



**American Mensa Committee Highlights ...**

*Thomas G. Thomas - RVC 10*

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met on Saturday, December 7. As I mentioned last month, the motion to put forth a bylaws referendum to change the AMC Terms of Office from two years to three years starting in 2021 was a hot topic. There were several good points made both pro and con about the change itself, which made it clear that the decision belongs to the members, and our responsibility was to give the members the choice rather than preemptively block the referendum. The vote was not unanimous, but it did pass, and the referendum will be on the ballot in Spring 2021.

Three other motions passed quickly, including a motion to include election date notification in the Mensa Bulletin, the appointment of Dan Burg as Bylaws Committee Chair following the resignation of Rick Magnus, and a motion to place reasonable controls on volunteer expense reimbursements. Beyond that, the rest of the meeting was comprised of presentations from the Executive Director, Risk Management Committee, Treasurer/ Finance Committee, and Strategic Planning. These presentations, along with quarterly officer reports and the mini-minutes for the meeting, can be found on the American Mensa website at:

[www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/](http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/)  
Select the dropdown for the 2019-12-07 meeting.

The Strategic Planning presentation and discussion was particularly interesting, as it was a follow-up from the planning sessions held in September. The current Five-Year Plan runs through 2020, and the AMC is working to establish a new strategic plan for 2021-2025. The current plan focuses on five core values: Membership, Governance, Leadership Development, Public Awareness, and Finance. The proposed core values include Intelligence Benefiting Humanity, Valuing Ideas and Individualism, Intellectual Integrity, and Connection. The proposed goals paired to these values are Membership Growth, Membership Value, and Diversification of Revenue Streams. This is still a work-in-progress,

and there were several questions and challenges to this proposed strategy. There was no disagreement, however, about the need for a strategy, so this work will continue. Details about the current plan and the metrics being followed to track our progress can be found at:

[www.us.mensa.org/lead/planning/](http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/planning/)

On the horizon, Palm Beach Area Mensa and Broward Mensa will be honoring long-time members at a special event in February. For the purposes of this event, Long-Time members are defined as continuous for 25 years or longer. This is an example of local-group initiatives for recognizing members, and I'm proud of both the local groups for putting this together, and of the dedication of the members themselves. I look forward to the celebration.

Looking further ahead, National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, 2020, and American Mensa's Community Service Committee is looking for groups to participate through the *Mensa Cares!* program. Although this program runs throughout the year and many groups have projects during various seasons, we focus on getting our name out in the community during April in order to publicly emphasize our involvement as outlined in the first purpose in the Mensa Constitution: to use our intelligence "... for the benefit of humanity". I look forward to hearing what sort of projects you have in store!

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

**Election Results ...**

Ballots for the SCAM Executive Board election have been counted & certified (Dec. 5th) ...

Out of the 24 returned ballots, the following totals were noted:

- George Rasley* ..... 23 votes
- Jim Fitzgerald* ..... 23 votes
- Elizabeth Wilder* ..... 22 votes
- Val Valek* ..... 21 votes
- Robert K. Roth* (write-in) ..... 1 vote

Not every person voted for every name on the ballot; ExComm will meet later this month (Jan., 2020) ...

