

The

SCAM

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Mensa



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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

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All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 20th 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, editor@scam.us.mensa.org.

Editor's Notes

Dennis D. Logan

Here we are at the precipice of a new era in United States history. Vote your conscience. I don't have any advice.

Great things have been happening lately. You should notice we have filled the Member-at-Large position that was open. Also we have a new Publication Committee Chair. New faces, hands and ideas are welcome.

The Gifted Youth Program has maintained some interesting activities for the kids. There are actually two programs being participated in, some of the kids are working on projects at the FabLab and some others are enrolled in the STEP program for gifted youth offered by The Verdi Eco School. Hopefully, over the Autumn and Winter months additional opportunities can be identified.

That's about all the news from here. I'm flummoxed about the election. I don't want to make the wrong choice but I don't see a right choice on my sample ballot, certainly not in the Presidential election. I am appalled at the choices with which we have been presented this election cycle. How does that happen? I used to think being a politician was an impossible task as no one can be that clean a person. But look where we are now. Neither of the two establishment candidates has been convicted of murder but there aren't many of the ten commandments after that which they have not broken asunder. Make your best guess and we'll all hope for the best.

Oh yeah, Happy Thanksgiving! We can at least be thankful the election is over. Assuming it is by then.

I'll live a little space here so you can write your own note. Send them on in if they seem good to you. See you next month more or less.

Reader's Notes

Thanksgiving Timeline:

Fall 1621 - The first Thanksgiving is observed in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

1789 - President George Washington declares November 26 a day of national thanksgiving, although there was no national Thanksgiving Day for several years.

1863 - President Abraham Lincoln establishes the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

1924 - The first ever Macy's Day Parade takes place in New York City and draws an audience of over 250,000 people.

1934 - The first year the Detroit Lions played football on Thanksgiving Day. They played the Chicago Bears at Detroit Stadium in front of 26,000 fans.

1939 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt moves Thanksgiving Day one week earlier to help boost the holiday shopping season.

1941 - Congress rules that the fourth Thursday in November will be Thanksgiving Day, at the same time making it a federal legal holiday.

1989 - President George H. W. Bush pardons the first turkey. Although the public presentation of a turkey to the President had been a tradition since the 1940's, and a few presidents before had decide to not eat that turkey, this was the first year a president used the term "pardon," which has now become a Thanksgiving tradition.

Food Facts and Figures:

Thanksgiving is America's **2nd** favorite holiday behind Christmas.

An estimated **46 million** turkeys are consumed on Thanksgiving Day. That's one fifth of the **235 million** turkeys consumed annually in the United States.

88% of Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

In 2014, an estimated **856 million pounds** of cranberries, **2.4 billion pounds** of sweet potatoes, and **656 tons** of green beans were produced in the United States.

There are **17 ridges** on a **14-ounce** can of Ocean Spray Jellied Cranberry Sauce.

On Average, Americans consume **4,500** calories on Thanksgiving dinner.

Americans will spend an estimated **\$2.8 billion** on Thanksgiving dinners this year.

In 2013, **15 million** Americans dined out for Thanksgiving, **14 million** Americans ordered at least part of their Thanksgiving dinner, and **4 million** Americans ordered take-out for their entire Thanksgiving dinner.

Almost **50 million** people typically watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on television, while around **3 million** people attend the parade.

In 2014, **46.3 million** Americans traveled at least 50 miles or more for Thanksgiving.

REMEMBER: WHEN A TURKEY IS DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME, IT IS POULTRY IN MOTION.

With the primaries over and the general elections coming up, the major party nominees give us a fine example of the benefits of a voting procedure that I have advocated over the past several elections.

One category is of voters are those who vote only by name recognition. Some years ago, one of my friends, John Vogt, ran for public office. He had no previous political experience but he won his election. He told me that he won because of his name and his campaign slogan "Vote for Vogt". That explains the plethora and size of the campaign posters on our roadways and the advertisements on TV and in newspapers. No mention of issues or experience need be noted, only the name. The more ads, the more votes. The governing rule is; the greater the name recognition, the greater the number of votes received. Each vote obtained is paid for by the advertising dollar. Each vote is bought as surely as if the money was put in the voter's pocket. Bought votes. Money talks.

