



Butterflies Know How Caterpillars Can Fly ...

Libby Wilder

Once upon a time there was a caterpillar on a leaf on a tree. It was crying its eyes out. Great heaving sobs. Tears were running down its face. A butterfly who was passing by stopped and settled on the branch next to it. “Why are you crying little caterpillar,” the butterfly asked. The caterpillar snuffled and sniffed and then began to talk.

“It’s so unfair, don’t you see? They tell me I can fly. They tell me I can swoop through the sky and land on flowers and life will be beautiful.” The butterfly nodded for him to continue.

“But don’t you see? I’m a big fat caterpillar. I can’t fly. If I tried to fly I would crash to earth and be squished like, well, like a bug. Only a stupid person would think I can fly. And as for the flowers – I don’t see any darn flowers underneath me, and I can’t eat flowers anyway.”

The butterfly gently tapped the caterpillar with its wing. “I understand how hard this is for you,” said the butterfly. “I really do. I was once exactly where you are now. Feeling hopeless. Feeling like someone is playing a very unkind joke on me. But, please be patient. I promise you it will not always be like this.”

The caterpillar thanked the butterfly for its kind words although it did not dare to really believe the butterfly. “I’m getting sleepy now, I think I’ll just take a little nap.” And with that the caterpillar curled up and fell asleep. While he slept a web formed around him, protecting him in a strong cocoon.

Some time later the caterpillar woke up. “Boy, it’s dark in here,” he thought. “I think I’d like to get out into the sunshine. So the caterpillar scraped away at the cocoon that was enclosing it and eventually began to see a bit of sunlight. The caterpillar worked harder and harder and eventually was able to make a large hole in the cocoon. So big he could crawl right through.

The caterpillar felt a bit wobbly as it balanced on the branch. Something was different. The air felt like it was blowing right through it. “Wait a minute,” it exclaimed. “What’s happened? Where’s my big fat caterpillar body. Slowly the caterpillar looked around and then it realized what had happened: “I have wings! I can fly! I can fly! Just like the butterfly said. I can swoop through the sky. I can land on flowers.” With that the “caterpillar” flapped its wings, swooped through the air, and landed on a bunch of flowers.”

And THAT is how butterflies know how caterpillars can fly. 🐛

2019 Election Deadlines

The following due dates are fast approaching, folks ...

- Nominee names, election rules, and timeline: due to newsletter editor by Sept. newsletter (NOW!) deadline or mailed no later than 9/01
- Nominations by petition due to Nominating and Elections Committee by 10/01
- Ballots are due to newsletter editor by Nov. newsletter deadline - electronic and mailed ballots sent no later than 11/01
- Ballot return deadline, 11/30
- Counting of said ballots no later than 12/07

ExComm

Rise Up!
SCAM! SCAM! SCAM!



Space Coast Area Mensa Group

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Tidbits ...

Hi - I'm Val and I'm running for ExComm. I'd like to reprise my role as Treasurer of SCAM ...

Please vote for me, or any other candidate ...

What the hell: throw your hat into the ring and help SCAM out!

Val Valek

We will be hosting a **Games Afternoon, Sept. 14**, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at our house on 3456 Willis Drive, Titusville. If you need directions or other info, contact my cell 321.626.3670.

Hope to see you there ...

Wynn Rostek

We Came, We Played, We Got the Gift Certificate

Gregg Wiggins

A varied group of Mensans met at REC 225 in Cocoa Village Aug. 20th for a night of games and pub grub. Whether it was Cards Against Humanity, Botticelli, or a best-of-three billiards match which came down to both players aiming at the 8-ball to win the rubber third game, there was camaraderie and laughter.

Three stayed to compete in the weekly Team Trivia tournament starting at 8:00pm. When the final scores were announced at about 10:00pm, those three won, earning a \$40 bar tab for a future visit. So, there's a reason to return & do it again to use that free money.

Instead of the "Third Tuesday", however, which might cause scheduling conflicts, this event will shift to the second Tuesday of September and shift to a slightly later start time. See you at 225 King St. in Cocoa Village Sept. 10th, from 6:30pm.

