

**Therese Moodie**-**Bloom**

**Candidate for International Chairman**

**Biography**

Strong musicalandphilosophicalchildhoodinfluences. Degree in Politics andPhilosophy. Widely-travelled, residingandworking on severalcontinentsas a musician, and English teacher. Fiveyears in theMiddle East, employedbythe Imperial Iranian Air Force andthe British Council.

Writes a weeklycolumnfor*The Australian*andprovidesentertainingandintellectual material forcharityfundraisersandvariousmagazines.

**MENSA International Experience:**

Member of the IBD for 12 years

* (sixyearsas national chairandsix on ExComm);

Director of Administration (1999-2001, 2013 – 2017), responsible for:

* all international Mensa publications
* International Office
* supervisionof MIL web boardandsite,
* administrationofmensalists;
* supervisionofseveralcommittees
* supervisionofthe Constitutional Review Officer,
* distributionofagendas, minutes

International appointments have included:

* International Secretary*ex officio*
* Editor, Mensa International Journal
* World Events Coordinator, Mensa’s Diamond Jubilee
* Member Awards Committee
* Member Constitutional Review Committee
* Member Licensing Board
* Puzzles Editor, MWJ

**Campaign Statement**

I am well-experienced for the office of Chairman and more than capable of fulfilling all the normal duties of the office with dedication and wisdom. It is 23 years since I first joined the IBD and I have filled many national and international positions since then. There is only one role left for me now. I hope you will help me reach that role, and continue to serve Mensa in the most beneficial way I can. I still have much to offer.

I have been a member of both national and international boards, have edited both national and Mensa International publications, and performed the duties of most other offices and roles. The most recent of these has been two terms as Mensa International’s Director of Administration. By the time the new Mensa term begins in mid-2017, I will have completed 12 years as a member of the International Board of Directors and six years in all as Director of Administration;

As chairman, I would be looking at adopting a more cohesive development plan, offering more sustained support for fledgling Mensas; enabling a smooth transition to the new website (currently underway); facilitating more member-to-member forums and enhancing of social media opportunities.

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

An important aspect of the role is to guide Mensa International through rapidly-changing social environments; to maximize the benefits of this global transition, while keeping Mensa’s integrity and values intact. Whilst we need empirical measures of our success, we also need to nurture the immeasurable but essential qualities of our society – Variety, Diversity, Friendship, Family, Community, Curiosity, Innovations, Creativity and Inspiration. Members need to know that they can still rely on Mensa to provide and encourage these aspects of our organisation in a rapidly-shifting outer world.

Another global change appears to be an increasingly widespread lack of transparency in governance in general. It is vital for the health of our society to establish and maintain complete transparency.Mensa is the perfect example of the whole being greater than its individual parts. We must not allow our core values to diminish.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

At the most basic level, I would like to ‘give back’ to Mensa. Election to this position would enable me to do so with maximum effect. I have garnered a wealth of experience through the volunteer positions I have held which could also be used to maximum benefit.

I have lived and worked in several different cultures, as well as attending Mensa meetings in dozens of countries. I have attended the unique and wonderful Mensa@Cambridge, and Asia Mensa Gatherings in Bali, Japan and China. I have been privileged to attend regular local Mensa meetings in Scotland, England, France and Germany, Prague, Milan, Serbia, and Spain, as well as over 20 IBD meetings. Each country has something different to offer, each showing a unique aspect of Mensa.

The challenge is maintaining and expanding a stable and cohesive international entity whilst preserving the individual flavours of the participating countries.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

Our rapidly-changing world. Whilst this brings technological wonders and hitherto undreamt-of ease of communication, those very benefits facilitate widespread changes. We need to be able to remain apolitical in the face of wide shifts in power, yet allow our members to express their own ideas, thoughts and solutions: a delicate balance. I

believe I have accumulated the wisdom to help Mensa tread this fine line. A tangential but global result of the current unprecedented mass of media outlets is the proliferation of the circulation of misinformation – another reason it is vital for Mensa International to have complete transparency of governance.

Improved relationships between all members of national Mensas, and International Mensa. We are all integral and essential parts of the whole.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

* A smooth transition to MI’s much-anticipated enhanced website and an increasing cyberspace presence;
* Increased member-to-member interaction;
* Enhancement of Mensa-to-Mensa communications;
* More involvement of everyday Mensans in International matters;
* Increased transparency;
* An extension of MIL’s facilitatory role to intensify international cohesion, including:
  + Expansion of the central website library of administrative guidelines, templates, blueprints (or ‘road maps’) for all aspects of local and national administration, compiled by Mensans worldwide. This would relieve local leaders of the more cumbersome aspects of administration, leaving them freer to concentrate on local member benefits, enriching individual experiences of Mensa. A number of countries are already devising and making resources available for this purpose.
* A more public face for Mensa International with increased presence around the globe.

