.mensa.org

RG Committee Chair

BUD LONG

SCAM Bylaws Committee

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Publicity Committee Chair

GEORGE PATTERSON

Mediator

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

The SCAM Editorial Staff

Editor

MICHAEL MOAKLEY
808 Wisteria Dr., Melbourne, FL
32901
editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Webmaster

KAREN FREIBERG
633-1636
Karen@Freiberg.com

Assembly/Circulation

GEORGE PATTERSON
777-3721

Calendar

DOUG STARKE
633-1636
Doug@Starke.com

American Mensa Ltd.

MEL DAHL, RVC10
RVC10@cfl.rr.com

AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103
(817) 607-0060
AmericanMensa@mensa.org



All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be **typed** or **legibly handwritten**. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in **e-mail text** or any of most **word processing** formats. All submissions should be sent to the **Editor**, whose contact information appears on Page 2.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

New rules! So says one of my favorite comedians, Bill Maher, on his weekly HBO program. On that note, I can think of one such “new rule” that, effective immediately, I will put into effect. But first, the background story.

While working on last month’s issue, I received an ad from “Book Lovers SIG” about a writing contest for aspiring authors to enter. I ran the ad. After I had the June issue posted online, I noticed a typo (that I had made) resulting in “Book Lovers GIG”. So, it was my intention to use this column to apologize for my egregious error.

However, the story gets better. The “SIG” in question is not a recognized SIG in American Mensa, a fact that the sender conveniently forgot to convey to me (and fellow editors). Hence the New Rule: No activity not pertaining to our Local Group will NOT be featured in The SCAM. The few exceptions include RGs from our neighboring groups, and, on a case-by-case basis, anything of interest to us brought to my attention by a trusted Mensa source (such as AML, Region 10 or a neighboring local group).

A word about SIGs. A SIG, for those who do not know, is a Special Interest Group for a given topic or activity. There are, in my mind two types of SIGs. The first are “official SIGs” recognized by AML that are listed periodically in the *Mensa Bulletin*. They may or may not charge a small fee to belong, and several have their own newsletters. Their activities are separate from Mensa activities as a

(Continued on page 4)

The SCAM sells classified ad space. SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

Finally, after how many months, we have some discussions started on Facebook. “*Introductions*,” a general chit-chat for people to introduce themselves was started in February and last added to in March. Lets get a little action there. “*Think Tank*,” had its first and only post last October. Its idea is to try and scare up a few people who are interested in trying to figure out how to get things moving again. (*here in SCAM, that is*).

Five new discussions have been opened with self-explanatory titles of “*Meaningless elections*”, “*Possible new events*”, “*Comments from or about Young Mensans*”, “*Is Facebook a good discussion platform*”, and “*SCAM Scholarship*”. These discussions are on the Space Coast Area Mensa Group. Groups are like people only different. Join them. Post comments. Join the discussions. If you have any questions about how to do this, read my earliest Watches or email (or call) me. Next month I will tell how many comments we have managed to coax out of people.

Inside the Pocket Protector*Continued.*

(Continued from page 3)

whole.

The other type of “SIG” is an informal get-together of like-minded members of SCAM. An example from several years ago was the PIG SIG whose “members” sampled different restaurants throughout Brevard County. These, unlike their official counterparts, are actually SCAM activities for those in our diverse group who have common interests. Another example was the “Movie SIG”.

We now have a new unofficial SCAM “SIG” thanks to member Dennis Logan. He is guessing that some among us share his enthusiasm for visiting Hooters every First Friday. So, if you are so inclined, check out the new First Friday SIG. Check our calendar and their first meeting “minutes” (You’ll find them on page 12).

In my opinion, the women should not be left out. What about a “Ladies’ Night Out” SIG (by any name of your choosing)? Anyone choosing to do so, or for that matter has another activity, please drop me a line so I can include it in our calendar.

Me? I’d like to see a “Bah Humbug” SIG.