Another category is of those voters that analyze the issues and the characters of the candidates. Some of them make rational choices and vote for against a candidate. Those voters are to be commended.

Ignoring those of the electorate that vote solely by party adherence, single issue preferences, and name recognition, leaves a large portion of the voters that consider the candidate's overall competence or lack thereof as the basis for their vote.

The last category of other voters includes those who analyze the candidates and decide that they don't want either of them.

Many of those voters opt for one candidate over the others because one candidate is the "lesser of evils". The voter would rather not have any of the candidates, but he is limited to voting "for" only one candidate on the ballot. A smaller number of voters like more than one candidate but is also required to make a choice.

I know of several registered voters who did not vote in some campaigns where they did not like any of the candidates. Perhaps this is why we have a generally lower turnout for voting than many other countries, the voters just prefer not to vote rather than vote for any of the ballot candidates. Truly wasted votes.

A suggestion of how to see a voter's dislike of the candidates to be expressed is to allow the voter to vote for "none of the above". That option would not solve the problem. It would effectively eliminate the ballot of any elector who chose that option. It is the same as not voting at all.

A major defect of the present system of selecting among candidates is that a candidate who is undesirable to the majority of voters could still be elected if one candidate received more votes than the other candidates.

The way out of that problem is to ask each voter to vote for or against each candidate, just as is done with initiatives and referenda. The same election rules would apply; in order to be elected the candidate must receive more positive than negative votes. This voting scheme would allow those voters that object to a candidate to have a voice equal to those who desire that candidate, thus making the process more democratic, and more nearly representative of the wishes of the electorate.

No vote would be "wasted" even if the elector voted against all candidates.

His "against" votes would add to the total negatives of each candidate and would counter an equal number of "for" votes. Two situations may arise that would require special rules.

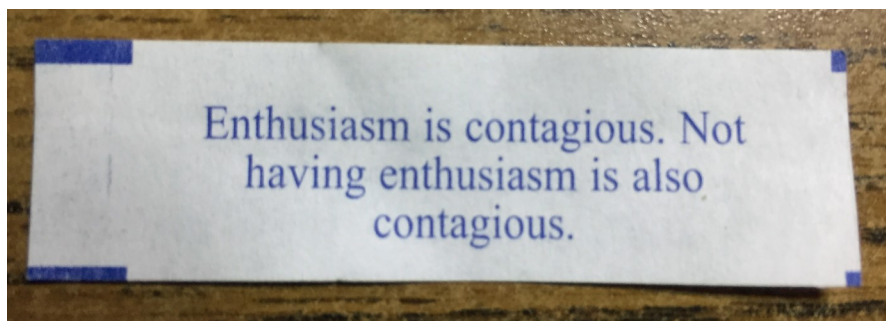
1. Two or more candidates receive more positive than negative votes. In that case the candidate with the higher score (positive votes minus negative votes) would be the winner. This situation occurs now when two propositions on a ballot directly contradict each other.

2. No candidate receives more positive than negative votes. Then a second election would be held with the original candidates barred from participating. As to the two major party candidates for this election, if we are to believe their pole numbers, each is disliked by more potential voters than are liked. If the voters vote as their pole numbers indicate, neither would achieve a majority of positive votes. Therefor neither would be elected.

In my proposal, those candidates would be eliminated, another candidate would be nominated by each party, and another election held. How the second candidate would be selected would be subject to the rules of each party. A possibility that each party would select the second highest vote getter of that party's convention.

The whole tenor of elections, and particularly the selection of candidates, would change because, and this is most important, under positive/negative voting a candidate could lose to himself regardless of how the other candidates do. What would that do to political campaign strategies?

I don't suggest that this method of voting would eliminate all the abuses and corruption in our elected officials, but it would go a long ways to doing that.



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.

