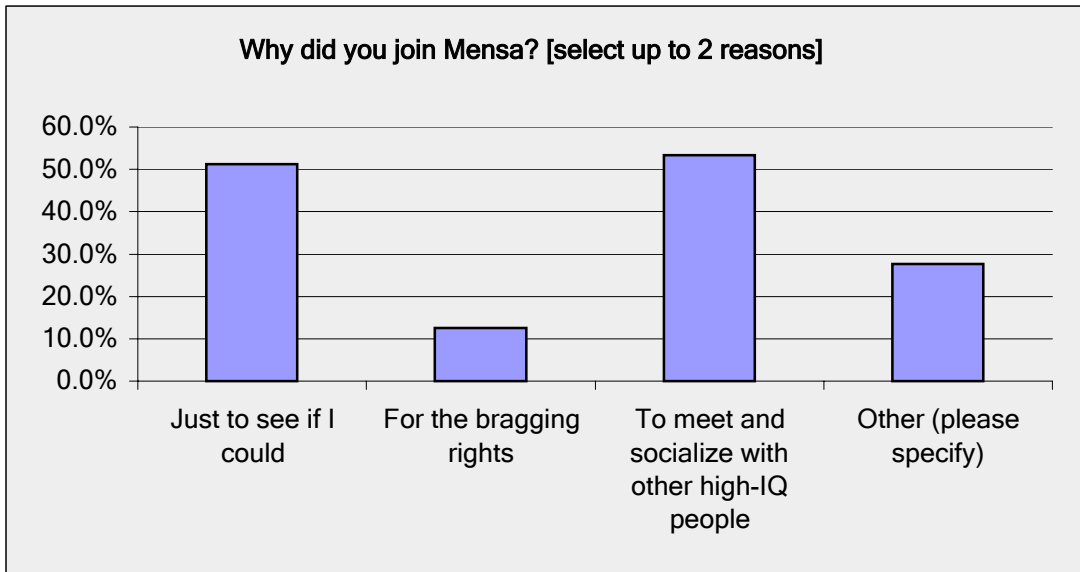


MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Why did you join Mensa? [select up to 2 reasons]

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Just to see if I could	51.3%	78
For the bragging rights	12.5%	19
To meet and socialize with other high-IQ people	53.3%	81
Other (please specify)	27.6%	42
<i>answered question</i>		152
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)	Categories
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Comments

- 1 Car insurance discount
- 2 My sister -in -law said she wouldn't talk to me anymore, because I was too smart. She said it in a really nasty way, as if I was doing it on purpose just to annoy her.
- 3 To prove to my teenager that I was not as stupid as he thought I was
- 4 I wanted role models with high IQs who lived and got along and were successful in the real world without hiding their brains.
- 5 To share knowledge and interests
- 6 At the time (over 20 years ago) to find a husband.
- 7 I thought it would be funny
- 8 To get a cool membership card :)
- 9 because I could - general curiosity
- 10 Learn more about it
- 11 Between Boyfirends
- 12 was encouraged to join by a therapist to overcome shyness
- 13 Curiosity about the organization
- 14 I was young and foolish then.
- 15 got tired of people treating me like I was as retarded as I look.
- 16 Curiosity
- 17 My wife joined and told me to join also.
- 18 Network with other mensans.
- 19 Met Mensans at Halloweem in Chicago and they were fun.
- 20 validation
- 21 To disprove slander from former employer
- 22 My kids were identified as gifted and thought it might help them to not get bored
- 23 My son joined this year also, and I wanted to join to help support his membership
- 24 Took test with son
- 25 To open a new world of possibilities
- 26 I am 94 and in good health. My daughter drives me. Can she attend?
- 27 Because my wife was a member
- 28 It makes me feel better about myself.

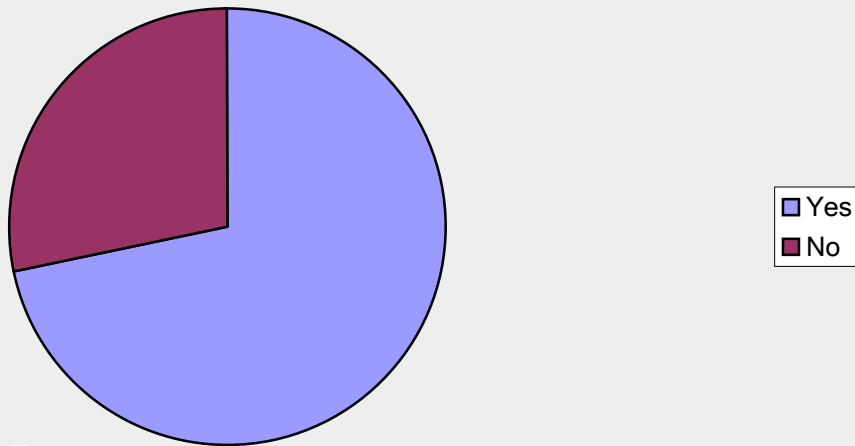
- 29 My whole life I have always felt like I saw the world in a thousand shades of gray, while all those around me saw it as black and white. I felt that there must be something different about the way I processed my experiences, and that the reason behind my tendency to analyze things from more directions than most was due to more than simple neuroses. The Mensa exam helped provide some context and evidence for why I am the way I am.
- 30 The spur was going to Mind Games!
- 31 Because my husband did
- 32 To help solve national and world problems through think tanks...I hoped
- 33 To put on my resume
- 34 just to explore what it might have to offer
- 35 Originally, decades ago, because I was down & needed the ego boost
- 36 To be able to fully participate in MindGames.
- 37 to bolster a sagging ego
- 38 To not be bored
- 39 Fun, night-life
- 40 Recommendation of a friend
- 41 For support when my "severely gifted" child entered school
- 42 Publications

MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

When you joined, did we do enough to make you feel welcomed and encourage you to join in on activities?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	71.7%	109
No	28.3%	43
<i>answered question</i>		152
<i>skipped question</i>		1

When you joined, did we do enough to make you feel welcomed and encourage you to join in on activities?



MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

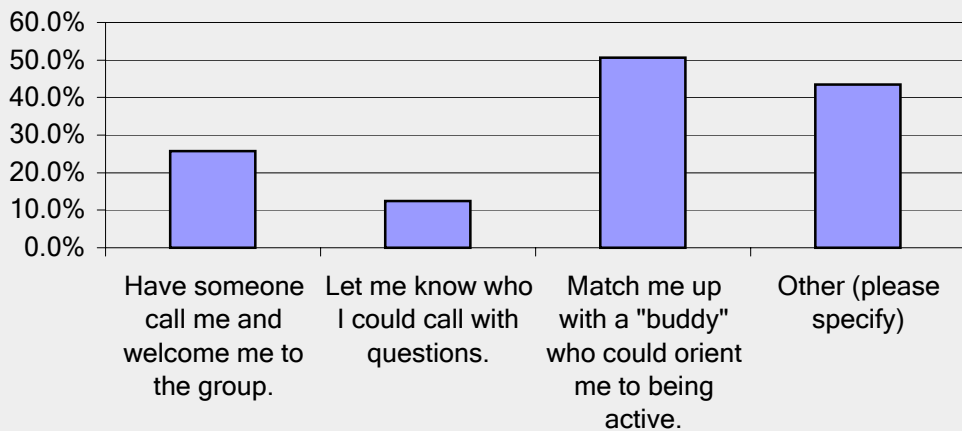
What could the group have done to have helped you feel more welcome or encouraged to participate? [select up to 2 responses]

