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# MAINESCENE

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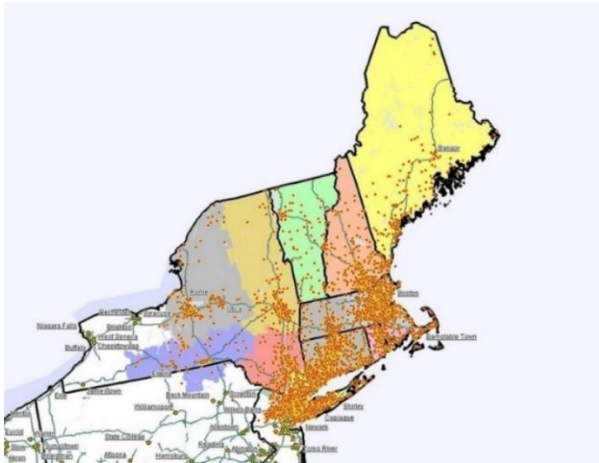
Year 10, Issue 4

*The Newsletter of Maine Mensa*

Fall 2019

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## *From the editor*



## Another new season!

So, year #10 of Maine Mensa comes to a close and we now begin a new active season, with new officers. The 2019-2020 Mensa foundation scholarship competition year has begun. Among the local events we expect to have are monthly pub trivia, movie nights, Downeast Maine dine-arounds, a games night, along with our participation in the annual New Hampshire RG in February (“Roaring 20’s at the End of the Universe”), our team participation in the annual Culture Quest, and a “Fifth Best Fun & Games mini-RG EVAH” the last weekend of May 2020. And other events in-between. There is also talk about making a bid to host Mind Games in 2021.

Our mini-RG and Mind Games effort would be a great way for new members to get involved, help, and meet other members! If interested, please contact me, [editor@maine.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@maine.us.mensa.org), or (207) 846-3063.

But wait!...one other event is happening!

## Free testing!

**We want to expand our membership and our reach!**

**Invite a friend or relative to test – for FREE!**

Many of you have already heard...under the Mensa Voucher Program, Maine Mensa has been assigned a code: DownEast19. This can be used to invite someone you know to test, or submit their qualifying test scores, for free! It can be used as often as you like and distributed any way you like.

Prepayment of testing using the FREE CODE can be accessed on the American Mensa website until 12/31/19. It doesn't have to be used by then, though - the prepaid free testing will be honored for 2 years.

Let your friend or relative know why you think they would be a good fit for Mensa. Then, they should go to <https://www.us.mensa.org/join/>. Select either Supervised Testing Voucher or Prior Evidence Review, and use the code at checkout to bring the price to zero.

For more information about the Mensa Voucher Program, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/mvp>.

## Here are Maine Mensa test dates, locations, and proctors:

10/02/2019 Portland, ME (5:30 pm - Jen Doebler)

10/05/2019 Presque Isle, ME (10:00 am – Anne Allen)

10/05/2019 Presque Isle, ME (1:00 pm - Culture Fair – Anne Allen)

10/19/2019 Biddeford, ME (10:00 am - Jenn Maher)

10/19/2019 Ellsworth, ME (NOON - Brandon Look or Anne Allen)

Unconfirmed date and time:  
Brunswick, ME - Chance Griffeth

## Maine Mensan Biographical Profiles

### Kevin Tremblay



Kevin had the idea of finding someone from our Maine Mensa group to interview to create a biographical story, as he had done years before as editor of the *MaineScene*. After a little while of searching, I posed the question, “Hey, why don’t I interview you? We haven’t done you yet!”

So, I interviewed Kevin, and, as I have known him well, practically since we both came to Mensa, around 2005, I knew the right questions to ask.

So, this is how his membership began. Kevin was friends with the late Ann Kucera, who he had known and worked with in a writer’s group. Ann, a long-standing member of Mensa, encouraged him to test for Mensa. Having qualified from the testing, Kevin was surprised, but Ann was not. But Kevin had gotten some signs and indications of his IQ from employment aptitude testing.