Oh Methuselah I'd like to know – the story of your life
Was it filled with boredom - with joy or with strife
Was it spent in conquest - like Bonaparte or Sherman
Or spent in public ridicule – like little Pee Wee Herman
Did you court the pretty ladies - did they give you ecstasy
Or maybe crabs or scabies - or a nasty STD
Did you drink the wine and stay out late - did you party all night long
Or did you turn in early - and flout the rowdy throng
Were you tall and skinny - or maybe short and stout
Mysterious and creepy - or a handsome gad-about
If you had lived in my time - there's much you could have done
Like sailing with the Norsemen - into the setting sun
Then plundered with Attila - when renaissance was looming
And hung out with the masters – while the New World was in blooming
But fast lane living doesn't last – you had to know the score
You couldn't live that many years – with danger at your door
I think you roamed the desert - for all that many years
Gripped in total ennui – while fighting back the tears
Not content with living – or wanting soon to die
Cursing at the sand dunes – and never knowing why
And maybe wondering how to spend – all that time at hand
You might have picked a likely spot – and counted grains of sand
I don't want a life like yours – with your longevity
I'll chose a shorter version – with some diversity
I've often heard its quality – not quantity that counts
When nothing ever changes – and boredom really mounts
I'll take a life of challenge – not knowing what I'll see
Or what I might encounter – on my road to destiny
But then I might consider – when the Reaper stares at me
How absolutely final – is man's mortality
And maybe boredom's not that bad – and there's a chance I'll find
That in those final moments – I just might change my mind!

Editor's Note:

The above piece came from my very good friend TC Shaw a few weeks ago with the note that he was in hospice and didn't figure he had more than a couple of days left. TC told some of us several months ago he had been diagnosed with stage four bone cancer. He had not yet gone back to Michigan for the Summer when he received the diagnosis however returned there shortly after. I heard from him a few times over the Summer from Michigan. He seemed to be responding well to the treatments he was receiving there and actually hoped to return to Florida for the Winter. Sadly I received a note from him that he had taken a turn for the worse and had been admitted to hospice. He sent me quite a bit of material from hospice that I will be publishing in the coming months. He was a good man. He helped me more than I could ever tell him.

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

4th - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

Will be drinking a toast to regulars who are no longer with us. Discussion on whether the outcome of the impending election will influence the future of Hooters in general.

1st - Tuesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. See minutes for location.

26th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Saturday Night of the Round Table (SNORT). Join us for some Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hioki's**, 3200 NE Dixie Hwy. (US 1) in Palm Bay. It is about 2 miles south of US 192. Contact: *George Patterson, 474-4075 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".

Our Regular Events:

- **C.A.B.A.G.E.:** Food Court at the Merritt Square Mall. Every Monday at 6pm. *Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636.*
- **GO!:** Books-A-Million, The Avenue, Viera. Every Saturday at 1pm. Hosted by the Space Coast Area GO Association. Contact George Lebovitz for more info: the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com.

#87

Standing tall was not a challenge
Nor a possibility
For the general who was part of
P.T.'s menagerie

#88

Boise folks might like him
But were glad he didn't grow
Up to be the governor
Of the state of Idaho

#89

With the trappings of a fairy tale
Just like Mother Goose
A short flight into history
Then the world's best known recluse

#90

She left fawning frenzied followers
Soon after 12 o'clock
Some industry admirers
Just couldn't take the shock
Throughout a storied lifetime
Tragedy came to call
Some say that it was destiny
The chips just had to fall

#91

Dearly loved and admired
In England in his day
And becoming quite ubiquitous
Throughout the USA
Factors far from his control
Not something that he did
Got him a lifetime in the can
That's where he flipped his lid

#92

Not a Xaviera Hollander
Although he tried to match her
His lovers tales were growing tall
Enough to match his stature

#93

His cocaine use would never
Be a habit he'd deduce
But his cocaine sniffing habit
Though he tried could not reduce

#94

As I sit here in my parish
I can change most anything
Make a rich man from a pauper
Or exalt him to a king

I have traveled from the backwoods
 To a seat upon the hill
 Now a bullet speeding at me
 Will my life forever still