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Have someone call me and welcome me to the group.	25.7%	39
Let me know who I could call with questions.	12.5%	19
Match me up with a "buddy" who could orient me to being active.	50.7%	77
Other (please specify)	43.4%	66

answered question 152

skipped question 1

What could the group have done to have helped you feel more welcome or encouraged to participate? [select up to 2 responses]



Comments

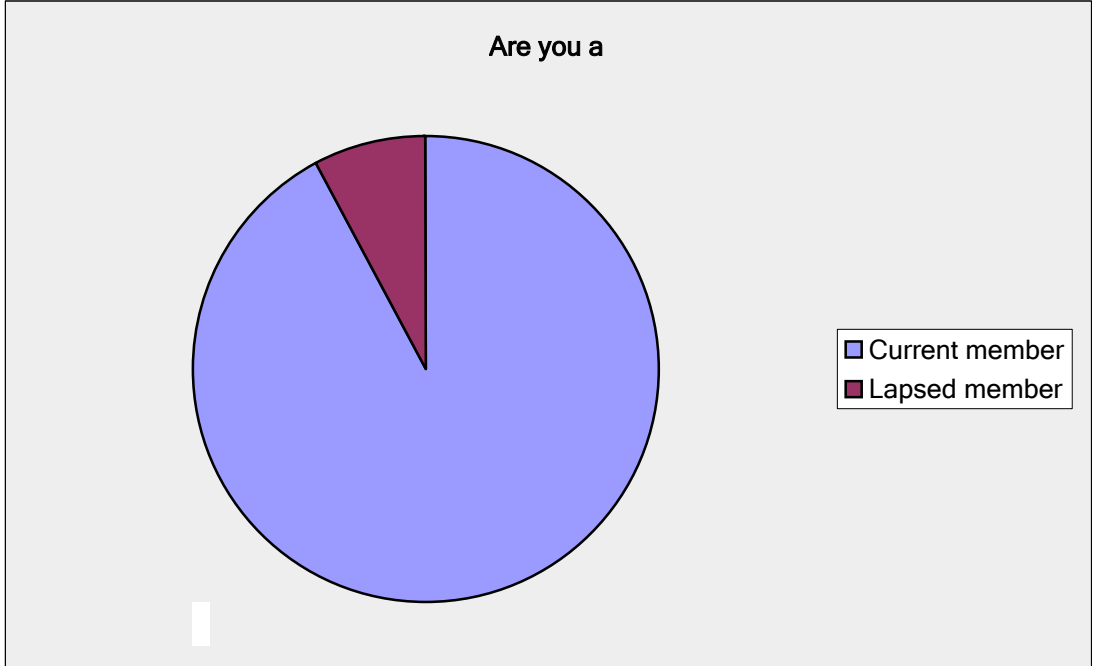
- 1 I just joined so experience is limited
- 2 Hard to say. I'm pretty lazy, I'm not sure what could overcome that problem.
- 3 A group that has a philosophy that newbies should just jump in to conversations is a group that eventually runs out of newbies. Early on, Ken Silver of Minnesota was incredibly rude to me. I basically never went back.
- 4 I'm already socially active in other organizations. I'm not sure there is anything else you could have done to get me involved.
- 5 It may just be this region, but the monthly get-togethers are boring and the SIGs don't interest me.
- 6 I first joined in Connecticut but moved to Jackson Mississippi almost immediately. The Jackson group was great. I have moved to many other group locations since then, and each group has had its own personality. I always felt welcomed, and I have enjoyed each group for its own flavor.
- 7 I started attending first Friday a few months before I was even a member; I was welcomed right away, people befriended me and asked me to join their sig. It was a great experience.
- 8 More location variety. I live north of Minneapolis. I only attend a couple of "First Fridays" and found them smokey and cliquish
- 9 Improve the quality of the Mensa Bulletin. More than half of it is Mensa advertising and bad graphics. It made me feel that Mensa was out-dated and I was disappointed that more contributor content was not included.
- 10 They did both of the first two, and I'm glad they didn't give me a "buddy"
- 11 Welcome was without enthusiasm ..."Hi, here's some info, hope you find something you like...yada yada yada"
- 12 offer a more stimulating activity than First Friday cocktails
- 13 Invite me to the first group event and introduce themselves! I attended an event shortly after joining and was treated like a stranger.
- 14 not sure. i would have liked to connect online with ppl before meeting in person maybe, so it would be nice if more members had completed profiles online
- 15 talked to me
- 16 Suply a map to the First Friday location
- 17 it worked pretty well for me
- 18 I joined decades ago in another group so this question is irrelevant to me.
- 19 Introduction at a meeting.
- 20 I joined a very long time ago, before there was internet and email.

- 21 Host more things in the inner-city proper. Everything seems to happen in the suburbs, and I do not drive.
- 22 nothing more is necessary
- 23 Let me know what range of activities were available
- 24 Actually, nothing. There were only 15 members, including Wisconsin, and North and South Dakota
- 25 Honestly it's so long ago that I can't recall specifics.
- 26 I was welcomed.
- 27 Nothing
- 28 Be more welcoming to newcomers for their first few months of membership.
- 29 I joined elsewhere
- 30 I felt plenty welcomed.
- 31 None
- 32 None
- 33 Have someone introduce me to people at a First Friday meeting.
- 34 you did these
- 35 Nothing. I am anti-social.
- 36 Have someone introduce me to people at events. Most people were not very social, kept to themselves or just socialized with a small crowd, so it was hard to breakthrough.
- 37 Treat my spouse with consideration - we went to a gathering and since he wasn't in Mensa, he felt put down
- 38 Not interested in the social aspects
- 39 Have kept me on the email distribution list for new-member parties; I was dropped after the the first time I declined (after my "own" party) due to prior commitment. In my message I explained this and asked to be kept on the invitation list for all future parties.
- 40 I am outstate so not much can be done
- 41 Nothing additional needed
- 42 I was okay the way things were
- 43 N/A
- 44 Having a "local" contact would be great- we live in rural MN and much of the information for activities is for the metro area (understandably so)
- 45 nothing
- 46 Nothing more, i tend to have a lot of interests
- 47 As an isolated M, more information on keeping in touch would have been helpful.
- 48 More initial encouragement to participate in SIG events.
- 49 I joined 32 years ago! I no longer remember how many things the group did.
- 50 I have just transferred from Arizona. I attended 1 meeting for new members but no First Friday.
- 51 I felt welcomed but a "buddy" is an excellent idea.

- 52 No answer (see #4) but apparently required to proceed to next page
- 53 I've been perfectly happy with the warm tone of the bulletin keeping me informed of choices
- 54 Probably nothing.
- 55 Find out my interests (SIGS) and help me put one together if not already available
- 56 I think that there should have been activities centered on other places than the metro
- 57 don't need anything special to be "made welcome".
- 58 I am smart so I was able to figure out how to participate.
- 59 nothing
- 60 Become a cult with chanting and stuff. Start a commune.
- 61 Hold social events somewhere that is less isolated.
- 62 The previous ND Loc. Sec. didn't even respond to an email asking about MENSA.
- 63 N/A - Never intended to participate
- 64 It was 30+ years ago; there were no outstate activities then
- 65 Lin Rockler welcomed me personally invited me to greeting meeting.
- 66 no comment

MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Are you a		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Current member	92.1%	140
Lapsed member	7.9%	12
<i>answered question</i>		152
<i>skipped question</i>		1



MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

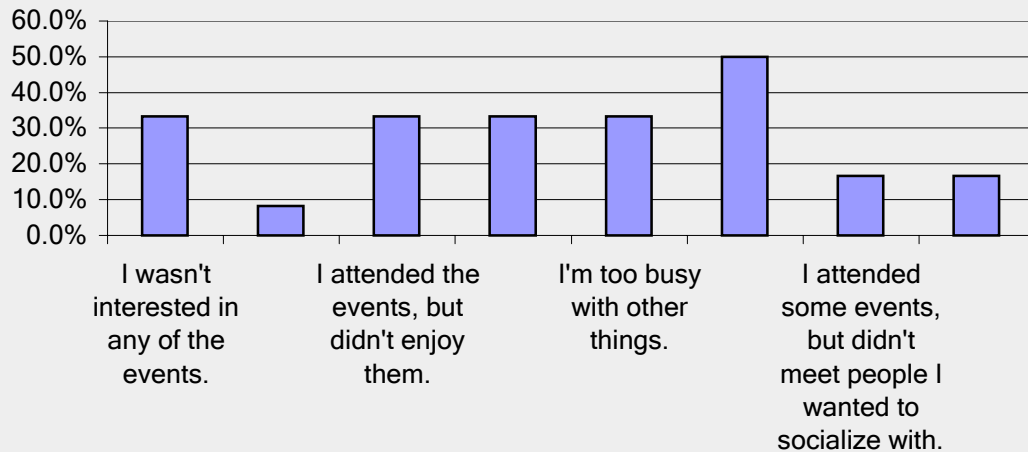
Comments

Why did you decide to not renew your membership? [select up to 3 reasons]

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I wasn't interested in any of the events.	33.3%	4
Transportation was a problem.	8.3%	1
I attended the events, but didn't enjoy them.	33.3%	4
The locations or times offered were too inconvenient.	33.3%	4
I'm too busy with other things.	33.3%	4
Membership cost was too expensive.	50.0%	6
I attended some events, but didn't meet people I wanted	16.7%	2
Other (please specify)	16.7%	2
answered question		12
skipped question		141

- 1 Mensa membership did not provide the social interaction I expected.
- 2 Got a new job where I travel, started a new company, and began teaching as adjunct professor

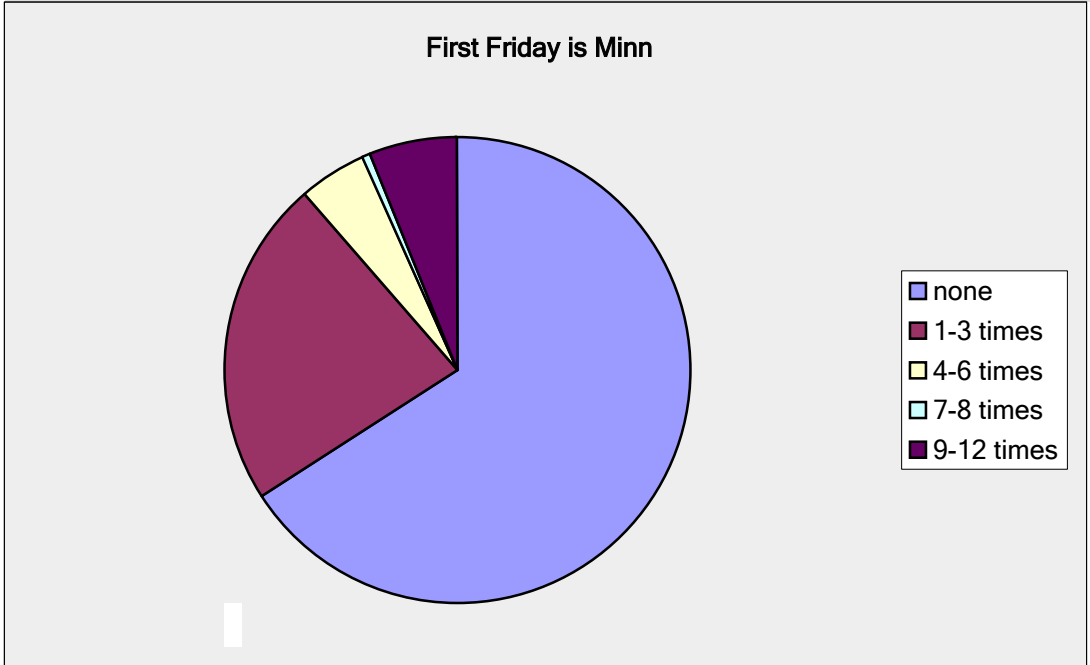
Why did you decide to not renew your membership? [select up to 3 reasons]



MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

First Friday is Minnesota Mensa's largest monthly gathering. This casual event is open to members and visitors, and for a modest admission provides a pleasant place to have interesting conversations with others. How many times per year, on average, do you attend First Friday?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
none	66.0%	99
1-3 times	22.7%	34
4-6 times	4.7%	7
7-8 times	0.7%	1
9-12 times	6.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>		150
<i>skipped question</i>		3

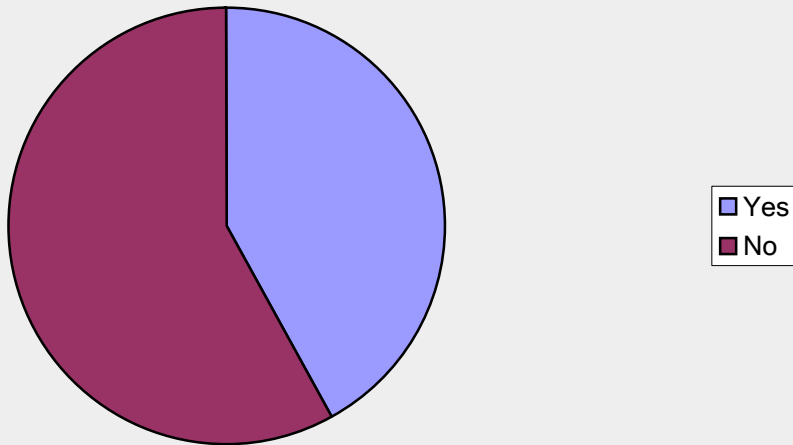


MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Are there changes we can make to First Friday that would likely result in you attending more frequently?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42.0%	63
No	58.0%	87
<i>answered question</i>		150
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Are there changes we can make to First Friday that would likely result in you attending more frequently?



MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

How can we change First Friday in ways that would likely result in your attending more frequently? [select up to 2 responses]

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Different day of the week	4.7%	3
Different time of day	4.7%	3
Different location	59.4%	38
Lower admission (currently \$4 for members, \$8 for non-	10.9%	7
Different format (e.g., presentations)	25.0%	16
Other (please specify)	46.9%	30
<i>answered question</i>		64
<i>skipped question</i>		89