Overall, I hope to help bring Victor Serebriakov’s golden vision of Mensa International as a ‘global village’ a step closer to fruition



**BjörnLiljeqvuist**

**Candidate for International Chairman**

**Biography**

MIL Director of Development, 2013-2017

MIL Director of Smaller National Mensas, 2011-2013

Chairman, Mensa Sweden, 2007-2011

Born in 1975, Mensa member since 1991. Various local and national volunteer positions since then.

As the Swedish chairman, I was the architect of several reforms of administration and structurethatenabledgrowth in members and activities. Sweden now has the highestpercentageofMensamembers in the world.

As an international elected officer, I haveengagedactively in the creationof new national groups, and introducedmanyimprovements to MIL policy. All listed on my website.

Professionally, I lecture and write about academic learningstrategies. I have a MSEE degree and a background in embeddedsystems engineering. I am multilingual with a passion for knowledge and human culture. I live in Stockholm withfellowmensan Camilla.

More information and videos at:[www.bjornliljeqvist.com](http://www.bjornliljeqvist.com).

**Campaign Statement**

Mensa needs leadership.

We are not well organized at the international level and suffer from a lack of funding and coordination. Too many good member initiatives get stuck and instead of evolving we stagnate.

Mensa International must remain relevant to both new and current members. There is a role for Mensa in the world, a reminder of the value of intelligence and the nature of giftedness; a place to gather, to understand and be understood.

As Mensa spreads to new lands, geographical and virtual, we become increasingly global and culturally diverse. Mensa is also maturing as a society, becoming more than just a social club.

However, to grow means to change, and that does not happen by itself. We will to have to work hard to become a bigger and more professionally run organisation. Seventy years from the start, Mensa is still young, with bright potential. And the best is yet to come!

Final note: I look forward to working collegially with anyone who is elected. Allow me all the same to put in a good word for Tomas Blumenstein, Nick Sanford and Isabella Holz.

Thank you.

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

The chairman is responsible, period. Out of many opinions, wills and ideas, the chairman has to make it all take form as action. Or simpler: To get things done and make everything run smoothly.

Everyone may individually do a good job in any case, but the right leadership can enable a dynamic, harmonious whole.

Mensa is based on a grand idea: That human intelligence is an identifiable something, that should be encouraged and fostered, in children and adults alike, everywhere. This high principle has to be in balance with the practicalities of managing an organization. The chairman has a key role there.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

Three words: Vision, dedication and competence.

**Vision**: Imagine what Mensa International could become. To me, Mensa is still the aspiration I saw when I joined in 1991. Sure, we have fun – but to have meaning, there has to be something more. Mensa makes a difference to a lot of people. To live up to our potential, not merely as gifted individuals but also as a collective society, Mensa must evolve.

**Dedication**: I have a high work capacity. I took Mensa development to another level, with more direct engagement in several countries, policy updates and strategic planning. I will do no less as chairman.

**Competence**: I know how to do the job. My experience from Sweden, from the Executive Committee and the International Board of Directors allows me to focus on the important things from the start.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

Three things: Administration, Virtualization and Internationalization.

**Administration:** Mensa International is understaffed and underfunded. Increasing revenue is crucial – and so is ramping up our cadre of international volunteers. We are currently underutilizing the potential of the Mensa brand. Exploring suitable commercial collaborations is high priority.

**Virtualization**: The next generation of Mensans has already been here for a while. Yet Mensa is lagging behind on harnessing the power of crowd sourcing, online services, social media, virtual meetings and so on. A diverse, learning organisation in this day and age needs more than just another website.

**Internationalization**: The international part of Mensa is more important now, compared to just ten years ago. Our policies and services should reflect this. Also, the "remaining" countries are culturally and institutionally more distant from Mensa's western origins. Our strategies and policies must take that into account as well.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

* A strategic plan towards the year 2030, addressing the three issues above: administration, virtualization and internationalization.
* A more result-oriented way of doing business. Less procrastination.
* At least one new major commercial collaboration.
* More efficient IBD meetings. They are a big expense, so we should extract more value from them.
* At least a doubling of the number of international volunteer applications, and correspondingly more volunteers, concreteproblems to solve.
* Increased awareness of Mensa's role in the world. Mensa shall express no opinions – but that does not mean we stand for nothing. See my campaign statement above and various texts I wrote for the Mensa World Journal (available on bjornliljeqvist.com).
* An Executive Committee that works together as a team



**BibianaBalanyi**

**Candidate for International Chairman**

**Biography**

**Contribution to Mensa**

– Joined Mensa Hungary in 1994

– An active volunteer from the very beginning

– Was elected chair in 1997, served 9 years in total

– Assisted in building up an active Full National Mensa

– Was elected International Director of Development for 2 terms

– Assisted many countries in their development efforts; achievements: 13 country status upgrades in total (including three new groups)

– Successfully initiated an amendment to the MIL Constitution

– Was elected International Chair

– Attended 16 IBD meetings

– Conceived and manages new international website project; initiated corporate identity; improved international communication and Facebook presence

**Personal**

I am 44 years old and work as free-lance translator. I translate business documents and books, providing insight into several cultures. I speak English, German, Dutch, some Spanish, French.

