

Minutes from the Tampa Bay Mensa Executive Committee Meeting

February 22, 2026 via Zoom
Meeting called to order at 3:03 pm

Officers present: Lisa Blair (LocSec), Cathy Chopping (Asst LocSec), Kathy Crum (Treasurer), Jacki Nesbitt, Ken Silver, Thomas Thomas
Officers absent: James Gamble
Member Guests: Karina Boutwell (joined late)

BLAIR moved to approve the minutes of the December 2025 meeting, NESBITT seconded.
Approved unanimously.

REPORTS:

Local Secretary (Lisa Blair): Recruited Karina Boutwell to serve as The Sounding Editor. Serving on National Committee to work on Membership Officer tool kit, focusing on communications. Confirmed Maran Fulvi will continue as Ombudsman. Confirmed resignations of Linda Christina and Dan Chesnut from the ExComm.

Membership (Lisa Blair): Sent New Member list to James Gamble for Welcome letters. Current membership 602, down from 655 at end of March 2025.

Programs (open position, Lisa reporting): Gourmensans events held at Yummy House in January and Gurkhali Kitchen in February. Thai Temple event planned for March. Regular events include French Brunch (monthly), Jazz Jam (quarterly), Book Club (monthly via Zoom), and Games afternoon hosted by Charles Godfrey in January with another in April. Spring Picnic is booked for April 19 at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor, and Lisa continues to post events on the Tampa Bay Mensa online calendar and on Facebook.

Gifted Youth (Ashley and Rantz Phelps, with Lisa Blair reporting as Deputy Gifted Youth coordinator): Because Gifted Youth are not on Connect (based on policy), Lisa emails the Gifted Youth list separately about events and updates, including the recent membership renewal reminder. There have been three GY events in the past six months. A walking scavenger hunt is scheduled for March 8, and Lisa received a matching grant from the Mensa Foundation for educational events to help fund it. There was also a virtual youth event for a Valentine's Day card exchange, initiated by Julie Warriner in Palm Beach Area Mensa that was opened up to Region 10 and then the rest of the country. Tampa Bay Mensa was the second largest participant after Palm Beach Area Mensa.

Community Service (Lisa Blair): Feeding Tampa Bay is scheduled for April 11 from 8:45 to 11:30 AM. This is a very popular event with 80 group slots which filled up within two days after registration opened.

Testing (open position, Lisa reporting): We should probably hold a testing session sometime in the spring, but there has only been one person requesting testing information in

the past four months. We don't have a promotions program to reach out to prospective members via avenues such as Neighborhood News newspapers. Friends of the Library uses Neighborhood News and gets a discount rate for non-profits.

Assistant LocSec (Cathy Chopping): Nothing to report.

Editor (Karina Boutwell): Message posted to Connect to introduce herself and solicit submissions. She will be relocating later in the year so this will be a temporary appointment.

Treasurer (Kathy Crum): Three reports submitted – 2025 End of Year, 2026 Budget Proposal, and 2026 Year to Date.

- 2025 End of Year: Income exceeded expenses by \$1,272. Main drivers were Socials and newsletter expenses, which were each 60% below budget.
- 2026 proposed budget: Proposal reduced testing revenue, and increases Gifted Youth event expenses. Everything else remains same as or close to 2025 budget.
 - THOMAS moved to accept the proposed budget, BLAIR seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2026 YTD: Revenue and Expenses on target for year. Website domain renewal was donated for this year.

Kathy will provide a Treasurer's report to Karina for the next Sounding.

Kathy and Lisa are the signatories on the bank accounts.

Scholarship (Linda Christina): Judging is underway; nothing more to report.

Social Media (Jacki Nesbitt): 261 members on Facebook. Only two new requests over the past two months. Current Mensa members are accepted for admission, not just Tampa Bay Mensa members, although members who spam the group will be removed. Most members are from Tampa with the second most from St. Pete/Clearwater. Approximately 25 members are lapsed. Thomas will send list of lapsed members to Jacki.

Web Master (James Gamble): James changed our domain provider for a lower cost.

Old Business:

Sylvia Zadorozny provided two missing newsletters for the Sounding archive, which Thomas uploaded to the national website. Except for January 1980, October 1985, and April 1999, all newsletters since the first Tampa Bay Sounding in February 1976 are now posted to the national website.

No progress on update of Tampa Bay Mensa bylaws. Minimum Standard Bylaws are not currently being reviewed at National so there is nothing pending to delay a review of our Bylaws, which were last updated in 2013.

New Business:

Summer Social – maybe a bay cruise? Previous cruise was for winter social, not summer. May be too hot. Cost of last cruise was approximately \$1600-\$2400. Proposed that group pay half of cruise cost, or half-price on some other event, to ensure member commitment to event. Cruise was popular, so maybe we could do it in later in the year.

Possible alternative option for Summer Social could be a zoo trip, with a behind-the-scenes event. These have been popular with Mensans in other groups and could also serve as a gifted youth event.

Discussion of other possible group events:

Perhaps another billiards event: main expense last time was food. Some locations don't serve food but would allow us to bring in our own food to better manage the cost.

A "Clue" walking mystery tour at the Straz Center.

Escape room? We have a member who manages one.

Mini-golf? Monster Mini Golf is an indoor facility in Dunedin.

Jacki also suggested "That Game Show Place", an interactive game show studio for groups.

CRUM moved to adjourn, NESBITT seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm. Next meeting scheduled for April 12 at 3:00 pm.