Comments

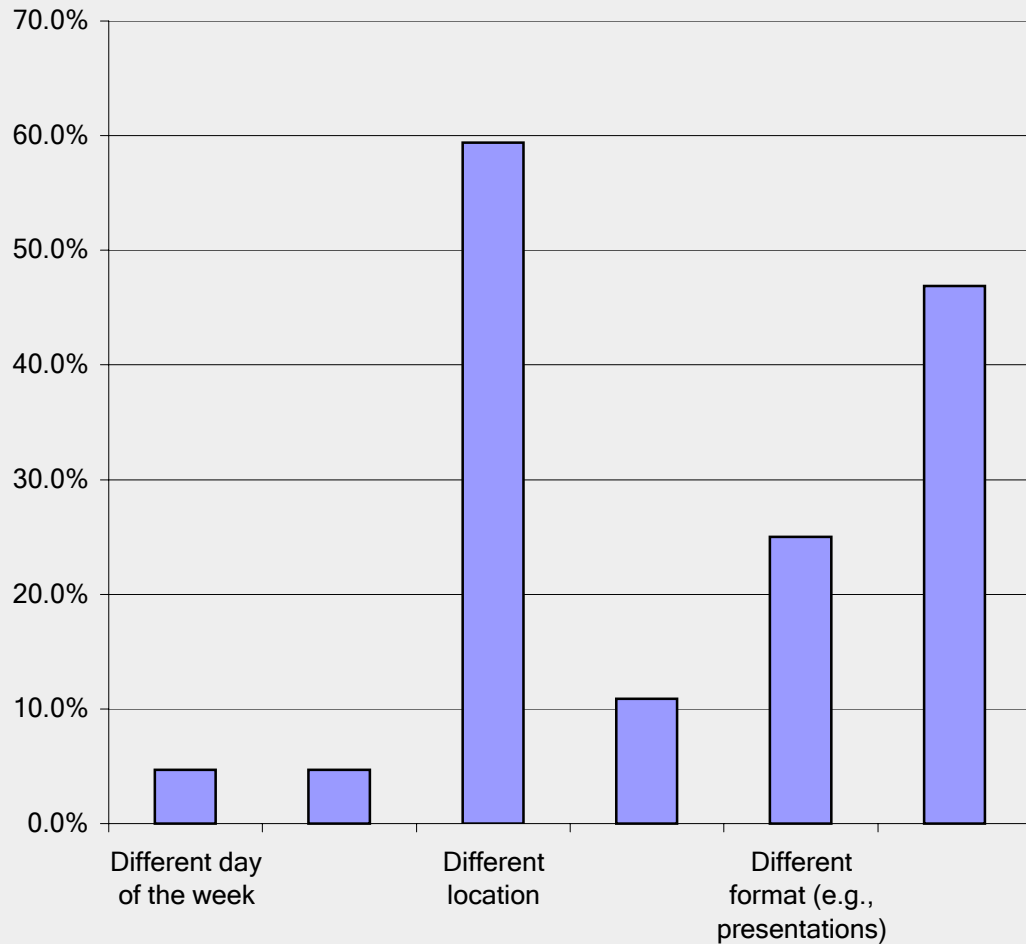
When I went way back when, I found a cliquish, cold atmosphere.

- 1 The people that talked to me were out of town visitors. Except, of
- 2 Have a games group every First Friday instead of just occasionally.
- 3 Hold it outside of the Twin Cities metro occasionally, for instance in
- 4 Give it an agenda, a purpose. I am not comfortable at free-form
- 5 I have made attempts at joining in conversation with various groups.
- 6 You don't have to move FF. It's just that it's almost a 3-hr trip one
- 7 I have only been to my 'first'. I felt welcome, and the hosts were
- 8 I attended once - everyone else knew each other and I felt like. I was

The group appeared to be made up of eccentric "clicks" of folks who wouldn't be comfortable in a regular social setting. No apparent
- 9 focus or purpose nor was there any attempt to be inclusive.
- 10 more stimulating activity - I do not drink
- 11 have a rotating location in different areas of the metro
- 12 Be friendlier.
- 13 would like a topics table to start discussions and help break the ice
I already attend frequently, but maybe having people get free admission for bringing cookies to share could help attract more
- 14 attendees.
- 15 Some kind of structured participatory activity.
- 16 perhaps themes
Low ceiling and table set up discouraged conversation the last time I
- 17 was there.
Larger room. The last time I attended was in a tiny room at the Fort Snelling Officers Club. It was too crowded, too loud, and much too
- 18 warm.
- 19 could you sponsor a First Friday for the northern part of the state
- 20 Perhaps having that local "buddy" call to invite and attend with
- 21 speakers or programs on current topics of interest
- 22 Need ride
- 23 Transportation options for out of town members with no car

Overall, make it less of a "forced socialization" thing and more of an activity-focused thing, where your enjoyment isn't contingent upon
- 24 knowing the ways and quirks of the "establishment" members
The location could be rotating instead of always at the same place
- 25 that is just too far away.
make it event-oriented...like going out as a group to movies,
- 26 lectures, museums, galleries, etc.

How can we change First Friday in ways that would likely result in your attending more frequently? [select up to 2 responses]



Why admission fee? I meet smarter people at my house parties where there is no admission fee, and we also play German board games that are much much better than the games MENSA members play. I did not find anything interesting associating with 27 other MENSA members. No brain stimulation.

For those not in the Twin Cities metro area, the Friday evening time does not work. Perhaps if you went north or west even every six 28 months? Even Hinckley would help.

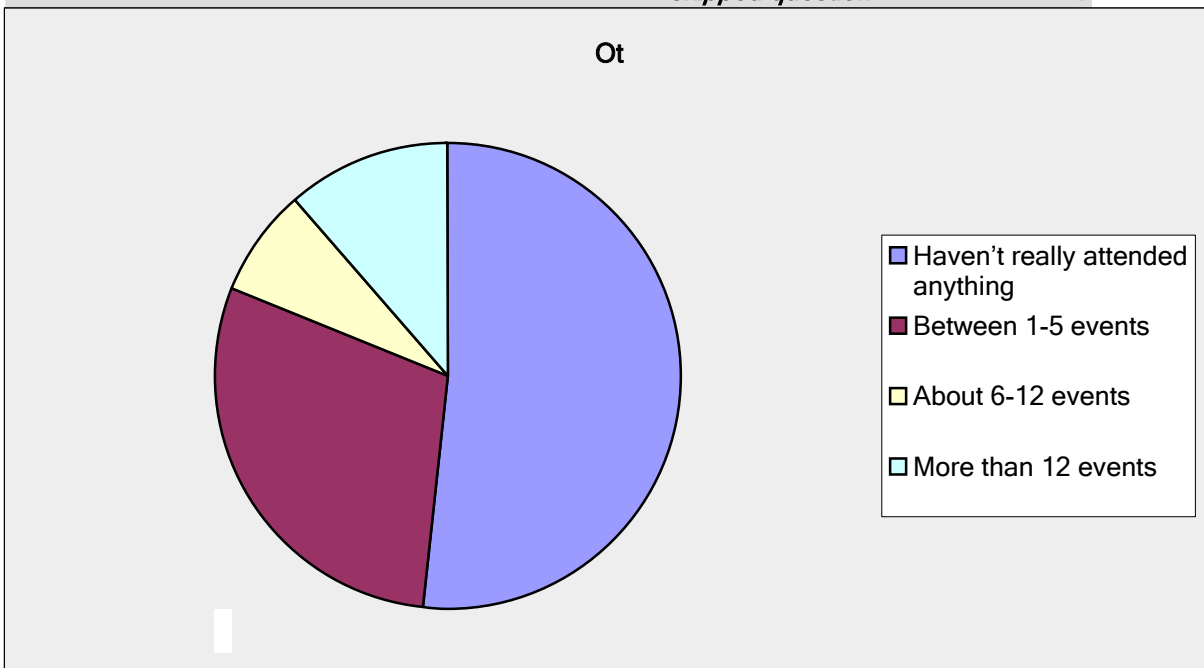
29 Panels, music, karaoke, a sci-fi movie, food, trivia, more women

30 Have some outstate

MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Other events available through Minnesota Mensa are the annual Regional Gathering, monthly Special Interest Groups (SIGs), the State Fair booth, and board meetings. EXCLUDING First Friday, how many times per year, on average, do you attend these other events?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Haven't really attended anything	51.7%	77
Between 1-5 events	29.5%	44
About 6-12 events	7.4%	11
More than 12 events	11.4%	17
<i>answered question</i>		149
<i>skipped question</i>		4