If that's a good time, see you there; if that's a bad time and you'd like to suggest another, or you'd like more information, email me at greggwiggins@gmail.com or call/text 703-671-6224. 🍷



Member Voucher Program (MVP)

Becky Folger

I'd say it's an expansion or modification of the original Member Voucher Program (MVP). For the last two years, each member received a unique, one-time-use code to share with family or friends for free testing or prior evidence submission. Many Local Group leaders wanted access to the codes to use for recruiting. MVP was originally designed as a member-get-a-member campaign, not free testing. Based on leadership feedback, the modification was one code for each Local Group and they can determine how to best use it. Each member will still receive an email with the code to share with someone they think might qualify. It's just not such a "super secret password" any more. 🍌

Region 10 Update

Thomas George Thomas

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the hard work of our Local Groups during the Lapsed Member renewal program this year. As an incentive, the top group in each class size won a free CultureQuest entry for 2020, and two Region 10 groups took top honors: Northwest Florida Mensa and Tallahassee Area Mensa, each with a 28.5% renewal rate. This was compared to a national renewal rate of 13%.

Congratulations to both groups!

As a member organization run by its volunteers, American Mensa is dependent on you to be its best. This is true at both the local and national level. At the local level, the most visible volunteers are your Executive Committees, primarily via your Local Secretaries/Presidents and your Local Group Newsletter Editors, but there are many other volunteers who move things along, from the Proctors who provide testing opportunities for new members to join, to those who run social events on your local calendars, to those who provide content on your local group social media groups, and those who volunteer to read essays to provide scholarships for worthy students, and more. Some groups have had trouble recruiting new volunteers, however, because the leaders haven't met you yet and don't know that you might be interested.

The same is true of National Committees. Committee Chairs often reach out to the people we already

know, because we know they are interested, but so many others we don't know could have a lot to offer and we just don't know it.

To help with this, American Mensa has launched the Volunteer Marketplace (visit <https://connect.us.mensa.org/volunteeropportunities/volunteeroverview>). From here you can see what roles are available, and complete a profile letting us know what your skill sets and interests are, what level of participation you would be willing to commit to, and other key information. Because the program has just started, the choices are limited as of this writing, mostly for national committees, but local groups may also take advantage of the program to seek out Proctors, RG Committee volunteers, ExComm candidates, and others. Please check this out and see whether it is something you would be interested in.

The next scheduled American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting will be on September 7, 2019 in Arlington, TX. At this time I do not have the agenda, but you will be able to find it at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>. Select the dropdown for the 2019-09-07 meeting and the agenda should be available by the time this column finds its way to your newsletter. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns that you would like me to bring before the AMC.

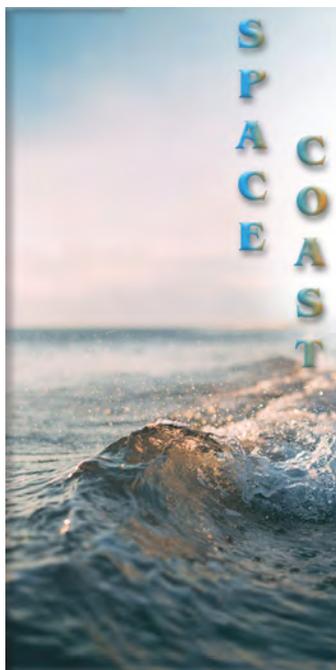
On a personal note, I will be retiring from my current full-time job at the end of August. This will offer me a chance to get to some of your local group events that are held during weeknights, something I simply haven't been able to manage over the past couple of years. I hope that I'll be able to meet more of you in the next few months.

Until next month (or until I see you online) ... 🍌



Space Coast Area Mensa Group
876 Buxmont Court
Rockledge, FL 32955

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HERE



Upcoming Events

MENSA Testing – Saturday, Sept. 21st

Games Night – Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 6:30pm

Games Afternoon* – Friday, Sept. 14th at 2:00pm

SNORT – Saturday, Sept. 28th at 5:15pm

*We will be hosting a **Games Afternoon, Sept. 14th**, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at our house on 3456 Willis Drive, Titusville ...

If you need directions or other info, contact my cell 321.626.3670.

Hope to see you there ...

Wynn Rostek 🍋

Games and Trivia in Cocoa Village
Tues., Sept. 10th; 6:30 to 10-ish
REC 225, 225 King St. Cocoa
www.rec-225.com

Just Meandering By ...

The Editor

Well, well, well ...

It would seem that public discourse on so many vital topics has relegated day-to-day human interactions to afterthought status ...

Except for politics, of course - that arena continues to be amazingly personal, high-brow and thoughtful ...

So ...

Newsletter topics?

Health, vacations, DIY projects, tech wishes ...

You know, like the caterpillar, it's never too late for us common folk to feel the sky ... 🍋