#95

Metamorphosis, what a trick
 But only if it's with a stick
 Plantigrades who were quite small
 Find fate has bound them to a ball
 From rags to riches is the test
 For a radiant beauty with a quest

Rhyming Puzzle Answers:

#95 Cinderella
 #94 Huey Long
 #93 Sherlock Holmes
 #92 Wilt Chamberlain
 #91 Prince Albert
 #90 Grace Kelly (12:00 O'clock="High Noon"—chips=Monte Carlo)
 #89 Howard Hughes
 #88 Dan Quayle (Idaho=potatoe)
 #87 Gen. Tom Thumb

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

John L Stephens	November 11
Allan S Torsney	November 11
Aron James Travis	November 22
Gregory L Showman	November 1
Thomas Magee	November 26
Jakob Kaufman	November 17
Abbey Thompson	November 8
Harold E Long	November 19
John C England	November 21
Brian J Kober	November 21
William Hays McClure Jr	November 6
Desmond Macauley	November 27

NEW ExCOMM AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Karen Freiberg welcomes the Executive Committee's new Member-at-Large, Aron Travis.



Karen Freiberg welcomes the new Publicity Committee Chairman, Robert Roth.

Well if you were following my saga from last month, my wife and I are now living in Palm Bay. But the process of making that happen was rather stressful for a number of reasons having to do with the lender, the move, and of course a little hurricane thrown in the middle for good measure. Of the three, I think dealing with the lender was the worst. These days, lenders seem to take perverse pleasure in the process of making loans by finding tiny details that no one really cares about but that must be resolved for the process to go forward. There was the discrepancy about the date my wife started working for her current employer, was it actually April 22 or June 1? Now that might seem like an understandable concern, except for the fact that she began her work there in 1997, during the prior century. Back then we kept track of such things by making marks on our cave walls. Each day, a new item would come to light, a missing initial, another form needed, an updated P&L please, another credit report required. Each vital discovery was followed by a 24-hour gestation period before the next minutia item came to light. I was waiting to be told that to finally qualify I would need to wear my underwear on the outside of my pants until closing.

Finally, two weeks late, they were ready to close, except for the fact that the next day, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew was expected. My title agent called me and apologized that they were sending everyone home, with a side comment about maybe we shouldn't close on a home the day before a major hurricane anyway... Well as it turned out, it would have made no difference, but I suppose that was good advice after all; that is, except for one small detail. Once the hurricane had passed, the lender decided that the home had to be rechecked by the appraiser. Since the home was in a disaster area, they needed to know that nothing had happened to it, so the appraiser had to come out again, take more pictures and certify that the home was okay. They would have gladly closed the day before the hurricane without regard for those unknowns, but the day after...no way. I am still trying to understand that logic. In any event, we finally closed, nearly three weeks late, and breathed a sigh of relief.

Fortunately, our seller had already moved out weeks ago and once the loan was fully-approved had let us move in early, not a practice I generally condone, but necessary in our situation. So we actually moved in early September and had not even gotten unpacked before the hurricane. Then, instead of unpacking we boarded up this home that we didn't officially own yet to try to protect it and our belongings as best we could. We sheltered in the home of one of my clients, a large vacant concrete structure equipped with storm shutters, hurricane impact glass, and fully and luxuriously furnished. From inside this gilded fortress we could barely hear the storm raging outside. Through the hurricane glass, we watched as it churned the Indian River and waited patiently for the storm to pass.

Arriving home again, we found no leaks or damage. A few palm fronds were broken on our tree and there were a lot of pine needles in the yard from a stand of pines behind our new home. Now finally, everything is settled; except we are still unpacking and now I have a honey-do list that takes up several pages in a notebook. Ah! The never-ending joys of home ownership...

Joe Janson, Local Secretary

At the September 17 American Mensa Committee (AMC) in Arlington, Texas, site of the American Mensa home office, we received updates on the implementation of the new Association Management System (AMS) which is ahead of schedule. Soon there will be a new set of tools available for local group leaders, and I'm looking forward to it. There will also be the inevitable growing pains as the old system is decommissioned and the new one takes its place, with occasional problems with connecting to the website, but these will be brief, and the results should be worth the slight temporary inconvenience.

