

# January



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**January 13: TBM Winter Social!**

(see calendar for details)

**A Publication of  
Tampa Bay Mensa**

*Tampa Bay Sounding* (USPS 305-830)  
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11111 N. 20th Street  
Tampa, FL 33612

Mensa is an international society whose sole qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on a standard IQ test. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors, and not necessarily those of the editors or officers of Mensa. Mensa as an organization has no opinions. Tampa Bay Mensa serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter counties.

Visit American Mensa at:  
<http://www.us.mensa.org>



For full instructions on how to join *tbm-gm* and *tbm-discussion*, our two Yahoo! groups, visit TBM at

<http://tampa.us.mensa.org>

## Submission Guidelines

*Tampa Bay Sounding* encourages submissions from all members. Submissions must be signed, but names may be withheld or pseudonyms used if requested. All letters to the editor will be subject to publication unless the author specifically requests otherwise. All material submitted will be considered for publication, but nothing can be guaranteed. Everything is subject to editing. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Articles, casual essays, opinion pieces, poems, short stories, puzzles, and artwork are all encouraged.
- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are preferred, either embedded or in Word-readable attachments. Computer printouts and typewritten pages are fine. If you submit hard copy, please make sure your printer has enough toner or your typewriter has a fresh-enough ribbon. Legible handwritten submissions will be considered (but not given preference).

You may send your submissions by either of the following means:

E-mail: [editor@tampa.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@tampa.us.mensa.org)

(Please indicate "TBM" in the subject header.)

U.S. Mail: Ronan Heffernan, 27504 Breakers Dr, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

**Unless otherwise specified in the calendar, the deadline for unsolicited contributions is the fifth day of the month.**

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# Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!

- \* Kailey Anderson
- \* Oliver Chopping
- Mary Jarrett
- James Johnson
- \* Raven Moxon
- \* New members.

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## January Birthdays

- 01/01 Sheila Zercoe
- 01/02 Mary Muka
- 01/03 Jason Stuber
- 01/04 Betty Taylor
- 01/05 Jacqueline Hayes, Lawrence Jay
- 01/06 Rick Craig, Thomas Scales
- 01/08 Erica Enfinger, J Heffernan, Patricia Johnston
- 01/09 William Ayala, Zabeeh Babar, Taylor Gregory, Stanley Pleban
- 01/12 Garrett Bostwick, Michele Mourer
- 01/13 John Means, Scott Wilson
- 01/14 Edwin Smith
- 01/15 John Kane
- 01/18 Kim Hanna
- 01/21 James Perry
- 01/23 Gregory Cowsert, Theresa Hohmann, Nina Wolf
- 01/24 Brett Husselbaugh, Darius Vunck, Carrie Webb
- 01/25 Heather Hanks, Louise Kelly, Michelle Kurtz, Kevin Miller,  
Joseph Robbio
- 01/26 John Kuhnle, Melissa Stephens
- 01/27 Jill Deen
- 01/28 Jacob Kesler, K Schneider

# RVC Column for Region 10

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met on December 2 to discuss several matters, including the Transition Committee's progress in seeking a new Executive Director to replace Pam Donahoo, as I'd mentioned in last month's column. After presenting their report, the AMC thanked them for their work so far and asked them to continue with their work. In the meantime, Trevor Mitchell, AML's Director of Membership and Strategy, was named Acting Executive Director.

Other appointments made at the meeting included Palm Beach Area Mensa member (and former AMC Chair) **Elissa Rudolph** as the AML Advocate, and **Allison Reeves** will be joining Palm Beach Area Mensa member **Brian Reeves** as Co-Chair of the 2019 Annual Gathering (AG) Committee.

The usual Treasurer and Executive Director reports were presented, along with the results of the Local Group Leadership Survey and the launch of Mensa Connect (the Higher Logic project). These reports and more are available on the national website at [www.us.mensa.org/read/board-meeting-reports/](http://www.us.mensa.org/read/board-meeting-reports/) under the dropdown [2017-12-02 – Houston, TX](#).

The next in-person meeting of the AMC will be in Denver, CO on March 3, 2018, with a teleconference meeting scheduled before then on January 16, 2018. The agenda for the teleconference will be posted online at the link above on January 6.

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On another topic, the AMC has been discussing the role of the RVCs (Regional Vice Chairmen), given the split duties we perform. In addition to acting as members of the Board of Directors for American Mensa along with the five nationally-elected officers, and serving as voting members on various national committees, we also have particular duties to the Local Groups of our regions that go beyond the fiduciary responsibilities for American Mensa. However, some expectations, both from the national and local point of view, are contradictory. While there is documentation that defines our role as "CEO of the Region", this nevertheless carries with it limited authority. So when I've been asked to intervene in some local group issues over the past few months, there wasn't much that I could do other than to listen to the issue being presented and refer the involved parties to documentation on the website (primarily dispute resolution). The RVCs are working through the existing ASIEs and guidebooks to come up with a consolidated job description so that it will be clearer to future RVCs (and local members) what the real expectations should be.