## Space Coast Area Mensa Group

### Executive Committee

**Local Secretary:** Karen Freiberg  
(321) 633-1636 • locsec@scam.us.mensa.org

**Ass't Local Secretary:** Wynn Rostek (RIP)  
(321) 626-3670 • asstlocsec@scam.us.mensa.org

**Recording Secretary:** Elizabeth (Libby) Wilder  
recsecretary@scam.us.mensa.org

**Treasurer:** Val Valek  
(321) 626-8523 • treasurer@scam.us.mensa.org

### SCAM Appointees

**Membership Officer:** Julie Costopoulos  
membership@scam.us.mensa.org

**Testing Coordinator:** Hank Rhodes  
testing@scam.us.mensa.org

**Proctor Coordinators:** Julie Costopoulos  
Hank Rhodes  
Harold (Bud) Long

**S.I.G.H.T.:** Karen Freiberg  
(321) 633-1636 • sight@scam.us.mensa.org

**Scholarship Chair:** Julie Costopoulos  
scholarship@scam.us.mensa.org

### SCAM Editorial Staff

**Newsletter Editor:** Steve Vander Veer  
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**Webmaster:** Karen Freiberg  
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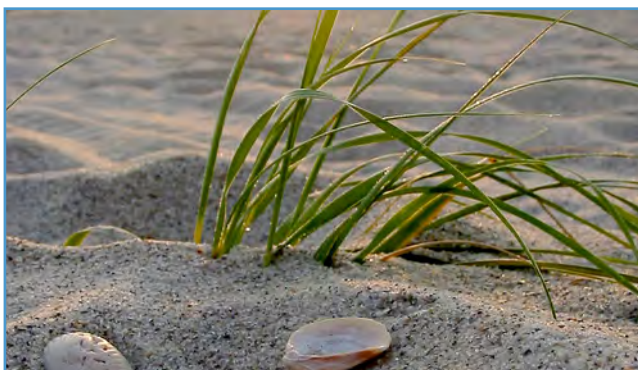
**Calendar:** Doug Starke  
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## American Mensa

**(RVC10)** Thomas G. Thomas  
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## Mensa National Office

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## Cape Canaveral Schedule

**Atlas V 551 | STP-3**  
United Launch Alliance  
Tue, Dec 31st, 2019, TBD

**Falcon 9 Block 5 | GPS III SV03**  
SpaceX  
Tue, Dec 31st, 2019, TBD

**Falcon 9 Block 5 | ANASIS-II**  
SpaceX  
Tue, Dec 31st, 2019, TBD

**Atlas V N22 | CST-100 Starliner Crewed Flight Test**  
United Launch Alliance  
Tue, Jan 14th, 2020, TBD

**Falcon 9 Block 5 | Starlink 3**  
SpaceX  
Tue, Jan 14th, 2020, TBD

**Falcon 9 Block 5 | SpX-DM2 (Demo Mission 2)**  
SpaceX  
Fri, Jan 31st, 2020, TBD

**Atlas V 411 | Solar Orbiter**  
United Launch Alliance  
Wed, Feb 5th, 2020, TBD

**Atlas V 551 | AEHF-6**  
United Launch Alliance  
Sat, Feb 29th, 2020, TBD

## Athlete's Brains Can Actually Hear Better ...

*CNN Health excerpt > 12-09*

"Making sense of sound is one of the hardest jobs that we ask our brain to do," Kraus explained. "The brain must decipher a sound's pitch, timing and harmonics to understand the meaning, often within microseconds."

At this point in the study, Kraus has found similar responses in the brain of athletes across all of types of sports, with no difference in gender.

"As the years go on and we follow the same athlete, we will be better able to understand how their neural noise changes over time, or how it may possibly differ from one sport to another, especially high-contact sports," Kraus said.

Prior studies show there are ways to improve the brain's response to sound, Kraus said, such as learning a second language or playing a musical



## MENSA College Scholarships

Hello members,

Please encourage any local college students you know at accredited schools to apply for the scholarships offered for non-members by our local chapter and national, and also the members-only national scholarships. The announcement has been sent to FIT, Indian River State College, and Eastern Florida State College.

Any members want to help? Julie will need approximately 6 judges to rate essays, starting January 15th. The essays of not more than 550 words will describe their career, academic and/or vocational goals, and how they plan to achieve those goals. If you are available to serve as a rater, please email:

[scholarship@scam.us.mensa.org](mailto:scholarship@scam.us.mensa.org).

### *Details regarding eligibility:*

An applicant must be intending to enroll in a degree granting accredited college/university the academic year following their application. Students just need to become enrolled and provide documentation of enrollment if they receive the award.