**Major interests**

I spend most of my free time with Mensa. Otherwise, I read, dance, play badminton, take photographs, collect antique books, nurture plumerias and orchids.

**Campaign Statement**

**Why me?**

– I understand Mensa governance on local and international level

– I have rich experiences in development, communication, publicity, leadership

– I am strong in understanding different cultures

– I speak languages

– I am empathic, ready to listen, can co-operate

– I am insightful, giving rational conclusions

– I defy the stereotype

– I still have a sense of humour

– I have a heart for Mensa

**What plans?**

– Completing and fine-tuning the new international website functioning as information hub

– Further increasing the visibility of international level

– Positive and encouraging atmosphere

– Understanding locality while seeing the global character of Mensa

– Increased co-operation among countries while understanding differences

– Smooth exchange of knowledge, experiences

– Mensa living and growing

– A vivid international Mensa that is not an abstract concept for members and countries

– Dynamic approach

– Being available for consultation

There was considerable progress in several fields: corporate identity (visual), new website project, Facebook pages, communication officer, e-voting.

I would like to continue and complete the work.

It would be an honour if you would allow me to serve you further – and to deserve your trust.

**Why to vote?**

– Mensa is… us!

– It is you to shape it!

**Be part of the international community!**

**Visit**[www.mensa.hu/balanyi](http://www.mensa.hu/balanyi)**for more!**

**Floreat Mensa!**

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

I maintain:

– The chairman is the major representative of our colourful organisation with several different countries and cultures under its umbrella. The chairman should be the face of Mensa to the outside world and be a good mother/father internally. To be able to do so, he/she must be open, think out of the box and have an understanding for cultural differences.

– The chairman should provide an encouraging atmosphere during the meetings and in everyday Mensa life to enhance inclusion and participation of countries and people; should overcome language barriers and encourage communication; facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices; help to overcome problems – so that every individual and every country feels to be an integrate part of the international community.

– The chairman must also ensure good governance. Through working in concert with other officers he/she should contribute to the overall objective of maintaining growth and prosperity of Mensa worldwide.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

I have received so much from Mensa – I want to give back.

– What qualifies me for this role is my profound knowledge of Mensa governance both on local and international level. I served as International Chair (2 years), Director Development (4 years) and national chair (9 years); I participated in sixteen IBD meetings. Therefore, I have rich international experiences, I am able to think globally – but I still have an eye for local aspects.

– Being a translator, I speak foreign languages; I worked and lived abroad in a multi-cultural environment. I had a chance to meet and understand different cultures. Thus, I would be able to represent Mensa with its rich cultural diversity.

– I am practice oriented; capable of listening to others; ready to make decisions based on information, analysis and consultation. I have excellent emphatic abilities both in terms of people and culture – and a sense of humour ☺.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

– Visibility inside and outside. Mensa groups and members should better see the international level and experience the feeling of being part of a greater community. Mensa should be better visible for the outside world to be able to attract attention to its mission stipulated in the Constitution.

– Increased co-operation and coherence should be created among the groups. Better sharing of information, exchange of knowledge, best practices and experiences are pivotal. This should be facilitated by all possible tools – international level should take the lead by operating a knowledge centre.

– Overall growth in terms of bringing Mensa to new countries and increased membership in existing groups. Healthy operating and active Mensa groups mean healthy operating and active international Mensa.

– Attracting young people; winning new people for Mensa who will become future volunteers.

– Continued effort in making rules better understandable for the countries. Assistance and understanding.

* Working further on the above.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

Essentially, to complete my new international website project and continue working on what I have started.

In particular:

– Visibility of the international level further enhanced

– More intense international communication

– Encouraging atmosphere at IBDs, where opinions are heard

– Less talk, more action: well operating ExComm making well-founded decisions in a timely manner

– Growth both by the number of countries and membership in countries

– Genuine assistance for countries

– Increased cohesion and co-operation among the countries while understanding and respecting differences. Better exchange of knowledge, experiences, documents, ideas with a view to develop.

– Understanding for locality – countries, culture, people – while keeping the global character in mind.

– A multi-faceted, colourful international Mensa embracing everyone that is not an abstract concept for the members and the countries but a living and active construct, with everybody feeling part of it, being involved and having ownership of it.