In most cultures, men's clothing is different from women's. In a few cultures, especially in the more primitive ones, there is no difference, but once the ability to cut and sew material is introduced, differences arise. At the other extreme, clothing differences in some cultures are mandated by law and offenses may be and are punishable. These cultural differences are not universal. Take for example, Scottish highlanders and Greek Evzones who both wear skirts (kilts). Women's traditional clothing in both cases differ from the men's whose garments stop at the knee whereas the women's are floor length.

In the U. S., there are few laws pertaining to clothing, but there are customs that are followed with varying degrees of strictness. Generally, women can and do with impunity wear men's clothing, however, it is frowned upon for a man to wear women's clothing. Recently a female student wanted to bring her escort, also female, to the senior prom wearing a tuxedo. She and her escort were barred from the prom. Yet in how many movies have we seen a chorus line of beautiful women wearing tuxedos, albeit wearing briefs rather than trousers?

One almost universal law in the U. S. prohibits women from being in public without wearing something, however slight, above the waist. Men can go uncovered even if their breasts are larger than some of the women who must cover up. As for covering up, I recently saw in Wal-Mart a young woman whose breasts were so large and her top was so skimpy that I could see all of her breasts except for a small portion at her nipples.

In formal and business attire, the standard difference between men's and women's suits is that men must wear ties and women must wear high-heeled shoe. They both must wear suits. Women may wear skirts or trousers. Men, of course, unless they are Scotsmen in traditional dress, must wear trousers.

It is here in Florida where relaxed clothing is the norm that I found some interesting differences in men's and women's clothing. The general Florida uniform is T-shirts and blue jeans for both sexes. A baseball cap is optional. Then we come to the differences. Both may wear shorts, the men's coming to the knee or just above it. The women's stopping at mid-thigh or above, way above. Men and women may also wear slacks. Men's slacks always

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

go down to the ankle, women's slacks may be any length, but usually cut at mid calf.

In bathing attire, the differences are most bizarre. Men wear nothing above the waist no matter how large and pendulous their breasts, but women and pre-pubescent girls wear something across their breasts no matter how small or flat they are. Below the waist, men wear long, voluminous shorts to the knee, but the supposedly modest female wears something the French would call le minimum.

It is in shoes that I found the most divergence. Take a look at any group of men and women. Most, if not all, of the women will be wearing sandals. It would be a rare exception for a man to not be wearing athletic shoes, usually with socks.

I have found no authority or reason for the difference in Florida leisure dress for men and women but the usages are so universal, extending to children, that almost all men and women observe them.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 5/31/2010:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$652.51
Post Office Acct.	212.32
Reserve Fund	1617.20
RG Fund	572.24
<i>Total Funds Available:</i>	\$3054.27

Deposits

Mensa Funding:	\$187.93
Interest Income	0.13

Withdrawals

Postage	57.59
Printing	131.65

Transfers

General Fund to PO Acct.:	
	\$200.00

—Bud Long, Treasurer



My loyal readers (*both of you*) know that I very recently retired. Although not having had a great deal of experience with my new situation yet, the immediate difference I note is how time has changed.

Now, for the ensuing discussion, you will need some familiarity with Relativity Theory. As Mensans, I'm sure most of you do, in fact, have some knowledge of the subject; however, a bit of a refresher is probably in order. Since I have no intention of providing this requisite background I would, instead, refer readers to some reference text, my personal recommendation being either Bertrand Russell's *The ABC of Relativity* or James A. Coleman's *Relativity for the Layman* (my copies copyrighted 1959 and 1958, respectively; however, since little – if anything – has changed, relativitively speaking, in the ensuing 50 years, they should still serve nicely).

Go ahead. I'll wait. Take your time. I'll meet you back here afterward.

Right. Fine. Now that we're all on the same page, as it were, relativitively, we can continue.

My hypothesis is that time flows at a different rate for the working person as compared to the retired person. And the only reasonable explanation for this is that relativity is at work here.

