July - August - September 2023

Greater Phoenix Mensa's Official Newsletter

GPM Quarterly

Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary (LocSec)
David Sebesta locsec@phoenixmensa.org
Assistant LocSec
Marni Landry asstlocsec@phoenixmensa.org
Treasurer
Jim Delton treasurer@phoenixmensa.org
Recording Secretary
David Pivin recsec@phoenixmensa.org
Member at Large 1
Lynda Zeise memberatlg1@phoenixmensa.org
Member at Large 2
Judy Herrmann memberatlg2@phoenixmensa.org
Member at Large 3
OPEN memberatlg3@phoenixmensa.org
Parliamentarian
Gene Holmerud parliamentarian@phoenixmensa.org
Newsletter Editor
David Pivin editor@phoenixmensa.org
All ExCom
All the Above excom@phoenixmensa.org

Appointed Chairs and Officers

eUpdate Coordinator
David Pivin info@phoenixmensa.org
Gifted Youth
Jenifer Zbylski giftedyouth@phoenixmensa.org
GPM Speaker Forum
OPEN forum@phoenixmensa.org
Marketing/Communications
Richard Morris marketing@phoenixmensa.org
Mensa World Connect
Pamela Miller WorldConnect@phoenixmensa.org
Ombudsman
Chad Anderson ombudsman@phoenixmensa.org
Scholarships
OPEN scholarships@phoenixmensa.org
Social Media
Jim Delton memberatlg3@phoenixmensa.org
SIGHT
Joanne Landfair sight@phoenixmensa.org
Proctor Coordinator
OPEN testing@phoenixmensa.org
Webmaster
Dave Pivin webmaster@phoenixmensa.org

Area Coordinators

Prescott (Minds in the Pines)
David Eagle/Will Hepburn prescottmensa@phoenixmensa.org
Yuma
OPEN yumamensa@phoenixmensa.org
Flagstaff
Ted Dwyer flagstaffmensa@phoenixmensa.org

AML Regional Officers

National Events Youth Program Coordinator
Lisa Webster youthevents@us.mensa.org
Regional Vice Chair, Region 9
Rachel Kibler rachelregion9@gmail.com

Activity Coordinators

Ahwatukee M Happy Hour (Second Tuesday)
Mike Riordan phxlaw@mac.com
Original Games Night! (Fourth Saturday)
Chris Ingle christopher.ingle@yahoo.com
Mensa Dine Out (Third Saturday)
Ellen Milner elsbells417@yahoo.com
Whine and Dine Happy Hour (Wednesdays)
Bill Taylor otherbill60@hotmail.com

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

GenX Ms SIG
Tracey Guice rvc8@us.mensa.org
GeneSIG (a national SIG - Genealogy)
Janice Sellers janicemsj@gmail.com
HamSIG (a national SIG - Ham Radio)
James Stiles james.stiles.us@member.mensa.org
Millennial SIG
Richard Poole millennialsig@phoenixmensa.org
Music SIG & Video Views
Eileen Grant musicsig@phoenixmensa.org
Oenophile SIG
Richard Poole oenophilesig@phoenixmensa.org
Science and Technology SIG
Marni Landry scitechsig@phoenixmensa.org

COVID-19 UPDATE

All regularly scheduled in-person GPM Calendar events have been restarted. See page 4 for details. If you have any questions, contact the event host listed in the calendar. ExCom meetings continue to be held using Zoom, although some future meetings may be at the Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Midtown. All members are welcome to join these virtual meetings. Details may be found in the GPM Calendar. Two event hosts have scheduled events using Zoom. Details on p 4.

QUESTION: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF WE STOPPED PRINTING THIS GPM QUARTERLY AND JUST SENT OUT A PRINTABLE PDF ATTACHED TO AN EMAIL? (We could save over $2000/yr) email a response to editor@phoenixmensa.org

Treasurer's Report YTD as of 30 June 2023

Income	32,961.25
Expenses	37,702.91
CU GPM General Account	11,997.12
CU GPM Savings	50.00
Total	$12,047.12

GPM ExCom Minutes

Submitted by David Pivin, Recording Secretary

The ExCom meets the 2nd Sunday of each month primarily by Zoom Teleconference or at the Hilton Garden Inn Midtown, 4000 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, at 2 PM (Consult GPM Live Web Calendar for location).

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED AND INVITED TO ATTEND

April 9, 2023
The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM as a Zoom teleconference. Present online were LocSec David Sebesta; Recording Secretary and MAAM Editor David Pivin; Treasurer Chris Ingle; Parliamentarian Gene Holmerud; Members at Large Marni Landry and Judy Herrmann; Member Lyn Stinnett; Guest Pete Costantino.