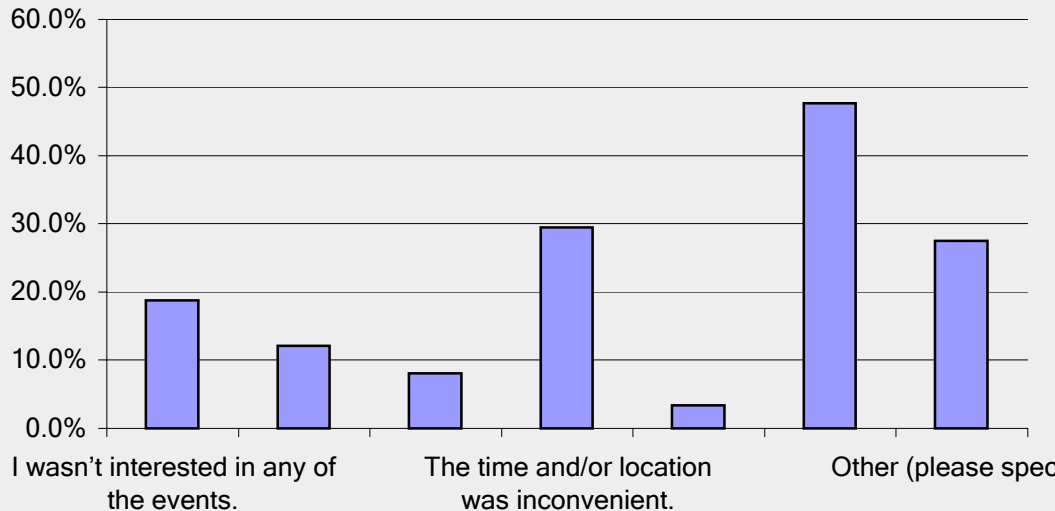


MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

EXCLUDING First Friday, what are your main reasons for not attending more events

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I wasn't interested in any of the events.	18.8%	28
Transportation/accessibility was a problem.	12.1%	18
I attended 1 or more events, but didn't enjoy it/them.	8.1%	12
The time and/or location was inconvenient.	29.5%	44
Admission was too expensive.	3.4%	5
I was too busy with other things.	47.7%	71
Other (please specify)	27.5%	41
<i>answered question</i>		149
<i>skipped question</i>		4

EXCLUDING First Friday, what are your main reasons for not attending more events such as the annual Regional Gathering, monthly Special Interest Groups (SIGs), the State Fair booth, and board meetings, etc. [select up to 2 responses]



Comments

- 1 I just joined
- 2 Again, I'm lazy.
- 3 Travel distance, I live in outside the twin city area
- 4 I used to attend a lot of activities but recently I have been unable to do much because of physical and financial limitations.
- 5 I live a 3-hr drive away from most events.
- 6 I am new, and just haven't figured out what I want yet.
- 7 I am usually exhausted from the work week and I sing in 2 choral groups. Performing and attending live music events are a priority.
- 8 Each of the above has applied, though not all at the same time
- 9 I attended the MN gathering many years ago and, again, tried to hang around but being there with someone else would help.
- 10 This group has the potential to change the world but squanders its mental assets on simplistic endeavors that are inward focused.
- 11 See previous answers.
- 12 work retail
- 13 New Member
- 14 I'm one of the many introverted mensans!
- 15 No one to attend with - too shy to attend alone.
- 16 general laziness
- 17 Various combinations: sometimes concern over other attendees being people I want to hang out with, sometimes price, sometimes content, etc...
- 18 I'm not good at walking into groups of strangers.
- 19 I didn't enjoy the one First Friday I went to and didn't renew after that.
- 20 Felt uncomfortable attending when I did not know anyone.
- 21 Work and family obligations
- 22 I do not find people very interesting.
- 23 Shortly after joining, I was ill for several years. Based on my earlier experiences, returning was not a priority. However, I am very interested in several of the SIGs, which is the only thing keeping me a member. Once my health and time allow, I would like to join those SIGs.

the events.

was inconvenient.

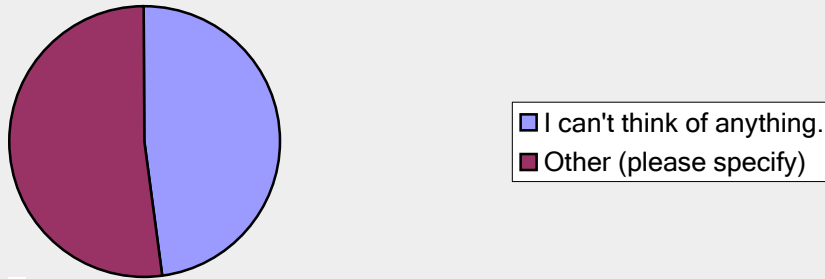
- 24 Also looking for events that would be appropriate to attend with my son
- 25 Work
- 26 I keep busy with many activities
- 27 Living 130 miles away from Minneapolis, I am mostly active in Duluth events.
- 28 I have temporary personal financial issues.
- 29 We are snowbirds, and therefore are out of state 6 months of the year.
- 30 I don't really know anyone in the group and don't know who I would socialize with.
- 31 Need to know if my non-member spouse is welcome to attend with me
- 32 I would like a Christian SIG, and you don't have one...also, from the photos, events look sedentary and not vibrant.
- 33 I heard about Minnesota MENSA grouping and bullying other MENSA members. I found it inappropriate to join or relate to such group.
- 34 I don't know any of the other members.
- 35 Distance
- 36 I don't drive a car; this is an ongoing problem for events
- 37 I go to lots of events.
- 38 RG is usually scheduled the same weekend as a local sci-fi convention.
- 39 Family needs
- 40 Too many concurrent events
- 41 I attend the events I'm interested in.

MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

What would encourage you to be more active in Mensa?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I can't think of anything.	47.7%	71
Other (please specify)	52.3%	78
answered question		149
skipped question		4

What would encourage you to be more active in Mensa?



Comments

- 1 All activities seem to be centered close to St Paul. I live about 45-60 minutes away. Gas is too expensive to do that much traveling.
- 2 Too early to tell
- 3 Essentially every hobby I have, or anything I spend free time on,
- 4 Having more people that I'd like to associate with and talk to. Don't
- 5 I think the addition of some training in social skills.
- 6 A local "Think Tank" that takes on and does something about problems, instead of just talking.
- 7 The idea of having a "buddy" for first timers at events or even local gatherings is a good one.
- 8 The organization should have a purpose. I read that MENSAs were originally organized in the UK so that Parliament would have a list of highly intelligent people they could consult on issues. Our purpose today need not be so grandiose, but honestly, why do we exist as a group?
- 9 While high-IQ is a given, there is a wide variety of experiences that make each of us who we are. I haven't been able to find any person or group who has any interests similar to mine.

I do believe that each individual is interesting in his/her own way. Given that many, if not most, of us seem to be introverts, we need extra help in drawing our passions out. Perhaps some sort of "matching" service will help. Have people post a little bio of themselves so it is easier to find out who is like-minded.
- 10 I wasn't actively involved for a few years due to things going on in my life, but am just now starting to get more involved again. I am active again in the genx sig once a month and plan to start back on First Friday and greeting meeting and games, but have to do it a little bit at a time. I've always loved being active in Mensa when I was active. The people are great! :)
- 11 Mensa/non-Mensa couples activities
- 12 Again, location is important. I should review the SIG list to see if anything I enjoy is near my area.
- 13 More Mensans in my area. I attend everything I can within a 70-mile radius.
- 14 When I retire in 5 years I will have more time. I enjoyed volunteering when the national convention was in St. Paul in 2003. I think the first Friday Feast is a good idea. If I were to attend a Mensa activity in the near future, I think it would be First Friday Feast as the group is smaller.