The working person is always, always constrained by time. He (or she) is ruled by the clock, always slave to the cruel shortage of this most valuable commodity: time. Inevitably, all the myriad tasks required merely to get by in our frenetic world must be scheduled into what would seem to be a logistically impossible time frame.

Okay, so if I cheat a few minutes off the end of the workday and manage to miss the cross town traffic, I should be able to make it to the dry cleaners to see if they got the kumquat stains out of my spats, and still be able to pick up little Farquhar Jr. from his Ukrainian Folk Dance lesson and get us home in time for dinner.

It's rush, rush, rush; time parceled out in stingy increments, life racing along at velocity a substantial percentage of the speed of light. And if we are extremely cautious (at relativistic speeds, even the slightest misstep can be catastrophic), we can manage to squeeze everything into a seemingly impossible schedule because Dr. Einstein proved that the faster we go, the more time *s...l...o...w...s d...o...*

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

w..n to accommodate us. You remember this from our recent review (you all did your homework assignment, right?), yes? The bit about the twin on the speedy rocket ship aging more slowly than the twin remaining on Earth, etc., etc.? Yes? Good. Let's move on.

Now, we consider the other part of the time equation: the retirement side. Let me relate three short incidents from my own recent experiences as illustration.

1. I am the President of the **Space Coast Area Go Association** (go to <http://www.scaga.org> for information), which meets to play Go every Sunday. I usually send out an email notification to members, friends, and riff raff I meet on the street, on Thursday to remind them of the game on Sunday. These emails tend to be more humorous than informative since we meet *every* Sunday, same time, same place. Occasionally, the Thursday email will slip to Friday. Very rarely will I miss sending out something, anything, but it has been known to happen. I've missed sending out notices two weeks in a row.

2. I have been married to my wonderful, lovely wife for over 33 years and in all that time I have never, ever, not once forgotten to get her a card on her birthday. How could I? She starts reminding me a good week or so in advance, making it practically impossible to forget. This year, she did not get a card from me. *First time ever.*

3. Our beloved (and greatly underappreciated) SCAM Editor, Michael Moakley, should fire me. Really. With all the grief I give him, he should just show me the door. I'm certain that if he weren't so desperate for something, anything to fill all those big empty white spaces each issue, he wouldn't put up with all the shenanigans I give him month after month, filing late and begging for extensions. Now that I have all the time in the world to prepare articles I should have a backlog of 'em on file and just pick one out of the ol' grab-bag, as it were, each month. The column you're reading right now is the result of a pathetic plea for an extension and was filed late on top of that.

My point? After spending so much of your life at top speed, it's really quite difficult to adjust to the radical time phase shift that comes with retirement. Let me see if I can explain this more clearly.

Okay, so I get up when I feel like it and I've got the whole day ahead of me to do whatever I please. One of my favorite pastimes is sitting out on the back porch, iPod playing all my fave toons without commercials, smoking an especially tasty stogie, sipping on a cool li-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

bation, reading the newest Pendergast novel from Preston and Child or playing Go on one of the internet servers. Every once in a while, I'll go jump in the pool to cool down. Then maybe a nap with the dogs.

Tough job, but someone's got to do it, right?

Anyways, first thing you know, you look at the clock and... *Oh excrement!* Forgot to send out the notice for the Go game. Again.

You glance at the sundial and... *Oh excrement!* Wife's birthday card! Couch for me.

Check the tide level and... *Oh excrement!* The article I promised Moakley I'd get out last week.