Approval of Minutes
ExCom Meeting, 12 March 2023 - Motion to Approve by Chris Ingle. Marni Landry seconded. Motion passed at 2:06.

Old Business
• GPM PO box is dead. Greenway address is active and has been added to publications.

New Business
• Regional Gathering - Nobody interested in being Chair? Put a request in eUpdate for a volunteer by May 1.
• Elections - No volunteers yet for the Nominating committee. Chris smilingly suggested a "bribe" to motivate. David to ask RVC for guidance.
• Backfill MAL1 - Jim Delton is still interested. Motion to appoint Jim as Mbr@Large1 to finish out the term that has been vacant was made by Gene Holmerud, Chris Ingle seconded. Passed at 2:19.
• Day of Service (April 29) - David started an adopt-a-street. Location is on Osborn by Scottsdale baseball stadium. We will gather with David on that date.

Officer Reports
Treasurer - Accounts are up to date. Total funds $9,179.60, Checking $9,129.60, Savings $50.00.
MAAM Editor - GPM Quarterly sent out.
LocSec - National Ombudsman resigned. No action on changing requirements for LG Newsletters.
All others - NTR.

Comments from Members or Guests
• Pete - Are we having a MAD in June? Yes, David Sebesta is to work with the Hotel to schedule.

Next Meeting
14 May 2023, 2:00 PM via Zoom Teleconference.

Adjourn
Motion to Adjourn by Gene, Marni seconded. Motion passed at 2:31.

~

May 14, 2023
The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM as Zoom Teleconference. Present were LocSec David Sebesta; AsstLocSec Richard Morris; Treasurer Chris Ingle; Recording Secretary and MAAM Editor Dave Pivin (remote); Member at Large Jim Delton; Member Lynn Stinnett; Guest Pete Costantino.

Approval of Minutes
ExCom Meeting, 8 January 2023 - Motion to Approve by Richard Morris. Chris Ingle seconded. Motion passed at 1407.

Old Business
• RVC has issued a waiver to handle the election ad hoc. Create email account to solicit volunteers which will be advertised in eUpdate. Deadline of 5/31. Chris Ingle moved to adopt the plan. Seconded by Dave Pivin. Carried 1412.
• Target date for Member Appreciation Day is late July.
• No one has volunteered to be RG Chair. If there is not one by 5/31 the RG will be canceled.

New Business
• Funding check will be sent to the Foundation soon.
• Community Service event happened and will occur twice more. Signage to be installed.

Officer Reports
Treasurer - Report to follow
All others - NTR.

Comments from Members or Guests
• Pete asked about plans for Thanksgiving. David said we'll make those decisions in coming meetings.

Next Meeting
11 June 2023, 2:00 PM in person at Hilton Garden Inn Midtown.

Adjourn
Motion to Adjourn by Chris, Dave Pivin seconded. Motion passed at 1421.

(Minutes submitted by Richard Morris, GPM RecSec Pro Tem.)

~

June 11, 2023 (pending approval)
The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM at Hilton Garden Inn. Present were LocSec David Sebesta; AsstLocSec Richard Morris; Treasurer Chris Ingle (remote); Recording Secretary and MAAM Editor Dave Pivin; Parliamentarian Gene Holmerud; Members at Large Jim Delton and Marni Landry; Members Zoe's Kids; Guest Pete Costantino

Approval of Minutes
ExCom Meeting, 14 May 2023 - Motion to Approve as amended by Richard Morris. Marni Landry. Motion passed at 2:05 PM.

Old Business
• RG Disposition - LocSec suggested canceling RG due to lack of a Chair. Richard moved to cancel the RG for this year and Marni seconded. Motion passed at 2:06PM Thanksgiving Pot Luck to be held as before.
• Member Appreciation Day - probably early August. August 13th is agreed to match ExCom. Richard moved and Marni seconded that we conduct a MAD on the 13th. 2:12PM
• Unpaid Balances - Chris has been in the hospital. David Sebesta is to write a check to fund the scholarship program at NO and to be reimbursed.

New Business
• Officer Slate 2023-24 - Richard retiring. Jim volunteered to be Treasurer. Linda Zeise volunteered to be a MAL. Marni agreed to be assistant LocSec. Zoe's Kids were interested, but would want to think about it. All other positions to repeat. Moved by Richard, Gene Holmerud seconded. Approved at 2:26PM.