*For more information* - read the scholarship FAQ: [www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/us-scholarships/](http://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/us-scholarships/)

Thank you,

**Julie S. Costopoulos, Ph.D.**  
**Space Coast Area Mensa (S.C.A.M.)**  
**Scholarship Chair**

### *Testing:*

All testing conducted at Central Brevard Library, Cocoa, Florida (633-1794) unless otherwise noted. Testing starts at 1000. (Proctor arrival approx 0930, Candidate arrival approx 0945.)

Jan 18 Proctor – Hank Rhodes

## Welcoming Efforts ...

### *New member bios & info*

*Chase DiMarco* - "is a medical education podcaster, author, and content creator. When he's not working on material for his organization, FreeMedEd, he spends his time playing with his dog Mia and building a Tiny Home. He hopes to change the future of medical education to make it more affordable and accessible for students, plus combat massive student debt."

*Jan Axelrod* - "No computer, not good on it. RN, take care of special needs kids. Got into it because I rode with Harbor City Volunteer Ambulance for 17 years. Former Navy Corpsman. Raising Monarchs in my yard because they're endangered. Have cats. Likes metal, blues, reggae, hard rock, some pop."

### **Note:**

There will be updates whenever new members appear (at their discretion) – new to the neighborhood, new to MENSA, obviously unaware of who's who ...

Let's try to be a wee bit attractive & accomodating – some of us (me) may need camouflage (*true*) ... 🍀

## From Our Neighbors ...

### *An invasion(?) as an invitation: MLK weekend*

The Central Florida Mensa Regional Gathering is hitting the beach! Registrations are now open.

Because we Central Florida Mensans are heading into Space Coast territory for this RG, we're offering a special discount to Space Coast Area Mensans: This year, SCAM members will receive the same discounted rates usually reserved for CFM members. You can view current rates here:

<http://cfm.us.mensa.org/open/rg-rate-table/>

Discounts will be automatically applied at checkout. Members belonging to SCAM will receive the lowest rates (found in the "CFM Members" section).

**USE COUPON CODE "SHINY" WHEN REGISTERING FOR UP TO 37% OFF REGISTRATIONS!**

Don't miss the best party of 2020!

It's winter elsewhere, but in Central Florida, it's all sun 'n' games ...

Join us for another fantastic Central Florida Mensa Regional Gathering! 🍀





Be Safe Gang

Cont. from pg. 2

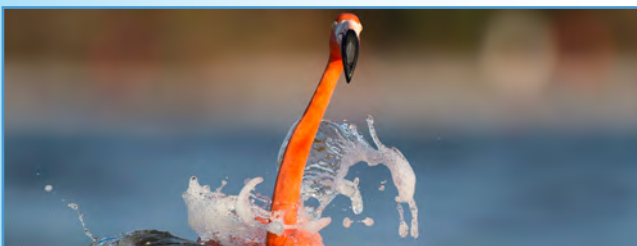
instrument, which are being used to help children with processing difficulties and the elderly with hearing loss.

Interestingly, the ways in which those behaviors impact the brain are completely different than the neural dampening that occurs in elite athletes.

“Playing a musical instrument will strengthen the processing of the signal -- the strength of the signal,” Kraus said. “It doesn’t do anything to the background noise.”

“Physical activity seems to track with a quieter nervous system. If you have a healthier nervous system and brain, you may be able to better handle injury or other health problems.” 🍌

*Shout-out to NPR’s “Tiny Desk” – give it a listen ...*



### Just Meandering By ...

*The Editor*

The **SNORT** dinner date occurs on the **LAST** Saturday of every month - the date listed for December was incorrect ...

Will have to re-name this blurb “The Tattered Flag” ...

**Naoki’s** – 321.951.2710; opens at 5pm ...

**SCAM, SCAM, SCAM!!!**

### Upcoming Events

**Games Night** – Tuesday, Jan. 14th at 6:30pm

**SNORT** – Saturday, Jan. 25th at 5:15pm