How could this happen when you have all the time in the world now? Well, that's exactly the problem. You have all the time in the world, but you have no instructions on how to use it. And you need instructions because it's different from the time that you were used to. Now that you've slowed down to accommodate your new lifestyle, time – that sly devil – has speeded up! The bit about the twin remaining on Earth aging more rapidly than the twin on the speedy rocket ship etc., etc.? So while I'm lollygagging around on the back porch thinking I can get around to 1, 2, or 3 any ol' time I feel like it... zip, beep, poof! It's gone! Too late. Missed the boat. Dollar short. No kewpie doll. Better luck next time. I don't know whether a stitch in Time saves nine (nine what?), but it does hold the magazine together. But I digress. Which is what I have always been good at. And for which I now have much more time. Or is it less?

I really must re-read those relativity texts.

As soon as I find the time...

The George

SCAM Calendar of Events for July 2010

2nd - Friday 5:30 PM

"FIRST FRIDAY SIG"

Come join us for fried pickles, beer and fun at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street. Please see the "minutes" elsewhere in this issue of The SCAM.

Hosted by: *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

7th - Wednesday 5:30 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. This month, it will be held at the home of George Patterson in Indialantic.

Contact: *George, 777-3721, for details.*

31st - Saturday 5:45 PM

SNORT

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at Miyako's, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US#1) in Melbourne.

Contact: *George, 777-3721 for details.*

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar". Also, we are putting together a current e-mail notification list of all members who wish to be kept up-to-date on our activities. If you wish to be included, please contact George Patterson at 777-3721 or George3141@cfl.rr.com.

Of CABAGEs and Coffee:

(Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: **Every Monday at Books-A-Million**, Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

GO!: **Every Sunday at Books-A-Million**, Post Commons, Melbourne.
Host: *George Lebovitz, 259-3070, rokkitsci@cfl.rr.com*

Membership Notes for July 2010

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Alexandra Ward
Amanda Bryant
Jordan Barnett

WELCOME BACK!

James Douglass

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

9th	Michael Zielinski	27th	Paul Hargraves
14th	Kurt Penca	28th	Thomas Wheat
20th	Mary Kay Dailey	28th	Pepper Stevens
20th	Jeffrey Barbour	30th	Jason Harris
21st	Charles Cable	31st	Greer Maeder
23rd	R M Livingston		

The "Fine Print" for Calendar Events:

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

S-Smoking; **NS**- No Smoking; **SS**-Separate Smoking Area; **P**-Pets in the home; **NP**-No Pets present; **BYO**_-Bring Your Own: _Snacks, _Drinks, _Everything.

Minutes of the first First Friday Special Interest Group Meeting,

The First Friday Special Interest Group met at the home of pickles fried in non-trans fat oil, Hooters of Melbourne on Friday June 4, 2010. Called to order at 5:35 by Brandy the Hootersgirl. Dennis ordered ten hot wings and a Miller Lite.

Attendees: First Friday Founder and Recording Secretary Dennis Logan. Hootersgirl Brandy was designated Chairperson Pro Tem and treasurer pro tem as she would be keeping track of the tabs. She isn't in Mensa but you wouldn't know it. There was another Hootersgirl that first called the meeting to order but her name couldn't be read due to the awkward placement of her name tag on her chest. She was from the first shift and left soon after the meeting started. The recording secretary made a note to consider an earlier starting time next month.

Chairperson Pro Tem Report: Chairperson Brandy reported that the ring on her finger was a "Promise" ring. Recording Secretary Dennis replied that a pretty girl like her should be able to get something in writing.

Chairperson Brandy reported there will be a patriotic themed bikini contest on June 12th. Recording Secretary Dennis declared himself nothing if not a patriot and pledged his support and attendance if he could figure a way to get it by his wife. As of this writing it isn't looking good. Brandy further reported that her cousin had won the local contest last year and went on to Miami to represent East Central Florida in the State Competition. That was about all there was to that story.