Officer Reports
Treasurer - Accounts up to date. Total funds $12,047.12 Checking $11,997.12 Savings $50.00.
LocSec - Our Culture Quest team finished in top ten. He was on the team.
All Others - NTR

Comments from Members or Guests
• Linda Zeise suggested that we should have someone to "greet" new joins and make them feel welcome and asked how many people join each month. Dave Pivin stated that he would get her an answer.

Next Meeting
9 July 2023, 2 PM via Zoom Teleconference

Adjourn
Motion to Adjourn by Richard, Gene seconded. Motion passed at 2:30PM

~

HAPPY SUMMER!



April ExCom Meeting via Zoom



RVC9 Article - May 2023

From Rachel Kibler, RVC9

How is it already May? The snow is melting in Utah after a wild month of blizzards and storms in April. I believe the rest of y'all are already getting up there in temperature! I'll be at the San Diego Regional Gathering over Memorial Day - https://sandiegomensa.org/events/regional-gathering/ - and I had a wonderful time in Las Vegas for their RG in March. Thanks to Cookie Bakke, Courtney Seiter, Kim Bakke, and the rest of Southern Nevada Mensa for creating such a fun event.

The Annual Gathering is coming ever closer – get more information at https://ag.us.mensa.org/. I hope to see you there! I'm thrilled to introduce a new member benefit within the leadership development sphere: Level Up! This summer is the pilot of it; the idea is that if you attend eight Leadership Development Workshops (LDWs) in the "How to Lead" track over any period of time, you can earn a digital certification that you've learned leadership within Mensa. This summer, we'll have four talks in this track, and I'm so excited about them. The other LDW track is the "How to Mensa" track, which will have a lot of roundtables and presentations by people who are doing exciting things within Mensa, including setting up a college liaison program, being a communications director, volunteering, and more. I hope you'll try out our leadership programming.

Real talk for a minute. I'm at a loss for what to do about the dearth of volunteers we have in most of the local groups. We need volunteers for newsletters, testing, activities, and even running the group. If you are interested, or if you have thoughts about what we can do, please reach out to me at mailto:rachelregion9@gmail.com. We are an organization that runs on volunteers, and this is just… scary right now.

Keep on with the good stuff you're doing, find ways to get involved, and drop a line to say hi!

~

RVC9 Article - June 2023

From Rachel Kibler, RVC9

Happy June, Region 9! Life is good in Utah. By the time you read this, I will have just been in San Diego for their Regional Gathering, which I'm sure was excellent. The next RG I'll be at is Orange County's over Labor Day weekend, and I hope to see you there! The next any kind of gathering you can find me at is the Annual Gathering (AG) in Baltimore in July! Find more information at http://ag.us.mensa.org. Our Meet and Greet for Region 9 is at 1:30pm on Wednesday. I hope you'll come and say hi, even if you can't make it to the Meet and Greet. (I'll also be teaching knitting on Saturday at 1:30, if you're interested.)

Region 9 is a vibrant region. A few points of celebration:

- Channel Islands is still alive! They've found renewed interest from new people in serving on the board, and they're doing more events, which is incredible. I'm so proud of them.
- GLAAM (Los Angeles) has a new board! They're getting some younger people interested in serving too, and I think this is amazing. Welcome to leadership, all. You're going to do great things.
- Utah Mensa has more in-person events going on, and I'm very excited about this (in part for selfish reasons!).
- GPM (Phoenix) had a cleanup day on their adopted street. Thanks for taking care of your community!
- Orange County has their RG scheduled!
- Hawaii continues to amaze me with their virtual events.
- Southern Nevada (Las Vegas) rocks their trivia nights!
- Tucson is starting to focus on succession planning, and I'm very proud of them for this.
- San Diego is incredible at raising money for their scholarship funds, which I absolutely adore.

Be proud of your local group, be proud of our region. We're doing great things here, and I love to see it.

~

RVC9 Article - July 2023

From Rachel Kibler - RVC9

Happy July, Region 9! As you read this, the Annual Gathering (AG) is imminent! I hope to see many of you there. The Region 9 Meet & Greet is on Wednesday at 1:30pm.

Over Memorial Day weekend, I attended the San Diego Regional Gathering (RG). It was a fantastic Seuss-themed weekend, and they smashed their fundraising record from last year, raising $1600 for scholarships through tastings and raffles. I'm so proud of them. Thanks to all who made it happen; you're incredible.

The next Region 9 RG I'll be at is Orange County's over Labor Day weekend. Please join me! You can register here: http://ocmensa.org/2023-regional-gathering/. Orange County puts on a great party, and this is limited to 70 attendees, so make sure you register soon!