- 15 Despite my prior comments, I know it's up to me to get involved if I so choose. Introduce myself, etc.
- 16 An organization that capitalizes on its strengths in order to enhance the lives of those around us. One that seeks to integrate into society for fun and joy as opposed to focusing inwardly on its uniqueness. Mensa folks have the capability to change things utilizing mental prowess. It would be exciting to see what this group could accomplish if focused on excellence in some area affecting life change for those around us. But, my experience so far with Minnesota Mensa is its acceptance of mediocrity and potential mental stagnation. Generalization...I know. My experience has been limited simply because the ones I've participated in have been lackluster at best.
- 17 Do something to get me interested. Maybe send reminder emails regarding upcoming events.
- 18 a local genealogy sig might help
- 19 Get the monthly agenda out a little earlier. By the time I had a chance to read it the events I was interested in were past.
- 20 Too late now.
- 21 More active local members online, so we can get to know ppl more before meeting in person.
- 22 I am as active as I can be. I just can't get myself to click on "I can't think of anything." I'm a Mensan after all.
- 23 actually knowing someone would help, but of course I would get to know people if I went to activities...
- 24 Change time and location of events.
- 25 adding a party type snack bar or different tables to host topics and then rotate folks somehow so people have to move around maybe games so others will interact people are shy and sit in one place maybe a speaker once in a while
- 26 Pretty darned active already!
- 27 Connecting with more interesting people
- 28 I like your "buddy" system thought. I have no one to attend anything with, and am too shy to attend anything alone.
- 29 Joint projects that have some product.
- 30 Change location
- 31 Creating a positive social atmosphere; Attract more social "ept" people; A more central location for FF; No admission fee to FF
- 32 I would have to be a different person :)
- 33 Less cliquishness
- 34 Keep doing what you're doing. (I think it was more my issues that I didn't attend anything after my first First Friday than that of MN Mensa's.)

- 35 The previously mentioned buddy system is a good idea. New members need a way to develop a few personal connections and to feel like welcome additions, not intruders.
- 36 Friday agenda, senior citizen activity
- 37 Pay me.
- 38 More local activities that would attract more members.
- 39 Connection with other Mesans. As a past Editor and LocSec, it is a connection thing. Leadership was in Iowa-Illinois Mensa.
- 40 A more stable housing and medical situation.
- 41 An SIG in GIS, geopolitics, humanitarian issues, or.... Online activities?
- 42 Besides my health, I have to get over my first impressions of MN Mensa, which were negative. At my own new members party, I had to introduce myself to people: no one introduced me. The people I struck up conversations with (no one initiated one with me) appeared disinterested and did not engage with me beyond answering my questions. One established member quizzed me on the periodic table (which had never come up in what little conversation we had). When I related the story to one person of how, in the entrance test I took, I noticed a pattern to the answers to the "how many coins" question and so was able to complete that section in time despite not being especially good with mental math, I later heard her recount this story in the kitchen to a large group. Not only did she use disparaging tones (suggesting I was not qualified), but she continued to tell the story after she noticed that I had entered the room! Needless to say this was not a good first impression which was not much dispelled by my first First Friday attendance.
- 43 Find a way for those in SW MN to contact one another.
- 44 For the gatherings on our local level... the events were only once a month and based totally on the interests of the local organizer!
- 45 More local contact, more events for kids
- 46 programs similar to those at annual gatherings ... specialists, experts, on any topic
- 47 More poker gatherings.
- 48 At the Regional Gathering, offer sessions on topics that are more compelling or more closely aligned with my interests. I admit that I have difficulty articulating my interests.
- 49 Someone willing to drive my wheelchair van (with me in it !!!) to events. E
- 50 I currently work most Friday evenings, so it would be nice to have something like First Friday a different night of the month in addition if feasible and if enough people were interested in that.

- 51 More activities going on in my area, knowing far enough in advance to make travel plans/take off of work.
- 52 When I am in MN, I may think about starting a Mah Jongg SIG. Because I work part time when we are back in MN, there may not be time because I commute.
- 53 Provide more opportunities to contribute creatively, outside of the dated-looking "Mensagenda" newsletter. An interactive site, essentially a "Facebook for Mensa" thing would be GREAT. And also an online blog that's updated more than once a month, and featured modern graphics and style, would be a welcome thing.
- 54 A more active local chapter. My local only meets once a month for dinner. Coincidentally, I am a member of another group that meets only on the first Wednesday of the month. So, that makes it difficult.
- 55 It is really a matter of events that I want to attend lining up with times that my spouse is busy with his interests. We do enough things apart and I'm not looking to create a whole lot more separate interests.
- 56 If I had more free time, and there were more fun groups and activities.
- 57 1. If there was a Christian SIG in the NW suburbs of Minneapolis (I talked to former members of the old MN Mensa Christian SIG and they said that anti-Christian Mensa members used to come and made the meetings more of a hostile debate than a place where Christians Mensa members could enjoy discussing the Bible...so the old group shut down). I would start one if I could write in the bylaws that no anti-Christian members could come to "tear down" the meetings. 2. If events were MN Mensa members getting together to "do" something...volunteer, movies, museums, galleries, etc. I am an active person that doesn't like just sitting around.
- 58 More activities that I can get to, and also activities that are not scheduled at the same time as on campus stuff
- 59 I should make more of an effort. It's more on me than anything.
- 60 I am reasonably active and my level fits well into my life and other activities.
- 61 Having activities that are closer to where I live and having. Also, having SIGs that would interest me such as a yoga SIG or bicycling SIG.
- 62 I don't think it's your fault, people have a myriad of reasons for being/not being social. A bit more Zen in your attitude could help. It has mine.
- 63 I'm certain there are plenty of things, but I'm not really up to date on what the different activities are. Might prefer more social/relaxed gatherings where it was more open

- 64 A Mensa problem solving group to benefit society.
- 65 Perhaps I would be more active in Minnesota Mensa if I lived in the Twin Cities metro area where the events seem to be. I do enjoy other RGs and AGs when I attend them.
- 66 Events closer to my home (how egocentric!)
- 67 Location change
- 68 retirement
- 69 For me it's all about the pleasure principle. If the events were more fun I would attend more often.
- 70 Some assurance that I wouldn't show up and feel trapped in Geekville.
- 71 Add 3 more hours to the day, another whole month to the year
- 72 athletic activities
- 73 Since I can't drive, online interactions are good (but I have arranged lots)
- 74 For members in my age range, providing information of other members attending the same college or university.
- 75 Be more open to change--take other individuals input seriously.

- 76 Need to be more fun.
- 77 I am retired now and have more time
- 78 Please understand that we no longer receive the Mensagenda. We can't access it online so we're pretty much shut out of things. Our household has a full member & 2 family members.

MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Tell us about your experience with these benefits and services of Mensa membership.

Answer Options	I've made use of this feature	I haven't made use of this feature, but I was aware of it	I wasn't aware of this feature	Response Count
Car rental discounts	13	79	57	149
Shopping discounts	11	68	70	149
Travel deals	7	79	63	149
Insurance offers	12	96	41	149
SIGHT (Service of Info., Guidance & Hospitality to	11	72	66	149
Other offerings	6	57	86	149
<i>answered question</i>				149
<i>skipped question</i>				4



MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Do you have any comments about the benefits and services offered to

Answer Options	Response Count
	48
<i>answered question</i>	48
<i>skipped question</i>	105

Comment

1 I am not very interested in these

I noticed there was a health insurance link on the benefits and services page. I contacted them and found that Mensa members get absolutely no special treatment through that link or otherwise. Whats the point?