Chairperson Brandy asked for new business. Recording Secretary Dennis ordered another Miller Lite and some fried pickles. He additionally questioned why this special interest group existed. He answered himself that his motivation was having an excuse to go to Hooters on a Friday afternoon. Secretary/First Friday Founder Dennis stated that he worked from his house and rarely had an opportunity to get out and enjoy the finer things in life like mass produced beer and deep-fried

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

things. This special interest group being particularly sensitive to judgment the other group members nodded in agreement. At this point several other patrons had begun to watch the proceedings. It seems that Secretary/Founder Dennis can be quite the orator once lightly lubricated. He prefers an audience but after fourteen years of living with a mother-in-law, wife, daughter, and a granddaughter on the way, he is quite comfortable talking to himself. In fact Secretary/Founder Dennis often finds sadness in the fact that the only man that he regularly comes in contact with is his proctologist. It may seem contradictory to come to a place known for its female employees but it must be noted at Hooter's the ladies bring a person beer and food. And they are pleasant about it. And they charge much less than at home.

Hooter's Manager, Sadiya, stopped by the meeting to conduct a survey of the Mensan attendees. Quite often she seeks our opinions on important business questions. All attending unanimously opined the wings as having been well seasoned. Sadiya further reported that the establishment would be happy to entertain the First Friday group in any number. She may have said any number greater than one but it was hard to tell as the restaurant was getting busy and a little noisy.

Treasurer's Report: Chairperson/Treasurer pro tem Brandy brought the check. Secretary Dennis magnanimously offered to take care of the entire bill. A gesture he promised never to repeat unless the meeting's attendance is maintained at its current level.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. Next meeting will be July 2, 2010 at 5:30 pm. The location remains at the delightfully tacky, yet unrefined Hooter's of Melbourne located at 877 South Babcock Street in Melbourne. Note: *Do not* eat the fried pickles with the horse radish sauce.

As these words are written, we are approaching yet another primary election. Admittedly the campaigns have taken on a somewhat different flavor than in the past few election cycles. Prominent in conservative circles is the “Tea Party Movement”, which has added a libertarian twist to a movement that had been dominated by the “Christian” Right. Does this mean the Party of the Religious Fanatics has gone by the wayside? I think not. I believe, as we get closer to the general elections, this faction will once again dominate conservative politics.

Once again, there will be shrill debates as to whether the Ten Commandments should be displayed in our public buildings, particularly our courthouses. Accordingly, this month, I will jump the gun and discuss an aspect of the Ten Commandments here. As the more religious among you already know, it is claimed that the Ten Commandments form the basis of our law. Since many of our laws do tend to parallel these Biblical edicts, let us, for the sake of discussion, assume these claims to be true.

This leads me to our main topic: Are we giving equal weight to all of the Top Ten? Not a chance. In fact, ever since I began following politics, I have yet to hear any discussion about one Commandment in particular. Here it is: “*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. (Exodus 20:16, King James Translation)*” As I understand it, the more common English rendition would be something like this: *Do not falsely accuse someone else of wrongdoing.*

Does this happen here? For starters, let’s look at our criminal justice system. Has anyone ever been convicted of a crime he did not commit? In recent years, here in Brevard County, do names such as Wilton Dedge and William Dillon come to mind? You might remember these two men, in unrelated cases, were both imprisoned for more than 20 years for being convicted of a crime that, it turned out, neither man committed. Both were convicted of their respective alleged crimes in part because of false witness testimony. It does not stop there.

The Innocence Project has, to date, been instrumental in using DNA evidence to exonerate more than 200 former inmates wrongly convicted of serious crimes. Most of these cases, by far, resulted in wrongful convictions on the basis of false witness testimony. The In-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

nocence Project, operating under limited private funding, is able to take only one in ten cases seeking their assistance. No one knows the true extent of such cases. Even more amazing, the various State Attorneys are often, at best, reluctant to reopen these cases despite compelling reasons to do so.

We do know that a disproportionate number of these cases have occurred in states where it is most likely for politicians to win elections advocating running government by Biblical principles - including invoking the Ten Commandments. So it would seem that at least one of those Ten is conveniently ignored - yes, that pesky one forbidding false testimony.