I'm still looking for volunteers for various local positions (most of the local boards have one or more open positions and are always looking for event hosts), and I'm looking for people to run for my role next year. A Regional Vice Chair (RVC) is responsible for the health of their region (American Mensa is split into 10 regions, and Region 9 is one of the largest in terms of population and geographic area, though not in number of local groups). I'm not going to lie: this is a lot of responsibility, and it can be really hard and disheartening at times. But there are moments, and they come frequently enough, of exquisite delight, particularly when I get to be around members and just talk. If you're interested in volunteering on a local level, reach out to your local board, and if you're interested in running for RVC, please reach out to me so we can talk! You can email me at rachelregion9@gmail.com.

July 1st marks the beginning of the last year of my term, and I'm looking for ways to make it a great one for our region. If you have ideas for projects you want to see (and help with!) or things you want to happen, I'd love to hear from you. Thanks for all you do!

~

Letter to the Editor from Ed Lomas, former National Ombudsman via Jim Delton:

Date: Sat, 03 Jun 2023 10:20:27 EDT

The latest Bulletin contains the annual reports from each AMC member except the National Ombudsman, with a note at the end that I had resigned my position. That's a misleading half-truth. Though I did not renew my Mensa membership, I did fulfill my obligations as National Ombudsman until my membership expired. Had I not submitted a report, I imagine that the AMC would have pointed it out as a dereliction of duty.

All AMC members, including the National Ombudsman must submit an annual report, though the Bulletin editor limits the report to 400 words. One of my last acts as National Ombudsman was to submit my annual report, which was received by the Bulletin editor before the deadline. It was not published, however.

Here is my report, which was censored:

During my campaign for National Ombudsman, I promised to treat all members equally, and that officers would receive no dispensations.

Shortly after I took office, I received numerous complaints that an RVC was summarily punishing members without any hearing. This led me to investigate those complaints, and in my investigation I checked all regions to see how other RVCs treated their members. Evidence showed that RVCs in three other regions had overstepped their bounds, engaged in unethical actions, or had committed other improper acts.

RVCs are not granted any power to levy punishment or retribution. The Constitution, the By- laws, the ASIEs, and the RVC Handbook do not assign a punitive role to the RVCs. Punishment is the domain of a Hearings Committee that follows extensive procedures and limitations, as documented in the Bylaws and the ASIEs, to ensure that every member is entitled to a "fair and impartial hearing" in disciplinary proceedings.

I prepared a report and distributed it to all AMC members, explaining that RVCs singling out individual members for punishment or sanctions was unethical and violates our Bylaws and policies. Spreading pejorative information about individuals on a Mensa forum exposes Mensa to legal actions for slander and libel and may result in financial judgement against Mensa.

The AMC did not accept my suggestions for correcting these problems, and the same day that I distributed my report, the AMC scheduled a hearing to have me removed from office for "malfeasance," but refused to grant me a "fair and impartial hearing" as specified in our Bylaws.

Our governing documents are: (1) the ASIEs (policies), which the AMC can change, (2) the Bylaws, which can only be changed through a membership vote, and (3) the Constitution, which is sacrosanct, and virtually impossible to change. The current AMC has violated all three, in my opinion, and this risks American Mensa's viability and reputation.

Our membership is at a 22 year low, but this AMC has devoted its time to undermining the National Ombudsman's ability to monitor the AMC and inform members when our governing documents are violated, as I am doing in this report.

I urge this AMC to start respecting our governing documents, and to cease its efforts to curb oversight of its activities.

I urge the membership to take an active role in electing reputable officers who will respect our organization and its members.

Mensa Acronyms & Calendar

AG: Annual Gathering (convention)
AMC: American Mensa Committee (Nationally elected/appointed Officers)
AML: AmericanMensa,Ltd. (National Office Employees)
ASIE: Action Still In Effect (Existing AMC or GPM policy)
ExCom: Executive Committee GPM Greater Phoenix Mensa
LDW: Leadership Development Workshop
LocSec: Local Secretary/President
M/Ms: Mensan/Mensans
MERF: Mensa Education & Research Foundation
MIL: Mensa International, Ltd.
NO: NationalOffice
RG: Regional Gathering
RVC: RegionalViceChair
SIG: Special Interest Group
SIGHT: Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers

Calendar Event Codes

MO: Mensans, guests and prospects only.
ME/P: GPM Event, public welcome.
PE/M: Public event, Mensans welcome.
GYP: Event hosted by our **Gifted Youth Program** to support our youth members, families and guests.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As of the time this calendar was printed, the following information was current. For more current information and updates, please go to the website**:**
http://www.phoenix.us.mensa.org/

COVID-19 UPDATE

All upcoming GPM Calendar events have been restarted and no longer have any precautions. If you have any questions, contact the event host listed in the calendar. ExCom meetings continue to be held using Zoom. All members are welcome to join these virtual meetings. Details may be found below and online in the GPM Live Web Calendar.