A couple of motions were passed regarding topics that had raised a great deal of discussion in the online groups. One was to establish a Hearings and Dispute Resolution Process Review ad hoc committee to go over our existing AML processes. This committee is tasked to reorganize and condense the current process, and make recommendations for any changes, if necessary. There were also a couple of motions regarding Social Media policies, but the wording of the motions were still being updated among concerns that it appeared Local Groups would be required to appoint Social Media Coordinators, so the motions were postponed until the December meeting so they could have more review. While I encourage Social Media for our organization, and recommend that our Local Groups appoint coordinators in the same manner that they appoint Editors and Webmasters, I don't want to burden any groups who already have difficulty finding volunteers with a requirement for yet another one.

For anyone interested, a 4 hour video recording of this meeting has been posted on the National website, and can be viewed by visiting <http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/> and selecting 2016-09-17 – Arlington, TX from the dropdown. Mini-minutes are also available at this link; full detailed minutes will be posted after they have been approved at the December meeting.

Speaking of Social Media, 11 of the 12 groups in Region 10 now have Facebook groups (with some more active than others), so I encourage you to sign up for your local group's site in order to get the most up-to-date information about activities in your area, since sometimes the items in your printed calendars can change at the last minute for unexpected reasons (venues closing, inconvenient Hurricanes, and other such complications).

Election season is almost over, and I'm sure most of you are glad to see an end to it. On the other hand, a new election season (this one for American Mensa) will be starting very soon, and our Election Committee is finalizing the 2017 Election Code, which will be published in the Mensa Bulletin and on the website. I'll also be posting updates on the Region 10 Facebook page. All those interested in running for office must be members in good standing as of December 1, 2016. Petition details will be available when the Election Code is finished later in the fall.

In the meantime, to join the Region 10 Facebook group visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MensaRegion10/> to request access and join the conversation.

Until next month (or until I see you online),

Thomas George Thomas

Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thomas.g.thomas>

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, October 4th 2016, called to order by Asst LocSec Karen Freiberg at 6:10 pm.

Members Present: Karen Freiberg, Val Valek, and George Lebovitz.

Guests: Robert Roth and Aron Travis.

Officer/Committee Reports (details may be found in the footnotes):

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved¹.

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported September testing via email².

The minutes of the September, 2016 meeting as published in the SCAM were approved.

Old Business

The proposed new bylaws required some additional minor changes/corrections which were made and re-submitted and are still awaiting final review.

New Business

Aron Travis volunteered to fill the vacant Member-At-Large ExComm position. He was nominated, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Robert Roth then volunteered to fill the vacant Mediator position. He was nominated, seconded, and unanimously approved; however, subsequent discussion brought up the notion that he might be better suited to be Publicity Chairman, a position currently held by George Patterson. So, George (Lebovitz) was asked to contact George (Patterson) to see if he would be amenable to exchanging positions with Robert.

During a discussion reviewing the status of the SCAM Gifted Youth Program, Robert asked how he could help and was assigned the task of contacting the Indian River Board of Education Gifted Coordinator to inform them of our program to spread awareness of the availability of our activities to gifted students in Indian River.

We are setting a SCAM membership goal to increase from our current 200+ members to 300 members by participating in more local events and publicizing our activities in local news media. For instance, the appointment of our new ExComm member and Chairman position could be publicized as a news release, perhaps with accompanying pictures, to make the local community aware of our activities.

It was pointed out that the SCAM should include an explanation of acronyms used in each publication for clarification to readers who may not be familiar to them. Specific instances included S.N.O.R.T. and C.A.B.A.G.E.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, November 1st 2016 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

¹ General Account: \$2,416.50; Reserve Account: \$859.54; with outstanding payments due to George Patterson for postage, Joe Janson for speaker meals, and George Lebovitz for Gifted Student Program Contacted 3 candidates for the first time.



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