What, then, shall we do? Obviously, we need to be more proactive in our efforts to exonerate those who stand wrongly convicted of their criminal charges. Included in this is to eliminate the unwarranted reluctance by prosecutors to seek the truth. After all, it is not only in the best interests of the innocent, but also it is in the best interest of public safety. If the crime was committed and the wrong person convicted, chances are good that the real criminal is at large, posing the public danger our justice system is supposed to address.

Just as important, however, we need to crack down on those who would bear false witness. One might argue that this is already covered by perjury statutes. I disagree. Perjury means any lying under oath (including falsifying a tax return). Most forms of perjury do not result in another's wrongful conviction of a crime.

I would support legislation providing that those who would bear false witness against a person charged with a crime be subject to the same criminal sanction as would be applied to the affected defendant if convicted on the basis (even in part) of the false testimony. This is one Biblical principle that we, believers and non-believers alike, should embrace. How about it?

For the last year or so, it seems that everywhere we turn; we hear the phrase “budget cuts” to the point of inducing nausea. Of particular concern are potential cutbacks in areas such as our children’s education and public safety. County after county grapples with decisions to make whether to lay off part of its workforce, place their employees on unpaid furloughs, cut back needed benefits; the hit list goes on.

Of course, in each budget “balancing act”, one issue is always off the table: taxes. The politicians are only too aware that to broach this subject spells political suicide. Just ask any vocal citizen: We pay too much taxes already; no way you’ll get a tax increase! In fact, I deserve a tax cut!

Now, the news media gets into the act. It is the media’s self-appointed duty to shine the light on every instance of “government waste” real or imagined. The county employee working on your streets finds out very quickly that it is unacceptable to take 61 minutes for a one hour lunch break. This infraction qualifies as “breaking news” (more at eleven). Your taxpayer dollars at work.

I am pleased to report, however, that all is not lost. Our state and local governments have found ways to gain some additional revenue. One such way is increasing traffic fines. For example, it now costs in the neighborhood of \$120 to be caught driving without wearing a seatbelt. Not too long ago, the fine was \$27, and this was a “secondary offense” meaning one could not be stopped for the seatbelt offense alone; there had to be another violation. Of course, you can now be stopped merely for not wearing the seatbelt.

Likewise, in many cases, speeding fines have also been increased. But a more insidious type of increase occurs when, as in this example, you see a sign, “*Speeding fines doubled when workers present.*” While this is ostensibly to protect those working on our roads, a rule like this has great fundraising potential. How much imagination would it take for law enforcement to station a worker on a riding mower in the medians in order to collect the higher fines?

Is this, then, a gripe about law enforcement gouging traffic offenders? Not necessarily. To do so, I believe, would be taking the wrong attitude, not only toward law enforcement; it would also be the wrong attitude to take toward the traffic offender. We should in-

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

stead count our blessings.

First and foremost, we must express our gratitude toward the traffic offenders, and recognize them as the selfless patriots that they are. For without these brave selfless individuals paying these burdensome fines into the public coffers, we would have to lay off more teachers or even get rid of the high school football team. Without their willing sacrifice, we might well face higher taxes! Similarly, we must not forget our brethren in law enforcement and in the court system; after all, what's in a fine if it cannot be collected?

Looking into the future, I envision quite an intriguing scenario. Regardless of the ever-increasing calls to patriotism, it seems there will always be rebellious souls, such as myself, who will do everything possible to stay within the rules of the road. Yes, unfortunately, there are those among us who simply refuse to get with the program. Many of us would not be fazed by the tag "unpatriotic".

To combat this, I envision that there will one day be a database of drivers who have not been issued a citation even once in the past two years. As the GPS becomes standard in more new vehicles, we can expect one day to be pulled over - not for a traffic violation - but to be issued what will become known as a "*deadbeat citation*" for not paying one's fair share in traffic tickets. After all, why should these "safe drivers" who try to beat the system with their good driving habits continue to avoid these fines and live off the backs of our hard-working patriotic traffic offenders? *There ought to be a law against that!*

<i>The Tenth Story</i>

Continued

(Continued from page 18)

proposing a by-laws amendment that would allow any member who receives any sanction from a hearing committee to appeal to the AMC. Assuming my motion passes the AMC, it will be on next year's membership ballot.

