*Mensage*December 2013

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RVC Column - December 2013

As we enter the month of December, many of us will be attending parties and other gatherings for work, school and family. Most of our local groups will be having Holiday Parties. I hope that you will attend the one held by your local group. It's a chance to meet fellow Mensans in a festive setting.

Mensa testing month is over, and, as I write this, all the results are not yet in. However, I do know that groups in Region 5 held more than 25 testing sessions. Nationwide, there were over 600 tests administered. Congratulations to Mensa of Eastern North Carolina for being in thetop 10 of groups that met or exceeded their goal with a 50% increase in test takers.

Comparing September 2013 with 2012 membership numbers, 5 of our groups had over 5% growth! Congratulations to Eastern North Carolina, Piedmont Area, South Coast, Middle Tennessee and Chattanooga (20% growth). Our Region 5 membership increased by 78 last month.

I hope you will pass on the information about free submittal of Prior Evidence. Please point prospective members to the web page about prior evidence www.us.mensa.org/testscores. The code is FPE2013.

By the way - why don't you give yourself a New Year's gift and renew your membership during December. If your loved ones can't come up with a Christmas gift for you (the person, who has everything), they can give you a Life Membership, if you don't have one already. That really is the gift that keeps on giving. You can even give a gift to the Foundation for scholarships (it is tax deductible).

Don't forget that Mensa Scholarship applications are due in January. The two week break for Christmas/New Year is a good time for high school seniors to complete their scholarship applications.

During October, I was able to attend a dinner meeting and ExCom meeting with the Memphis group. I also ran down to Huntsville to observe two testing sessions given by one of their Proctors in Training. We have a couple of groups without an active proctor. I'm hoping that we can change that before Mensa Testing Month 2014.

In 2014, there will be two Regional Gatherings that I'm sure that you will want to attend. The first will be hosted by Middle Tennessee Mensa in Nashville. It's being planned as a Mini-RG with little programming and lots of time to enjoy the city. It is scheduled to take place February 21-23. More information will be available soon.

The second one will be Carolinah RG to be held in Greenville, SC, May 2-4. For the best deal on registration, you will need to register by Jan. 11. There is even a discount for first time attendees! For more information, contact Mary Ann Cox at: maryacraig@juno.com.

It has been said that the toughest job in Mensa is the job of Editor. I agree with that sentiment. Since we are in the seson of Thanksgiving, I want to offer my thanks to all the Editors in Region 5. And I hope that all Region 5 Mensans and your families have a joyful December.

Baker Ring

Membership Changes Date ending: 10/31/2013

Members in Group, beginning count	40
Members leaving Group	< 0 >
Members entering Group	2
Total members in Group	42

Welcome to Carol Hilborn of Biloxi, renewing, and MSgt Curtis Roudebush of Gulfport, reinstating. Please join us at our monthly MTEs (Meet to Eat). We look forward to seeing you.

December Birthdays Mensaversaries

Date			Years
Joseph Cook	6	William Hawkins	15
Jerry Reshew	8		

November's MTE - was at Half Shell, Gulfport. Present were

December's MTE - Our Holiday MTE will be on Thursday, December 19, 5:30 pm at Samurai Japanese Restaurant, 2511 25th Ave., Gulfport, 228-214-4049