

Space Coast Area Mensa



NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, Issue 12

December 2022

From Your LocSec

A hearty welcome aboard to **David Millward** and **Mason Russell**, both from Vero Beach.

The members of the Executive Committee for our chapter would normally be replaced on Jan 1st, 2023 with the newly elected folks who, during their first meeting, would sort out amongst themselves who would be LocSec, Deputy LocSec, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. That would make Dec 31st, 2022 the last day in office for the outgoing ExComm members. However, with no names on the ballot to replace the outgoing ExComm, we must look to our bylaws for guidance. Article III, Sections 12, 13, and 16 are relevant to our current situation and I have included them in this article to ensure everyone has a chance to review them.

12. The terms of office of elected officers shall be one year from January 1st to December 31st, or until installation of a properly qualified successor, except in the case of resignation, succession to higher office as provided in Article III, section 3, failure to maintain membership, or removal from office as provided in Article III, sections 14 and 15.

13. The term of office for all appointed officers and positions expires at the end of the term of office of the current elected officers, unless stated otherwise in these bylaws. Appointed officers, positions, and committees, including the position of committee chair, are appointed by the LocSec (or, in the case of the Editor, the Publications Officer) with the approval of the ExComm, and may be removed from office by majority vote of the ExComm unless stated otherwise in these bylaws.

16. The ExComm shall select a replacement for any ExComm member, other than the LocSec, who resigns, or is removed, or is recalled, or moves up to the position of LocSec in accordance with Article III, section 3, or creates a vacancy in any other way. A replacement for an elected officer is considered to be an elected officer whose term of office ends with the next regular election.

Of particular interest is Article III, Section 12 because it states that the existing ExComm members continue in office until the installation of a qualified successor, except in the case of resignation. Having served for three years, and feeling that I, along

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RVC10—Thomas G. Thomas

The next meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2022 in Denver, CO. The agenda has not been finalized at the time this column is being written, but is scheduled to be posted at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/> under the dropdown “2022-12-03 — Denver, CO” after November 18 – two weeks prior to the meeting.

I confess to some frustration about the timing of the agendas. Looking at my prior columns, I have not been able to provide an accurate agenda prior to a meeting since December 2018, because the lead time necessary for the newsletters is longer than the lead time provided for the meetings. I can at least say what I think we will be discussing, though, because I made some motions this time around.

Due to the resignation of past Chair Timmy King, there are some shifts in responsibility for other members of the AMC, which must be approved at the meeting. Roles that new Chair Lori Norris held must now be filled by another AMC member, especially when those committees require one or more voting members. Those assignments will probably be made via the Consent Agenda towards the top of the meeting.

I’ve presented a motion to remove the requirement that the Chair of the Gifted Youth Committee be included among the “Professional Appointments” of the AMC. At the time the list was created in 2007, all of these positions were held by members with professional degrees, either in law (for the Counsel positions) or doctorates in their fields (Research Review, Risk Manage-

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RVC10—Thomas G. Thomas

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ment, and Gifted Youth). However, in the case of Gifted Youth, the last Chair with a doctorate left in 2008, and none since then have had any defined professional credentials. Rather than have a rule we're not following, and for which no rationale was given at the time the rule was created, I'm proposing we remove the rule. We currently have a professional consultant advising on Gifted Youth matters, and the Chair has been working in a management capacity over the committee, which doesn't require an advanced degree in whichever field wasn't stated in 2007.

Now that the Bylaws Committee has had a chance to review them, I'm also bringing back two of the proposed referenda for the Ombud that had originally been proposed for the July meeting and withdrawn at the September meeting: giving Regional Ombuds a vote for the National Ombud, and how to address a vacancy or recusal in the National Ombud role. I also brought back a slight revision of the referendum that was approved at the July meeting (changing the term length of the ombud from six years to three) which removes a potential conflict with one of the other referenda.

These are the only items I can speak to at this time, since the rest of the agenda is still being reviewed.

There has been encouraging use of the Region 10 Member Community on Mensa Connect by some of our members, which have resulted in some interesting discussion topics. But because it is a new platform, modifications are coming which will probably annoy some early adopters.

At this time, every member in the Region is automatically subscribed to the Region 10 Member Community. This makes it an effective platform to let every member know about Mensa matters throughout the Region and beyond. However, when the other discussions are going on, many of our members tune out (I've already had one person state that they send all messages to their junk folder). In order to address this, the general discussions will be moved to a new Region 10 subcommunity that every member of Region 10 may join by request, but no one will be unwittingly subscribed to those discussions without their knowledge.

I hope this makes the platform more useful for Mensa matters such as announcements of events, while still providing an outlet for other discussion – just not in the same space.