See you all in Michigan.

Mel Dahl, RVC-10

American Mensa's Publications Recognition Program has announced award nominees for 2010, and there are several nominees from Florida. First, BOTH the Flame of Central Florida Mensa AND Manasota Mensa's The 4M have been nominated for best publication for a mid-sized group. (In Manasota's case it's becoming a habit; they've been nominated and/or awarded more years than I've been in Mensa.) Second, Kim Knobloch has been nominated for an award for her cryptogram, "Marcus Millsap," which appeared in the Flame; David Frost of Miami Mensa was nominated for best non-fiction ("*The Mensa Black-Tie Sauna*"); and David Hecht of Miami Mensa was nominated for best continuing item ("*Spirituality 201*"). Northwest Florida Mensa's Web site has been nominated for an award for best overall presentation, and the Manasota Mensa Web site has been nominated for best overall entertainment. Broward Mensa's Web site received a nomination for best overall Web site for a medium-sized group, and North Florida Mensa received a nomination for best overall Web site for a small group. Congratulations to all, I'm very proud of all of you. Winners will be announced at the Annual Gathering in Dearborn.

As many of you know, at our last AMC meeting a governance task force was appointed to take a look at our entire system of governance, top to bottom. The AMC will continue to talk with the task force at the next two meetings. Their proposals, if any, will ultimately be put to a vote of the membership as they would require changes to the by-laws. It's still too early to know what, if anything, is going to be proposed but in the meantime I urge everyone to be on the lookout for future announcements so that you can educate yourself and cast informed votes.

I've brought a motion for consideration at our next AMC meeting, at the AG in Dearborn. Fortunately, Mensa over the years has seldom had to sanction members; we've been in existence for fifty years, in that time we've probably had a quarter million members, and we've had a grand total of maybe a dozen people expelled from the society for one reason or another over that time. As it now stands, if someone is the subject of charges brought to hearing, that person has the right to appeal an expulsion or suspension from Mensa to the AMC, but it isn't clear there is a right to appeal to the AMC of a lesser sanction. I think that any member facing charges should have the right to ask the AMC to take a last look at it, so I'm

(Continued on page 17)

Minutes of the ExComm Meeting.

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Called to order at 5:37 pm by LocSec George Patterson. Members present: George Patterson, Terry Valek, Joe Smith, Bud Long, and Karen Freiberg. Welcome Guests: Zane and Wynn Rostek.

Minutes for the May 5, 2010 meeting were approved as published in the June 2010 SCAM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 for the purpose of seating the new ExComm.

The new ExComm was called to order at 5:40 by LocSec George Patterson.. All positions on the new ExComm are as before, all members expressing satisfaction with that arrangement. It was noted, for the record, that the full ExComm was re-elected, in the May voting, by the nearly unanimous vote of 8 voters. Also for the record, it was an uncontested election of five people for five positions. (Note similarity to last year's June minutes.-G.P.)

Officer Reports:

LocSec: George observed that the NomElCom was decommissioned following the elections and thanked their members, Wynn Rostek, Barbara Hendry, and Suzanne Leichtling, for their participation. All other committees, appointees, and volunteers remain as they were.

Treasurer: Bud handed out the May Treasurer's Report which showed total funds of \$3054.27, which included \$572.24 in the RG fund.

Testing: Hank Rhodes (proctor coordinator) reported via email that no one was tested in May. Also, 2 candidates were contacted for the first time, and 14 candidates for the 2nd or 3rd time. A test is scheduled for June 19 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic on Wednesday, July 7, 2010 at 5:30 pm. It will be followed by an RG committee meeting.