I asked him to describe what he liked about Mensa and what he gets out of his membership. He replied, it is a place that he can find acceptance for his ideas, and not be judged for being different or “odd”. He said it was like he had found his tribe.

Kevin is currently the Assistant LocSec. He is also coordinator of the Many Conspiracies SIG (Special Interest Group) of Mensa. Most of the summers, he has hosted events at his house where fellow Mensans and other friends can gather, talk, have barbecues, and even camp or stay a night or two. He is the former editor of the *MaineScene* newsletter.

Kevin’s occupation is in Real Estate. Kevin has been a licensed realtor for 20 years. He said that realty is a challenge – every transaction is different and every person is different. It is a research industry, and there is always something new to learn. And real estate contracts are serious business where great care must be exercised. It is gratifying in that you are always meeting new people.

There is also opportunity to interact with people of different professions and roles such as attorneys, appraisers, and, of course, prospective buyers and sellers. Kevin is currently the designated broker of a company, North Country Properties, along with a partner.

Regarding pastimes, it is no “contest” – gardening is Kevin’s very favorite pastime, to which he has been engaged since childhood. Plants are his “best friend”. At least one acre of his place in Ripley consists of plants of many different varieties, including fruit and vegetable bearing plants, which are used to consume – which include squash, kale, blueberries, black raspberries, apples, pears and much more. He always impresses me about his seemingly endless knowledge of plants. He says he uses a “selective weeding” technique in his garden. He tries not to weed anything out until he knows what it is. About 10% of the plants came on their own. Even when we go out walking, it seems like he can always identify the type of plant.

He created a labyrinth in his yard (which is ground level), where people can walk through for fun or symbolic meaning. He plans to call his place “Labyrinthia”. When he lived in Massachusetts, he was an associate at Arnold Arboretum in Boston where he did botanical sampling.

Aside from gardening, Kevin enjoys reading, having countless books filling his shelves at home. Kevin describes himself as a devout Christian.

He is currently active in Toastmaster’s, which gives him the opportunity to do public speaking. He is also active in a writer’s group, the Monson Writer’s Alliance. He also writes on various topics for the *Eagle* magazine (which is a local/regional publication).

Kevin authored the book, “Mommy Please Come Home”, which is a life story which also details experiences with institutionalization, institutional secrecy, and experimentation. He also wrote a chapbook, “Thrifting Around Town.” In fact, he seems to find items in thrift shops which are as good or better than items purchased new or first-hand.

I attended his RipleyFest event in August, which was a lot of fun for me, the only down side being that attendance wasn’t as much as we had hoped for. JD, our LocSec, was there and stayed a couple of nights with his wife and young daughter. Great food, “tons” of blueberries to pick, and exquisite garden. Kevin cooked, we talked, and I played my piano I had brought. Afterward, we had the opportunity to travel exploring the Moosehead Lake region (Monson and Greenville), and also the Acadia National Park area (Bar Harbor, Asticou Gardens, and Seal Beach).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 2019

## MONTHLY EVENTS:

### Monthly Trivia, Portland Area

We plan to try out a couple of places – one of them, which looks promising, is Rivalries (see “Other Local Events”).

### Downeast Maine Mensa Dine-Arounds

Fourth Thursday of Every Month, 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Inquire for details; restaurants in the Ellsworth area which will vary in food, ambience, and price.  
Contact Steve Weinreich and Linda Hayward at [swinv.sw@gmail.com](mailto:swinv.sw@gmail.com) to be placed on email list.

### Mensa Movie Night, Monument Sq., Portland

Mensa movie night is back! Join us every month (usually the third Tuesday) for \$5 movie night at the Nick. Discounted parking in the attached garage and optional drinks and discussion at MJ's wine bar after. We will pick the movie the weekend before the event so make sure to mark interested in the event so you will get the updated information. Feel free to send along any suggestions for movies. Contact: Sue Flaherty (207) 210-0657, [sueiflaherty@gmail.com](mailto:sueiflaherty@gmail.com)

### Menstel Dinner 2019

Mensa, Intertel and I.S.P.E. Dinner  
Every fourth Friday at 7:00pm.  
\*\* This has moved to **Country Pride Restaurant** at TA Truckstop in Greenland, NH (Portsmouth). \*\*  
RSVP Host Walter Wakefield (603) 436-7250.