To be clear I'm not upset there isn't a health insurance benefit. I'm annoyed that its falsely implied. Also to be clear, I haven't checked back on that since, so maybe it's straightened out already.

3 Just not interested in these at this time

As you can see, I have'nt taken advantage of any of them except for a while I did save money on my car insurance. Actually, many other organizations offer the same or very similar services and discounts to their members. Mensa might want to offer more specialized features such as deep discounts on entrance fees to museums and memberships in scientific societies and cultural organizations.

4 No

5 No

6 I wish I knew more about shopping discounts when I was a member

I've gotten hotel discounts, car insurance discounts, and car rental discounts, which is what I meant by travel deals, insurance offers, and car rental discounts, respectively. I am very grateful for these, helps a lot with finances. I'd be interested in knowing what the other categories include. :)

8 Most of them are duplicated by AARP or AAA

9 I have received information, but have not had the time to read it.

10 No

Would like more benefits! Some of them are pretty good right now; others are not much of a deal.

I'd like the Barnes & Noble annual fee to be free to life members. The National Office said it would be hard to manage it on an annual basis, but for life members, it would be easy.

13 no

14 No

I haven't used them, but it's nice to have benefits available. I've seen notices about the benefits in Mensa publications so am aware of them.

16 none

17 No

18 No

They provide very little value, but seem to drive up the cost of membership to what is becoming an unacceptable level, since the social aspects of belonging are failing to live up to expectations.

20 No

21 Stop commercial activities

22 I appreciate them.

23 No.

24 No

I haven't travelled in years, but I appreciate having the discounts available.
My car insurance is USAA, which cannot be beat in coverage for price nor
25 in service, so I would not change my car insurance because of the discount.

I have been to the AG in St. Paul and the games event--enjoyed both very
26 much.

27 no

28 No

29 I didn't know of them.

30 You seem to be doing a good job for the average Mensan

31 No. I get fairly good benefits from other organizations.

32 No comments

Most of the benefits apply to adult members; there doesn't really seem to
33 be too much for people under 25.

Didn't join to gain access to ANY of these benefits and don't plan to use
34 them. AARP and AAA already offer the same things.

35 wish I could actually use some of them :)

The online deals are much better than exclusive MENSA member benefits.

There is no benefit to MENSA membership. Except for a line on the
resume, MENSA membership does not really offer anything to me and
36 probably few of the members I spoke to.

37 I think the benefits and services are great!

38 Yes, thank you.

39 sounds cool! I probably knew about them at some point, but forgot.

40 They are adequate

This stuff is all advertising opportunity for the sales people and is of little
benefit to the sadly harassed members. Obviously money or points or
coupons or other such nonsense is going to somebody but this stuff is more
41 annoyance than benefit.

42 None

43 Nice to have them

I remember reading somewhere that there were benefits... then that got
filed away in the file cabinet. Reminders would be good! Maybe short blurbs
about one benefit each month or 2 in Mensagenda would be good, so it's
44 not out-of-sight, out-of-mind.

It's been great for me since I moved back to Minnesota in 2007, though it
45 took a while for my efforts to volunteer to be noticed

I am new here. I know quite little about the benefits. However if it is not this
46 survey, I do not know when I will hear about the benefits.

47 I have found that I can save more money using other companies

Amazon affiliate link used to be on the web page so I'd click on that before
48 I'd shop Amazon.com.

MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Anything else about Minnesota Mensa that you'd like to share:

Answer Options	Response Count
	63
<i>answered question</i>	63
<i>skipped question</i>	90

Comments

- 1 Are there no members who live well west of Minneapolis?
- 2 I would have more input in a few months
- 3 I have several long time friends that I enjoy seeing
- 4 So much.
I joined decades ago because a friend was already a member. He served as my "buddy". Not sure what the group is doing now except that the hosts of Greeting Meeting contact new members and invite them to that. After attending once, we never see them again. Could be the average age of the regulars there(50 plus?) and the average age of the new members(30?) has something to do with that. Also, a number of the regulars aren't very welcoming to new members(or anybody, for that matter). We just don't tend to attract people with much in the way of people skills and the social graces.
Also, the question was put as to what would make me come to more FFs. Since I normally attend almost every one, I answered that there was nothing more you could do to increase my attendance. But because of what FF has become, my attendance will probably drop off. Likewise with other events---I already get to some every month but don't get to more for all the reasons given. Some don't interest me, some are too far away for convenience, some have scheduling conflicts, etc.
- 5 No
- 6 It is wonderful to have a place to go where I can really be myself and don't have to "dumb down" just to talk to people. Yay Mensa!!
- 7 N/A
- 8 Not really. Lots of wonderful people. I haven't ever volunteered to do the Mensa booth at the state fair (child makes it complicated), but I make a point of visiting it every time I go, just to see who is there and what puzzles I can still complete. :)
- 9 I think that Minnesota Mensa is a great group. Some of us are inactive because we just do not have the time right now and are over booked, but we remain members, because we do not want to go through the retesting process, if we lapsed for 10 years and wanted to rejoin when we had more time. At least you have the benefit of our dues.
- 10 I'm very proud of the members who have gotten involved, who've put their precious time into it and continue to lead whether it be in an administrative role or with SIG's, etc.
- 11 no
- 12 I love Minnesota Mensa - what a great group!
- 13 Thanks to all the volunteers.
- 14 A Mensa forum would be interesting.
- 15 I am proud of my membership. I have been active in the past and would like to become so again.
- 16 I enjoy this club...I recently have put in more effort and have enjoyed it more,I have friends that would like to come with me too

- 17 I have gotten a great deal out of my membership, and I work at recruiting others. I do believe that, if MN Mensa could join with other local groups to get the national office to adopt a family membership, we could get more people to keep up their memberships and participate in activities.
- 18 No
- 19 I enjoy the Mensagenda. Great job by the columnists, regular contributors, editors, production team and distribution volunteers!
- 20 Nothing of any great importance, except that seasoned members should be more aware of the needs of new people and work harder to make them feel more welcome.
- 21 No
- 22 I don't support a FF cost to underwrite state fair attendance. I haven't found connection with enough members to feel encouraged to continue participating. Spouse and I are considering not renewing.
- 23 I like getting the magazines and mailings, I'm just not a big participator. Maybe once my little girl gets older, I'd be more apt to go out and do things, but life is busy as it is. Maybe if there was a Mensa mommy group?
- 24 I would have been more likely to participate if more activities/events/meetings had been located in the northern suburbs.
- 25 Keep up the good efforts.
- 26 Mensaenda and the Bulletin are informative.
- 27 No.
- 28 Great people when I went intersting conversation, just not a couples thing for meand my wife, and I am traveling somuch I don't want to spend another night out away from family.
- 29 i know it's hard to please everyone, but it seemed to me that most activities were meant as play to kill time.
- 30 I hope you continue to be successful in your promotion of Mensa. I do believe it is a valuable experience. Just not for me. I am happy that I was able to meet the requirements. I have an inner satisfaction. Thank-You!!!
- 31 It angers me when Mensagenda speaks of "lurkers". No doubt there are those who are members only for bragging rights. I for my part have only told one family member and one friend. Based on my own experience, I have to believe that I am not alone in having been made to feel unwelcome in my first interactions with members. Like me, non-participators may continue their membership out of hope that things may change or that they can find a circle of people (a SIG perhaps) where they will be welcomed. My search for such an "in" is delayed as I recover from a long illness. However, even as I start to become more active, I do not relish the thought of being made to feel unwelcome again. Already feeling like an outsider in the general population because of the way my mind works, it's even worse to be excluded from a community comprised of "my people". I nevertheless hang on to hope and renewed my membership after a long lapse. When I do return to First Fridays next year, I hope the organization has changed in the intervening years and isn't a clique anymore. If not, I'll leave and never return.
- 32 You do a great job on the newsletter--I tried the SD group for awhile but they are really loosely organized.