Weekly Event Details

ME/P - Whine and Dine Happy Hour, Wednesdays 5 - 7 pm - Location varies, 1st Wed. - Arriba Mexican Grill, 1812 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016 2nd - Streets of New York, 214 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85012, 3rd - George Yang's Chinese Cuisine, 6048 N 16th St, Phoenix, AZ 85016. 4th - Frasher's Smokehouse, 3222 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix. AZ 85018, 5th - Manuel's Mexican Restaurant 2820 E Indian School Rd. Phoenix AZ [Subject to change in other 5-Wednesday months], Contact Bill Taylor otherbill60@hotmail.com

Monthly Event Details

2nd Sunday

- MO - Executive Committee (ExCom), 2 - 3 pm via Zoom Teleconference or at the Hilton Garden Inn Midtown, 4000 N. Central Ave, Phoenix***. MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!***

2nd Tuesday

- ME/P - Ahwatukee M Happy Hour, 5:30 - 7:30 pm Join us for a drink, a meal and stimulating conversation. Michael Riordan, PHXRiordan@gmail.com 480.335.9890. Every second Tuesday at CK's Tavern & Grill, 4142 E Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85048

4th Friday

- ME/P - Mensa Forum, (on extended Hiatus) 7 - 8:45 pm Topics Vary. Paradise Valley Town Hall, 6401 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253. Contact Forum Coordinator, Jim Delton, jimntempe@yahoo.com for info.
- ME/P - Post Forum Debriefing, (on extended Hiatus) 9 - 10 pm - Humble Pie Pizza, 6149 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250. Contact Forum Coordinator (above) for info.

3rd Saturday

- MO - Mensa Dine-Out - 7:00 - Closing Location Varies Each Month. For July 17, join us for dinner and conversation at Chompie's, 3212 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. RSVP to Ellen Milner at elsbells417@yahoo.com before July 15th to reserve your place. We welcome newcomers and visitors to give this event a try. We're a very friendly group. AE - Adult Event.

4th Saturday

- MO - 6:00 to 11:00 PM - Original Games Night! Owl is $2.00 per person. SO, WBC. New host, Chris Ingle may be contacted at christopher.ingle@yahoo.com or by cell at 520-240-9810 for detailed directions to location near Baseline Rd and Loop-101 in Tempe.

GPM Virtual Meetiings

While all events have resumed in-person meetings, the ExCom and two regular virtual events continue. This might be a good time to try and join one of these meetings. They are attended well by many GPMers you already know. Full details on how to join are available on our web site: **http://phoenix.us.mensa.org/Info/index.html**

Sundays at 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL IDEA EXCHANGE discussion group. You may propose anything of interest to you. We discuss the topic(s) of most interest. A book, movie, news item, TV report, idea - ANY TOPIC of your choice. Join Zoom Meeting (visit the detailed link above for details) Pete Costantino, pete@usa1944.com, will run this meeting. Audio and Video required for participation. Contact: Jim Delton, jimntempe@yahoo.com. Feel free to email Pete (cc Jim) with your proposed topics.

Saturdays at 3:00 PM
MENSA / INTERTEL VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR - Even introverts get tired of being by themselves after a while! Are you getting tired of only talking to your pets? Connect virtually with other introverts on Zoom! (visit the detailed link above for details) Use the Zoom app, or use Zoom in your browser, or use the audio on your smartphone. Just follow the links on "Join Zoom Meeting". Audio and Video required for participation. BYOB - Bring Your Own Beverage, Contact Judy Herrmann, MensaDinner@gmail.com.

~

Greater Phoenix MENSA

Greater Phoenix Mensa publishes a quarterly newsletter, the **GPM Quarterly**, which contains the basic informaiton required by GPM Bylaws and the American Mensa Editors Handbook. The GPM Quarterly is available as part of membership in Mensa at no cost to the member.

Office of Publication is:
6501 E Greenway Pwy, 103186
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to:
Greater Phoenix Mensa
6501 E Greenway Pwy, 103186
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Mensa requires the official newsletter to publish a calendar listing, election information, referenda and bylaws proposals, Treasurer's Reports, and Ombudsman's official comments and findings.

MENSA is an international society in which the sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standardized intelligence tests. Mansa is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. **Mensa©** is registered at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as the collective mark of an international membership association.