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Finally, I mentioned the Community Services Committee in my column last month, and I have recently been appointed Chair of that Committee. While there are projects going on year-round, the big focus is Mensa Cares!, a project that coincides with National Volunteer Week. This year those dates are April 15-21. Many of our members have mentioned in surveys that this was something they wanted Mensa to be involved in, and the response to last year's efforts was enthusiastic. More information will be forthcoming as the Committee starts planning over the next few weeks.

Until next month (or until I see you online),  
Thomas George Thomas  
Email: [RVC10@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC10@us.mensa.org)  
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Twitter: @FardleBear

HELP WANTED: Become an Active Member

Tampa Bay Mensa is in need of more members taking active roles in the organization. The group is run entirely by member volunteers, and there are quite a few jobs that need someone to take responsibility.

Currently we have members doing multiple jobs, because we don't have enough people to take on all the jobs. It's taking a toll on our volunteers.

This is leading to the burning out of members who feel overburdened. We have lost more than a few previously active members in the last year and a half. We have lost members who had active roles in running the group. Unfortunately, it looks like we will losing a few more this year.

What this group can do for its members is not only dependent on the quality of volunteers, but also on the quantity of people volunteering. We need more members getting involved.

Right now we have a couple of open spots on the ExComm – the group that runs the day-to-day local activities for our group. Members are elected to serve a two-year term. If someone leaves The ExComm early, the ExComm appoints a replacement.

If you want to be “in the know” on what's happening in the group, this is where you should be. If you want to help determine what we do, this is where you should be.

The ExComm meets once every two months, for 2 -3 hours, so it doesn't require a huge commitment of time.

If you are interested or have questions, contact me.

If you want to start a little smaller, there are many tasks that need doing.

We need people to:

- Count ballots in the Tampa Bay Mensa election next summer
- Help out at our Picnics and Socials
- We really need help at our Annual Regional Gathering.
- Host, organize, or help at events.
- Judge essays in our scholarship process.
- Contact new members.
- Help with our webpage and social media.
- Write articles for the Sounding.

Please contact me, or any member of the ExComm, if you can help.

Contact info for us can be found at the end of the Sounding.

# Calendar of Events

## January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> » Reading Group	<b>4</b> » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> » Winter Social: A Trivial Occasion » Oldsmar Games Night
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> » Reading Group	<b>18</b> » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> » Tampa Games Night
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

For updated event information, check our online calendar: <http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal>

# January 2018 Calendar

Except for rare cases that hosts will make clear, all events listed in our Calendar of Events, whether hosted in private homes or public venues, are open to all Mensans, their spouses, and accompanied guests.

While kitty amounts are mandatory, hosts often spend far more than the specified amount. Donations in excess of the kitty amount will be appreciated. If you have special needs or restrictions, it is prudent to discuss them with the host in advance.

To add an event to the calendar, send an email with the event details to [calendar@tampa.us.mensa.org](mailto:calendar@tampa.us.mensa.org) including the date, time, place, and host contact information. The deadline for an event to appear in the print newsletter is the 5th of the previous month, but the online calendar can be updated after the print deadline.

## January 3 7pm Reading Group

Location: IHOP, 4910 West Spruce Street, Tampa

Read whatever you like and bring books you'd like to recommend, discuss, exchange, or give away.

Ronan Heffernan 727-537-6626 [ronansan@gmail.com](mailto:ronansan@gmail.com)

## January 4 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

Location: Sweet Tomatoes on Dale Mabry just South of Bearss

Sweet Tomatoes is an all you can eat salad & soup buffet. Show up at your convenience and join us in the private room off the dining area. Tell the cashier you are there for the Mensa lunch to receive a 15% discount. Non-member spouses or friends are included, too. There is no program for this very informal event, and the conversation is free flowing. Topics range, based on the interests of members, and the backgrounds of participants varies widely, making for interesting discussions. Members are respectful and genuinely interested in listening to each other. New members are always welcomed even if you can't be a regular. Hosted by Dave Bryant; please email him at [SenseiDave@msn.com](mailto:SenseiDave@msn.com) if you have any questions.