## OTHER UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

### Trivia in Falmouth - Rivalries

Tuesday, October 22, 5:00pm

We had a successful trivia event in September. We may make this a monthly event! Rsvp or reply on Facebook helpful. Contact: Rob Lagos, (207) (846-3063), [robertslagos@gmail.com](mailto:robertslagos@gmail.com)

### The Fifth Best Fun & Games Mini-RG EVAH!

May 29 – May 31, 2020

Embassy Suites, at the Portland Jetport  
Portland, Maine  
Further details as time approaches.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 2019

## OTHER EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND / REGION 1:

### Boston Mensa's Wicked Good RG

October 25–27, 2019

Fitchburg, Massachusetts

For more info, see <https://rg.bostonmensa.org/>

### New Hampshire RG 2020

IT'S THE ROARING 20S AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE

February 14–16, 2020

Best Western Plus Portsmouth Hotel and Suites

Portsmouth, NH. More info and early registration:

[nhr@stonesrealm.com](mailto:nhr@stonesrealm.com) or

<https://nhmensa.org/rgnews.php>

## NATIONAL EVENTS:

### Mensa Mind Games, Irving, TX

April 23–26, 2020.

For information: <https://mensamindgames.com/>

### Annual Gathering, Mensa AG, Kansas City, MO

July 1–5, 2020.

For information: <http://ag.us.mensa.org>

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### Next Quarterly ExComm Meeting:

Saturday, October 19, 2019 – 1 PM

Brickyard Hollow Restaurant, Yarmouth, Maine.

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## AREA COORDINATORS

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(207) 577-6362

GREATER PORTLAND

[jxsloan@hotmail.com](mailto:jxsloan@hotmail.com)

Jim Sloan

(207) 807-8594

BANGOR & MID-MAINE

Vacant

# From the Scholarship Chair

by *Chance Griffeth*

The next season of the Mensa Education and Research Foundation's (Mensa Foundation) annual scholarship program is about to launch. This year, the Mensa Foundation is delaying the availability of their online application from the original September 15th launch date due to a redesign of the online application process. The new go live date is October 7th. The application and additional information can be found on the Mensa Foundation's website:

<https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>. If you are affiliated with an institution of secondary or higher education and would like to publicize the scholarship program, please reach out to me by email: [philotrek@gmail.com](mailto:philotrek@gmail.com). I can provide you with more information and some marketing materials.

The Mensa Foundation provides a scholarship award to local groups, like ours, each year we participate. The application consists solely of a 550-word essay. We couldn't do it without our volunteer scholarship judges who agree to read and score around 40 or more entries each during a two-week period between late January and early February. If you would like to participate as a volunteer judge this cycle, I would be happy to have your assistance. Let me know by the end of the year at [philotrek@gmail.com](mailto:philotrek@gmail.com). Requirements include access to email, the ability to open PDF, Word, and Excel files, and a passion for helping Maine applicants realize their academic goals.

Chance Griffeth  
Scholarship Chair  
Maine Mensa

## Scrambled Trivia

by *Rob Lagos*

Match the number corresponding to the question to the letter in the scrambled list below it. A few of these (5 of them) are taken from our last Culture Quest. If the answers involve words or names in 2 parts: in the case of a person, just the last name is used; in the case of non-personal names, the first name is used. All words/names are in lowercase. Hint: the scramble is not hard!