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>

Mensa Connect: <https://connect.us.mensa.org/communities/local-groups/region-10>

Region 10 Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MensaRegion10/>



From Your LocSec

with my fellow ExComm members, have at least 'kept the ship afloat' through the pandemic, I am officially announcing my resignation as LocSec along with my other positions, effective on Dec 31st of this year. The Officers and Appointees chart on the last page of this newsletter has been updated accordingly.

Our Treasurer is also resigning on Dec 31st and the Deputy LocSec is resigning on Dec 29th. The position of Recording Secretary is vacant at this time.

Dec 31st marks the end of your current ExComm and there is no replacement. I will attempt to create a petition for dissolution of the chapter and get it out to everyone via Mensa Connect.

Since this is my last newsletter, I will take the opportunity to express my gratitude to some of our members. The first folks I wish to recognize our **Arleigh Sharpe** and **Val Valek**, my fellow ExComm members. Val has been with me on the ExComm since my first day and Arleigh volunteered to be Deputy LocSec when that position needed to be filled. Without these two individuals, we could not have enjoyed our event at the Brevard Zoo and I wanted to make sure they get the credit they deserve for their support of our chapter. Thank you Arleigh and Val!

I wish to also thank **Robert Roth**, our Area Coordinator for Indian River County. Robert helped me rethink many things and was a strong supporter of the ideas that the ExComm came up with to generate participation from our members. Thank you Robert for always being willing to share your thoughts and guidance with me.

Special thanks go to **Hank Rhodes**, **Julie Costopoulos**, and **Bud Long** for their services in community outreach for potential new members, and the coordination and proctoring of tests. These individuals work well together as the team through which new members would join Mensa. They were serving in these roles prior to my taking office and I wanted to recognize their commitment to our chapter and Mensa.

Julie Costopoulos deserves a very special thank you for her role as the Scholarship Chair. Each year she would secure a scholarship award which would be competed from our chapter each year. The scholarship award is very important to her and I am happy to report that the 2023 award from Space Coast Area Mensa has already been approved and will be awarded early next year regardless of what happens to our chapter. Julie, thank you very much for your commitment to the scholarship program.

Ann Carter only recently joined our group and she immediately began hosting game nights. She has also contributed to the newsletter and stepped up to be the Membership Chair when that position became available. Ann is also your host for the mall walking event and an active participant in the Central Florida Mensa Regional Gatherings. Thank you Ann for all of your involvement in our chapter and for volunteering as needed despite your busy schedule.

Karen Freiberg has served for years as our Webmaster and I wish to thank her for maintaining our web site amidst the many of-ficer changes and ensuring the newsletter was always available for downloading. Thank you Karen!

I frequently sought volunteers via the newsletter in an attempt to fill all the positions in our chapter and **Tom Lempicke** answered the call by becoming our Ombudsman. Thank you Tom for stepping into that role.

I wanted to thank **Thomas Thomas**, our Regional Vice Chair. Thomas has served in this role for a number of years and helped to keep me in check so I would not violate any Mensa bylaws or ASIEs. Thank you Thomas for always being available and being responsive to emails, texts, messenger, and all the other ways I've reached out to you. Thomas will be providing the guidance and direction on how our chapter will dissolve in the coming months.

Lastly, a big thank you to **Stacy Strickland**, **Ann Carter**, and **Steve Schneider** for their newsletter articles over the past year. Your contributions helped make the newsletter interesting for our members to read.

Jim Fitzgerald



Space Coast Area Mensa

Officers and Appointees

Local Secretary	Vacant on 12/31	
Deputy Local Secretary	Vacant on 12/29	
Treasurer	Vacant on 12/31	
Recording Secretary	Vacant	
Area Coordinator		
Brevard County	Vacant on 12/31	
Indian River County	Robert Roth	robofverobeach@aol.com
Testing Coordinator	Hank Rhodes	mensatest@cfl.rr.com
Testing Proctor	Julie Costopoulos	
Testing Proctor	Harold (Bud) Long	
Testing Proctor	Hank Rhodes	
Newsletter Editor	Vacant on 12/31	
Calendar Coordinator	Vacant on 12/31	
Webmaster	Karen Freiberg	webmaster@scam.us.mensa.org
Membership Chair	Ann Carter	membership@scam.us.mensa.org
Scholarship Chair	Julie Costopoulos	scholarship@scam.us.mensa.org
S.I.G.H.T Coordinator	Karen Freiberg	sight@scam.us.mensa.org
Social Media Chair	Vacant on 12/31	
Regional Vice Chair (Area 10)	Thomas G. Thomas	RVC10@us.mensa.org
Gifted Youth Coordinator	Vacant	
Ombudsman	Tom Lempicke	tom@lempicke.com

Mensa Links

SCAM Web Site

<http://www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org>

SCAM Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/138237718381/>

American Mensa

<https://www.us.mensa.org/>

Mensa Connect

<https://www.us.mensa.org/connect/mensa-connect/>

Your Membership Profile

<https://www.us.mensa.org/my-mensa/my-membership-profile/>