## January 11 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

## January 13 1pm Winter Social: A Trivial Occasion

Location: Clubhouse Two 17701 Lake Carlton Drive, Lutz Florida 33548

When you enter tell the security guard that you are attending the Mensa function and that Linda Charpentier Chris has reserved it for us. We will play games of trivia for fun and prizes. Lunch will be served. Any questions please call Lisa Blair at 240-205-1684.

## January 13 7pm Oldsmar Games Night

Location: 651 Timber Bay Circle West, Oldsmar

We play fun board and table games. Snacks and sodas provided (\$3 kitty helps defray refreshment expenses). No pets. No smoking indoors, please.

Sylvia Zadorozny [sylviachocolate@gmail.com](mailto:sylviachocolate@gmail.com) 813-855-4939 (leave message)

## January 17 7pm Reading Group

## January 18 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

**January 25 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes**

**January 27 7pm Tampa Games Night**

Location: 11111 N 20th St, Tampa, FL 33612, USA

Come play fun board & table games - feel free to bring your favorites! Snacks, sodas, coffee, tea & dinner provided (\$3 kitty helps defray refreshment expenses). My large game room is on a separate AC and additional tables in the dining and living room areas. I have cats who stay in their bedroom, and two Great Pyrenees who will need a walk or backyard play session, but otherwise, will stay in their room until 10ish. (If you're interested in walking with us, they will love to meet you!) I also have some reptiles and my quaker parrots Jasmine and Lucky may make an appearance. No smoking indoors, please. Carpooling encouraged. Street and driveway parking available.

Call 813-476-5405 or email [melissalstephens@gmail.com](mailto:melissalstephens@gmail.com)

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## On This Month in History: January

*Emma Edmund*

On January 26, 1926, John Logie Baird unveiled to 50 scientists the first working demonstration of a television. A year later, his television was demonstrated between London and Glasgow over 438 miles of telephone lines, prompting him to form the Baird Television Development Company. Baird would also give the first demonstration of stereoscopic and color television.

Birthdays in this month include J. Edgar Hoover on January 1, 1895, and Dolly Parton on January 19, 1946. Hoover was the first Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who drastically restructured and expanded the organization. Parton is an American country singer whose hits include "Jolene," "9 to 5," and "I Will Always Love You."

Source: On This Day: The History of the World in 366 Days; BBC

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## True Story

Surely I'm not the only one who has experienced hearing a word, phrase or name for the first time and then seemingly hearing it every day for a month. What follows happened a while back but it was one of those experiences.

A friend of mine had recently told me that she had Macular Degeneration. A few days later, I was at an indoor "yard sale" when I heard a woman in the next room describing to HER friend a recent visit to her ophthalmologist. She said, "I was afraid I had cataracts but he told me I have Immaculate Regeneration."

- Phoebe McCann



# Where Does Mensa Dues Money Go?

*Trevor S. Mitchell*

## Where does the money from my Mensa dues go?

There has been a conversation going on amongst Mensa LocSecs current and past about the how the money from dues is spent. The conversation has been “lively”. In order to clarify the issue, Trevor Mitchell the acting executive director of American Mensa posted the following:

I would like to take a moment and clarify a few things based on what has been discussed on this list so far so that you have the current facts.

### · **Items regarding staffing:**

o The Executive Director is hired by the AMC and is accountable to them for the duration of that agreement. The Executive Director has responsibility and authority for the rest of the national office staff. Any personal issues for the Executive Director are addressed through the Chair and AMC with all other staff addressed through the Executive Director.

o Of the staff listed on the website, two are focused directly on the work of the foundation, two are contractors that have a position title to carry out their function, but we do not pay benefits on these two.

o As part of our administrative agreement with the Foundation, we receive income from the Foundation to cover those two dedicated staff as well as a portion of hours that the rest of the staff contributes to direct foundation programs such as scholarships, the MRJ, Colloquium, etc.

o The largest expense that organizations of our type have are in the salaries and benefits line of the budget. What you are seeing is not out of the norm when we look at other organizations of similar membership and revenue size. It is reviewed annually by the Finance committee regarding the overall amount and what goes into it.

· **Outside Contracts** – as mentioned by a few people, these funds are set aside for specific purposes. John provided one example of our election process. Another would be the mailing house we use during the renewal period to handle the collating, stuffing, and mailing of the renewal statements. There are others in specific areas throughout the budget areas. Each one is designated for a specific, short-term purpose to provide a specific deliverable to address a need. These agreements are reviewed annually (or near the end of each agreement) to ensure that we are maximizing the dollars we spend and getting the results that we need. Using outside contractors also allows us to engage with a specific resource and skill set for that short-term need instead of looking at hiring staff on to handle it that would incur additional expenses with benefits.