1	Who plays Napoleon Dynamite in the movie of the same name (2004)?	
2	Who created the song "Jenny" (1981)?	
3	What is the fourth most populous country in the world as of 2019?	
4	What Russian composer's death in 1953 went almost unnoticed in his homeland, due to his misfortune of dying on the same day as Joseph Stalin?	
5	What is the most northerly county in Maine?	
6	On <i>The Simpsons</i> , what is the name of the three-eyed fish created by exposure to the Nuclear Power Plant?	
7	What band created rap songs "Styr Fry" and "Walk it Talk it"?	
8	What is the second most populous city in the second largest country in the world?	
9	What is the main character of the Martian (movie, 2015)?	
A	Who is this year's winner of the "Maine Mensa" \$600 scholarship?	
B	What is the highest grossing movie in 2019 (and all time)?	
C	What is the last chemical element to be named after a US state?	
D	What band created "Eye of the Tiger" (1982)?	
E	Named for a mythological figure, what town, like its neighbor Pompeii, was buried under ash and lava by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD?	
F	Austin Rogers, a recent super-champion on Jeopardy!, held (and continues to hold, despite his winnings) what day job (as of 2019)?	
10	The movie <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i> (2018) focused on the life of which band artist and singer?	
11	What band created the song which starts out "I hear the drums echoing tonight" (1981)?	
12	What man, enshrined in both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame, was the first American to hear of the death of Joseph Stalin, while working as a Morse code operator intercepting Soviet transmissions in 1953?	
13	Who is the director of <i>Downton Abbey</i> (2019)?	
14	What is the fifth largest country in the world?	

A. ivorsur	H. hāsc	O. derhe
B. oott	I. fievproko	P. neywat
C. onetut	J. nesiaindo	Q. ostookaro
D. gosmi	K. curymer	R. zilbra
E. lanumhercu	L. gleren	S. trealmon
F. kyblin	M. nessineten	T. ouxrobid
G. enderbart	N. gersaven	

# Maine Mensa Events – Summer 2019

## Pool Party at Sue's



## Pub Trivia at Rivalries



## **Region 1 Roundup** **by Ian Randal Strook** **Region 1 RVC**

In August, I got to visit three groups around the Region. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, I made it to Boston Mensa's New Member Party/Annual Picnic (and ExComm meeting). The next weekend, it was Northern New Jersey Mensa's Annual Picnic (and ExComm meeting). Then I took a weekend outside the Region, for Metropolitan Washington Mensa's RG (where I participated in a panel discussion about the AMC with four other AMC members). And on the 25<sup>th</sup>, I got to Southern Connecticut Mensa's Annual Picnic (rescheduled due to bad weather the weekend before). I had a great time seeing people who don't often travel beyond the confines of their home groups. And at each of the picnics, I was pleased to see several younger members: they are our future, so I hope we can continue to come up with activities that will keep them interested in Mensa. The thing most likely to keep them returning is interacting with others close to their age, so I'll echo what I said a couple of months ago: please do try to plan some family events, to draw out both younger members and children of members.

Recently, I had interactions with two members which have stuck with me. In one case, a local volunteer was grumbling about not getting paid for the work she performs on behalf of Mensa. In the other, a member was grumbling about officers being reimbursed for expenses incurred while taking care of Mensa business. These two conversations have stuck with me, because they're two sides of the same coin. I've been a member of Mensa for a long time, and during those years, both the organization we're part of and the world in which it operates have changed. Attitudes and expectations have changed. People do things differently, see things differently, interact differently. But through all those changes, I think I'm safe in saying that Mensa only exists because the members value it enough to do all the volunteer work Mensa needs to keep on existing. Every local group, every event, every newsletter, every member interaction: all of these things are coordinated, operated, planned, executed, publicized, staffed, and organized solely by members just like you, who get paid nothing for their efforts, who expect no pay, and who know that they're sacrificing time and effort they could be putting elsewhere to actually earn themselves money. They do it because they want these things to occur.

Mensa does have a paid staff in our national office, but it's a staff we try to keep as small as possible, to handle the actual business needs of a national organization with 50,000 members. The more tasks we assign to the office, the more we have to pay for an office (and the more we

will each have to pay in dues). But as we turn over more responsibility to the office, Mensa becomes less our society, and more like just another service we pay for, interchangeable with any other paid service like a cruise, a restaurant meal, or a theatre performance. What has always made Mensa special is not that we sit back and watch it to be entertained, but that we participate in it to make the experience mean something to us and each other.