- 33 no
- 34 More conversation with members and not be located at a table with wives talking about decorating and curtains.
- 35 I appreciate that the board clearly has an interest in meeting the needs of its members. Thanks for reaching out!
- 36 I transferred membership from MD to MN and wonder why you do not have events in Rochester.
- 37 I enjoy the various publications and the opportunity to attend when able to get to the Cities.
- 38 When I attend the events, I usually have a good time. The people are friendly and usually pretty funny.
- 39 I'm glad that the group is not as political as in other regions of the country.
- 40 I have not participated in Mensa activities in recent years, mostly because I am employed full-time and have other responsibilities on my plate. However, I like the concept of Mensa, so I keep paying my dues. Sometime in the next few years I am going to shift to part-time employment or retire completely. Perhaps then I will resume participating in some Mensa activities.
- 41 The folks who volunteer for office and who write monthly articles are to be greatly commended!! You rock!
- 42 can't think of anything
- 43 Not at this time
- 44 I wish I could be more active!
- 45 I enjoy those activities that I do attend and find most folks very interesting and open-minded.
- 46 As a member who lives in greater Minnesota attendance at most functions is difficult for me. The local meetin in my area happens at 1pm on Saturdays, which, as the parent of young children, is a very inconvenient time. If the meetings were in the evenings, it would make participation much easier.
- 47 I am extremely proud to be a member of Mensa, and I probably will get involved when we come back to MN in the spring.
- 48 The few events I've attended I've felt very welcome. And I appreciate hearing about everything. I'll come when I can!
- 49 How about a karaoke SIG? Or a chick flick SIG? Or a jigsaw puzzle SIG?
- 50 I wish that the MN Mensagenda was not so one-sided in its views...left-leaning. The article that is most like this is "The Third Side," which, ironically is supposed to mean the objective viewpoint facilitating two differing viewpoints within a conflict resolution. Just recently, it had an article on evolution which was "over-the-top" one-sided. This isn't the only article. I wish that Mensagenda would make sure that articles had both sides to any topic and let the Mensa audience make up their own minds...and even be offered the chance to debate the topics in the next issue. Thank you. :)
- 51 I want to be active, but I might have to wait until I leave college to become more active... oh well
- 52 I've met some wonderful people and I really enjoy the activities in which I participate.
- 53 There needs to be more female members

54 Not really, pleasant folks when I've been around them. I do go to the Irish music evenings on occasion.

55 I know the organizers are volunteers and I appreciate your time and effort.

56 I think the current leadership is doing excellent work. They are definitely creating opportunities for fun. The membership en-mass is a bit morose however.

Also, too much talking. Talk, talk, talk and very little doing. If we could engage our bodies as well as our minds the energy level of the events might begin to rise.

57 Great group of people.

58 None

59 I'm proud to be a member

60 I'm glad I found MN Mensa! I wish I had joined sooner, but my first impression on the phone kept me away for a number of years. Once I got past the gatekeeper, I've enjoyed MN Mensa.

I wish there were a few more SIGS or events in the northern suburbs. Maybe RG can be north, since FF is south?

61 Since I am here no longer than two month, and I have attended the First Friday once. I feel very good in this event .

62 No

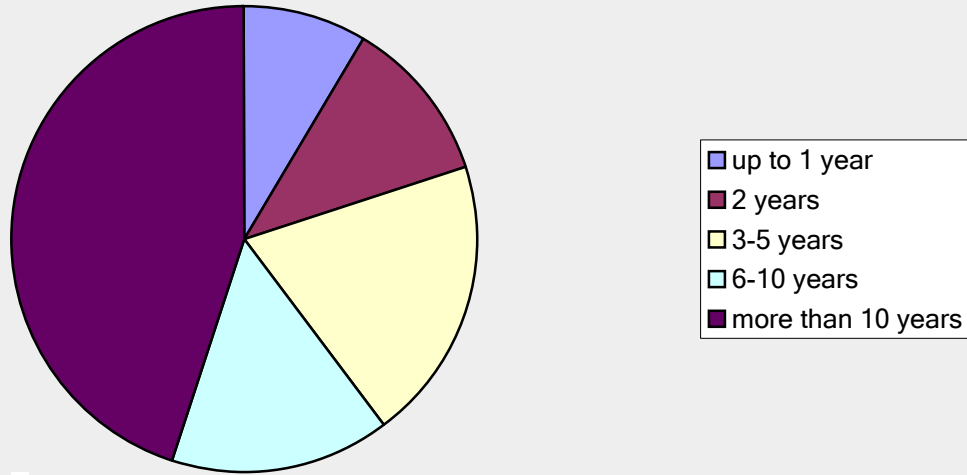
63 Not much. We tried to submit a request for a paper copy of Mensagenda but that isn't happening so I think this will probably be our last contact with you. We're sad that the relationship is ending.

MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

How long have you been a member of Mensa?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
up to 1 year	8.7%	13
2 years	11.4%	17
3-5 years	19.5%	29
6-10 years	15.4%	23
more than 10 years	45.0%	67
<i>answered question</i>		149
<i>skipped question</i>		4

How long have you been a member of Mensa?

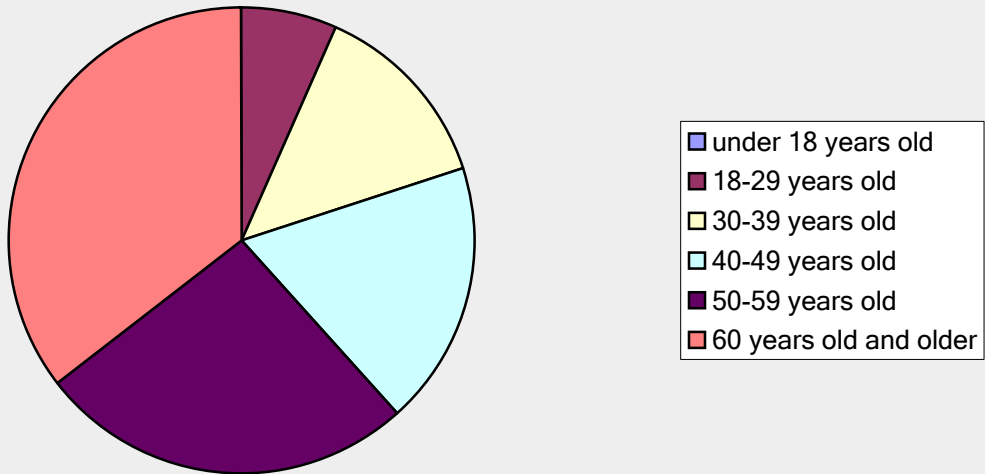


MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

How old are you?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
under 18 years old	0.0%	0
18-29 years old	6.7%	10
30-39 years old	13.4%	20
40-49 years old	18.1%	27
50-59 years old	26.2%	39
60 years old and older	35.6%	53
<i>answered question</i>		149
<i>skipped question</i>		4

How old are you?



MN Mensa Member Involvement Survey

Where do you live? Please answer by entering your 5-digit zip code.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Minneapolis	29.61%	45
St Paul	10.53%	16
Outer East Suburbs	23.68%	36
Outer East Suburbs	13.82%	21
Greater Minnesota	21.05%	32
Other	1.32%	2
<i>answered question</i>		152
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Home Zip Areas - Survey