· **Banking Fees** – As was pointed out, for every transaction that occurs in our system (either online or by staff) a fee is charged. For credit card transactions this is about 2.5% - 3% based on the credit card type (Visa, MasterCard, AmericanExpress) and any fees for processing checks through the bank during



## Where Does Mensa Dues Money Go? (cont)

the renewal period. Since the credit card fee is a percentage, we will see an increase in what amount that is when someone purchases a 3, 5 or Life membership or purchases an AG registration. These fees are for any transaction, not just membership processing. In the last year, we've reviewed our credit card payment processor and bank to ensure we are getting the best rate possible to minimize these fees.

### Member Dues and where do they go:

- o The Direct Costs of \$40.45 are allocated out of each member dues payment:
  - § \$10.20 goes to the local group directly with an additional \$1 added for New members or prior year lapsed members who return.
  - § \$10.53 go to printing and postage of the Bulletin for the year.
  - § 7% or (\$5.53 for annual membership rate of \$79 and this adjusts based on what dues prices they pay for 3, 5, and Life) goes to Mensa International.
  - § \$2.41 goes to the printing of the membership card.
  - § \$2.30 (3% estimated for CC transaction fees).
  - § \$9.48 Staff processing of payments, new member cards, etc.
- o We also look at the specific programs and what expenses they have that go to directly support members such as time and resources that go into the creation of each bulletin issues, the national election, Gifted Youth program, local group support, and AMC governance items to name a few. It's been determined that approximately \$17 is used for each member for various programs.
- o The calculation is that the annual cost to serve an individual member is \$57.45.
- o The rest is used on various items such as marketing, administration, as well as the other programs that don't have a direct support to members.
- o These breakdowns and calculations are reviewed each year as part of the budget process.

I do realize that this may open more questions than it answers. It's important that we are working with facts and data on this matter and not assumptions. There is probably going to be some that don't agree with the calculations decisions or information, and that is perfectly acceptable. I do encourage that if you have more specific questions that you direct them to Deb Stone as Treasurer of the AMC and Chair of the Budget and Finance committee. I also encourage you to check out the Budget Webinar that was done this spring, before the budget going to the AMC for approval. You can find it here - <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/amc-webinars/>.

Thank you for taking a vested interest in the organization and asking the questions. Also, thank you to those current and former AMC members who have been providing some insight and background on the budget to this group.

Trevor S. Mitchell, MBA, CAE ■

# Mensaversaries

- 50 years Mary Sanchez  
44 years Daniel O'Neal  
38 years Benito Enriquez, Bruce Perry  
34 years Bonnie Wilpon  
33 years David DeVaul  
31 years Grant Logan  
24 years Ron Austin  
22 years Darius Vunck  
21 years Steven Graves, John Kuhnle, John Turnbull  
20 years Dave Bryant  
17 years Devlon Buckner  
16 years Ruby Agnir, Alvin Bedgood, Thomas Thomas, Thomas Vena  
15 years Susan Gardner, William Schneikart  
14 years Mark Smith  
13 years Eve Drinis, Chris Lettre, Robert Pressner  
12 years Jay Johnson, Corey Merenda  
10 years Anitha Reddy, Thomas Sawyer  
9 years Samuel Brandon, Jordan Cash, Maureen Collins, Casimer Marks, Rebecca Sinnreich  
8 years Terry Delia, James O Neill, Paul Sutcliffe  
Delaney Grootwassink, Kelly Hallisey, Alexandra Hamwey,  
7 years Kelly Matera, David Schwartz, Carrie Webb, Daniel Williams  
6 years George Martin, Frances Pool-Crane, Lawrence Schear, Hank Vitan  
5 years Trevor Bisson, Garrett Gross, Elizabeth Rafaloski  
4 years Geoffrey Davis, David Dockery, James Eddy, Shannon Harp, Krysten Manley  
3 years Derek Andrews, Patrick O'Neil, Thomas Prether, Zachary Smith, Matthew Sullivan  
2 years Chloe Coddington, Grady Gross, Kim Hanna, Mary Jones, Edward Mills, Nina Wolf, Dylan Young  
1 year Benjamin Bryant, Angela Hall, Brian Heidman, Mike Hess, Jason Knepper, Ernest Sebak, Rachel Sirovetz

Note: Years are for continuous membership. Members who let their membership lapse start from the date of reinstatement.

# Cryptopoem

*Sylvia Holt Zadorozny*

FURHG JMYTG HG CATS YMBAEAZHJ EAZUEJRMYSU,  
ME UEWAYOUSZHJ ITMWSTDUW, JMSEHLASATG QC EMYTSU;  
CATS LHGTMR, ARFMJYASC, MEW MTWHYASC GUEGUG  
JAEYSHQTYU YA CATS OTEYHEV GNHRRG MEW EMYTSMR  
WUFUEGUG.