At the Annual Gathering, during the local group leader luncheon, we discussed volunteers: how to find, nurture, support, and recognize them. And it occurred to me that, though I may have said something in an email, the volunteers in Region 1 are incredible, and deserve your notice, too. So please turn to the staff box in this issue of your newsletter. Every issue, it lists your group's elected and appointed officers and coordinators, volunteers all, members just like you who've decided to give freely of their time and efforts in order for Mensa to continue to thrive, in order to bring you this newsletter, and every local, regional, and national event you've participated in (as well as those you've read about, but haven't yet tried for yourself). I was originally going to list them all in this column, but then I realized just how many people that is, in our Region of twelve groups and six thousand members, and realized this column would run on three times longer than usual.

So, whether you put in an occasional hour every other month, or you're working 15–20 hours per week for Mensa, let me just say, to all of the Mensa volunteers: thank you! Your efforts are vital to Mensa, and even if we don't say it often enough, we do appreciate you.

To celebrate the work of all those volunteers, take a look not only at your local group's newsletter, but those of your surrounding local groups. Remember that their newsletters (and calendars) are available to you on the Mensa web site (from the main [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org) web site, pull down the "Read" tab and click on "Local Group newsletters"). And I urge you to share your events with those surrounding groups' calendar editors. Keep up to date with the latest goings on in the region in Region 1's Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188180494045/>

Upcoming Region 1 Regional Gatherings:

Boston Mensa's Wicked Good RG: (October 25–27, 2019) in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. For more info, see <https://rg.bostonmensa.org/>

New Hampshire Mensa's RG at the End of the Universe: (February 14–16, 2020) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For more info, see <https://nhmensa.org/rgnews.php>

—Ian Randal Strock  
917-755-6935  
RVC1@us.mensa.org

## **Maine Mensa Ex-Comm Meeting** **Sunday August 18, 2019**

Type of meeting: Executive Committee Meeting  
The meeting was held at the home of Kevin Tremblay, 220 Chandler Hill Road, Ripley, Maine.

Officers present: JD Campbell (LocSec); Kevin Tremblay (Asst. LocSec); Robert S. Lagos (Editor and Publications Officer).

Officers not present: Gerald Nessmann (Treasurer); Kathryn Masters (Ombudsman); Jenn Doebler (At-Large); Anne Allen (Testing Coordinator); Sue Flaherty (Program Chair); Chance Stevens-Griffeth (Scholarship Chair); and Jim Sloan (Portland Area Coordinator).

Minutes recorded by Rob Lagos

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. As only three officers were in attendance, no action items were voted on.

### ***Old Business.***

#### Minutes of last Meeting:

Approval of minutes of the last meeting of June 2, 2019 was tabled to next meeting.

### ***New Business.***

#### Report sent by Anne Allen:

We reviewed the report sent by Anne Allen, Testing Coordinator, for this meeting. In addition to testing, this report also addresses plans for mini-RG 2020 and possible bidding for Mind Games 2021. The report is below:

*Proctors:* We have 5 certified Proctors in Maine Mensa: Anne Allen, Jenn Maher, Jen Doebler, Chance Stevens-Griffeth, and Brandon Look.

*2019 testing:* Jan 31, 2019 – 3 tested by Jen Doebler - Portland; August 10, 2019 – 2 tested for Culture Fair by Anne Allen - Biddeford

*National Testing Month is October.* So far, we have 2 tests scheduled: One in Biddeford (Jenn Maher) and one in Portland (Jen Doebler). Anne would like to have something scheduled in the Augusta/Brunswick area and the Bangor/Ellsworth area. Anne will try to get a member in

Presque Isle to offer a location for that area. This October our GROUP will have a unique code we can offer friends and family for free testing. We won't each have a unique number – just one for our group specifically. This will make it much easier to offer free tests.

*Gifted Youth Report (Coordinator Anne Allen):*  
No activity this last quarter.

*Maine Mensa Mini RG for Spring – 2020 Report - Anne Allen, Registrar:*

Dates provided by the hotel: Fri-Sat-Sun May 29, 30, 31. This is the weekend AFTER Memorial Day – same as last year. Embassy Suites has offered us room rates of 129.00 per night (up from 125.00 in 2019). This rate includes free made-to-order breakfast each morning, and a free cocktail reception from 5:30 to 7:30 with free drinks and snacks for all room holders. Our RG attendees will be invited to also share in the snacks provided. The games room for the weekend would stay at the \$1000.00 cost to us.

A decision needs to be made as to the number of rooms we want to commit to for our room block. Last year we sold 1/6/13 - 20 rooms. This coming year we might want to consider 20/20, as there will be no Canada AG to compete, and our hotel has had rave reviews – and it appears to be a good weekend. Anne can get the contract ready for JD to look at and sign, but the room block has to be in it.

#### *Mind Games – 2021:*

The bid packet is available on the National Website for all to review. Our bid is due by Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will need to have a hotel proposal in place and the bid readied during September and October. It looks similar to all previous years. At the National Level, what used to be the Site Selection Committee, chaired by Taz Criss, has now changed to the Events Committee, also chaired by Taz Criss.

Virtual Attendance: Kevin suggested that we put this out as something to discuss: virtual attendance of meetings. All were in agreement. Those who cannot attend in person should consider, when possible, attending via phone, or Skype, or similar technology. Efforts should also be made by members who plan to attend to facilitate this.

We reviewed Anne's report, and it was addressed as described below.

Testing: Kevin will check in with Anne as to being able to reach Brandon to stage testing in October.

In terms of the free voucher, JD suggested we use discretion for the unlikely case that we get many people wanting to test using the group voucher in October.

R	14
O	13
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B	11
K	10
G	F
E	E
A	D
M	C
N	B
T	A
P	9
S	8
D	7
F	6
Q	5
I	4
J	3
C	2
L	1
Answers to trivia	

## ExComm Meeting Minutes (continued)

Mini-RG: JD will reach out to Anne to talk about the hotel contract for mini-RG 2020. Regarding the decision about number of rooms to sell, we all were of the feeling that we will likely sell at least as many rooms as last year and maybe more, so we were in agreement with Anne's report.

Mind Games 2021: We reviewed the issue of Mind Games – there were no comments.

Next ExComm Meeting: at Brickyard Hollow Restaurant, 236 Main St., Yarmouth, Maine, Saturday Oct. 19, 1:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.



We wish to express thanks and appreciation to Gerald Nessmann and the Austin Law Offices of Dexter, Maine, for the very fine quality hard-copy preparation, printing, and distribution of the newsletter!

## Executive Committee

<b>LocSec</b>	John D. Campbell <a href="mailto:locsec@maine.us.mensa.org">locsec@maine.us.mensa.org</a>
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Gerald Nessmann (207) 564-7875 <a href="mailto:gerald@nessmann.us">gerald@nessmann.us</a>
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<b>Ombudsman</b>	Kat Masters (207) 233-5222 <a href="mailto:k8masters@gmail.com">k8masters@gmail.com</a>
<b>Region 1 RVC</b>	Ian Randal Strock (917) 755-6935 <a href="mailto:RVC1@us.mensa.org">RVC1@us.mensa.org</a>



Maine Mensa  
[locsec@maine.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@maine.us.mensa.org)

Mensa is an international organization of people with an IQ at or above the 98th percentile. Mensa provides a forum for intellectual exchange among members. Its activities include the exchange of ideas by lectures, discussions, journals, special-interest groups, and local, regional, national, and international gatherings. Mensa does not hold any opinions, or have, or express, any political or religious views. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual contributors and of the editor and not of American Mensa Ltd or of Maine Mensa. For more information go to the web site: [http:// www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org). The MaineScene is a free publication for members of Maine Mensa #01/040.

## Maine Mensa on the Web

Visit our web pages, and drop us a line!

Regional page: [region1.us.mensa.org](http://region1.us.mensa.org)

Maine Mensa page:  
[www.maine.us.mensa.org](http://www.maine.us.mensa.org)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/417598975112430/438441466361514/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/417598975112430/438441466361514/)

[www.facebook.com/MaineMensa/](https://www.facebook.com/MaineMensa/)

National Web Site: [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org)