H FHEW ZCGURF HEYSHVTUW QC CATS GTQLAJMR

AGJHRRMYHAEG,

M GHEVTRMS WULURADZUEY AF JMY JAZZTEHJMYHAEG

YOMY AQLHMYUG CATS QMGHJ OUWAEHGYHJ DSUWHRUJYHAE

FAS M SOCYOZHJ GYSANHEV AF CATS FTS YA WUZAEGYSMYU

MFFUJYHAE.

M YMHR HG ITHYU UGGUEYHMR FAS CATS MJSAQMYHJ

YMRUEYG;

## Cryptopoem (cont)

CAT PATRW EAY QU GA MVHRU HF CAT RMJNUW HYG

JATEYUSQMRMEJU.

MEW POUE EAY QUHEV TYHRHKUW YA MHW HE RAJAZAYHAE,

HY AFYUE GUSLUG YA HRRTGYSMYU YOU GYMYU AF CATS

UZAYHAE.

A GDAY, YOU JAZDRUB RULURG AF QUOMLHAS CAT WHGDRMC

JAEAYU M FMHSRC PURR-WULURADUW JAVEHYHLU MSSMC.

MEW YOATVO CAT MSU EAY GUEYHUEY, GDAY, MEW WA EAY

JAZDSUOUEW,

H EAEUYOURUGG JAEGHWUS CAT M YSTU MEW LMRTUW

FSHUEW.

~ "AWU YA GDAY", QC WMYM (GYMS

YSUN, YOU EUBY VUEUSMYHAE)



# Serial Fillers

*To round-out the page count for publication, here is some not-quite-random public domain content. If you would like to submit articles, stories, etc. for publication, please see the Submission Guidelines on page 2.*

## The Brothers Karamazov

By Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Alexey Fyodorovitch Karamazov was the third son of Fyodor Pavlovitch Karamazov, a land owner well known in our district in his own day, and still remembered among us owing to his gloomy and tragic death, which happened thirteen years ago, and which I shall describe in its proper place. For the present I will only say that this “landowner”—for so we used to call him, although he hardly spent a day of his life on his own estate—was a strange type, yet one pretty frequently to be met with, a type abject and vicious and at the same time senseless. But he was one of those senseless persons who are very well capable of looking after their worldly affairs, and, apparently, after nothing else. Fyodor Pavlovitch, for instance, began with next to nothing; his estate was of the smallest; he ran to dine at other men’s tables, and fastened on them as a toady, yet at his death it appeared that he had a hundred thousand roubles in hard cash. At the same time, he was all his life one of the most senseless, fantastical fellows in the whole district. I repeat, it was not stupidity—the majority of these fantastical fellows are shrewd and intelligent enough—but just senselessness, and a peculiar national form of it.

He was married twice, and had three sons, the eldest, Dmitri, by his first wife, and two, Ivan and Alexey, by his second. Fyodor Pavlovitch’s first wife, Adelaïda Ivanovna, belonged to a fairly rich and distinguished noble family, also landowners in our district, the Miüsovs. How it came to pass that an heiress, who was also a beauty, and moreover one of those

vigorous, intelligent girls, so common in this generation, but sometimes also to be found in the last, could have married such a worthless, puny weakling, as we all called him, I won’t attempt to explain. I knew a young lady of the last “romantic” generation who after some years of an enigmatic passion for a gentleman, whom she might quite easily have married at any moment, invented insuperable obstacles to their union, and ended by throwing herself one stormy night into a rather deep and rapid river from a high bank, almost a precipice, and so perished, entirely to satisfy her own caprice, and to be like Shakespeare’s Ophelia. Indeed, if this precipice, a chosen and favorite spot of hers, had been less picturesque, if there had been a prosaic flat bank in its place, most likely the suicide would never have taken place. This is a fact, and probably there have been not a few similar instances in the last two or three generations. Adelaïda Ivanovna Miüsov’s action was similarly, no doubt, an echo of other people’s ideas, and was due to the irritation caused by lack of mental freedom. She wanted, perhaps, to show her feminine independence, to override class distinctions and the despotism of her family. And a pliable imagination persuaded her, we must suppose, for a brief moment, that Fyodor Pavlovitch, in spite of his parasitic position, was one of the bold and ironical spirits of that progressive epoch, though he was, in fact, an ill-natured buffoon and nothing more.

The rest of this story and thousands of other public domain works are available at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)

# 2017-2018 Tampa Bay Mensa Officers

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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