– Corporate identity

– Progress towards ‘higher goals’ set by Constitution.



**Isabella Holz**

**Candidate for**

**International Director - Administration**

**Biography**

Since I joined Mensa I have volunteered for various parts of our society - from the smallest groups to Full National Mensas and international committees. At present I support the International Director Development in his efforts to establish new Mensa groups and Mensa Switzerland’s marketing team.

In 2010 I initiated International Intelligence Day - involving up to 27 countries in subsequent years. As a member of Mensa Germany’s board I have attended two IBD meetings as a delegate. Previously I assisted the board in the endeavour to reach 10,000 members, responsible for marketing and PR. In Munich, I served as proctor and organized various local events (e.g. Intelligence Day).

Professionally, I have a degree in communication science focusing on marketing and economics. An experienced marketing manager and digital native, I am adept at exploiting the potential of digitalization and social media - including onboarding employees, project and change management.

**Campaign statement**

In our fast-changing world, Mensa faces various challenges and opportunities. We have the mission to identify and exploit the potential offered by technology and the bright minds of our membership. It takes a genuine ExComm team to deliver added value, acting both as enabler helping national Mensas to grow and as driver of innovation advancing our society. To tap the full potential of these roles I want to improve three pillars: people, processes and platforms.

We need to engage more volunteers, offering work packages with different scopes and time budgets. Agility and efficiency of processes should be increased to deliver better services. Collaboration platforms can enhance the density and quality of interactions between members, international and national volunteers in order to

* empower people to engage and innovate
* improve knowledge transfer
* prevent reinventions of the wheel.

I also call for a stronger culture of strategic planning and results orientation. Implementation is a key priority for my work - I want to make things happen.

I look forward to working with anyone who is elected, but want to put in a good word for BjörnLiljeqvist,Tomáš Blumenstein, Nick Sanford (and Mark Dettinger - position elected separately by SNM chairs).

Details: [www.isabellaholz.de](http://www.isabellaholz.de)

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

The Director of Administration (DoA) should establish genuine dialogue-oriented communication while keeping processes lean and flexible to provide added value to both Mensa members and volunteers. A culture of motivation and appreciation is important to recruit and retain volunteers and employees.

Communication in a world of social media and digital technologies is much more than just putting the Mensa World Journal online or introducing a Facebook group. Top-down communication and digital services have no impact when people are not involved.

Thus communication is a strategic issue for the DoA – to be understood as a constant cycle of conversation, exchange and feedback motivating and engaging people. Coping with both internal/external developments and demands requires agile communication and lean management.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

I have always enjoyed working in international teams – as a volunteer and in my professional life. In this election I have the chance to be part of a great team with joint goals to advance Mensa. I have a hands-on mentality, working with the resources and budget at hand to achieve our goals. When the perfect solution is 6 years and 3 committees away I will choose and work with the 70% solution that brings us forward.

I am familiar with the pivotal role communication plays for development, innovation, motivation and involvement. My work for Mensa International, Germany and Switzerland gives me a deep understanding of similarities and differences among Mensa Groups.

As a project leader for website relaunches, product innovation and content marketing I am experienced in process optimization, Scrum and design thinking. As a manager I have been responsible for multidisciplinary teams and budgets of various sizes.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

Mensa faces both external and internal challenges we should address.

**Volunteers:** The recruiting, management and recognition of volunteers should be improved to increase our manpower and its efficiency.

**Strategy**: Mensa International has to define its positioning both in our organization and the world: What is our vision for Mensa 2030? Strategy development and implementation should include a comprehensive commitment (goals, action plans and resources) and results orientation.

**Development**: Establishing Mensa in countries with cultural backgrounds far from western traditions requires new strategic approaches.

**Finance:** We should diversify our revenue streams, raising cash from new sources like grants from governments or sponsorship from corporations. We have to create new concepts to fund projects, for example co-financing or joint ventures with national groups (giving them a greater say in where to invest their money).

**Communication**: Improved communication (including tools and technology) are key for increasing membership benefits, brand building and knowledge transfer.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

If elected, I will team up with the other officers and the Executive Director to

* develop a **communication strategy** to improve international exchange among members and strengthen our brand image (internal/external), subsequently exploiting it to generate higher revenues and new membership benefits
* lay the foundation for **crowd innovation** (e.g. joint venture financing, innovation market)
* improve **knowledge transfer** with online workshops, a mentoring program, best practice reports etc.
* implement **collaboration tools** for international and national volunteers, amongst others a content database (e.g. for best practice, marketing, checklists) and a directory to link volunteers on all organizational levels
* increase the number of **volunteers**, establish a structure with more scalable jobs/work packages, improve interaction and appreciation
* **optimize processes** and increase agility
* create a **dashboard** for my/our projects where members can track their progress and find volunteer opportunities
* conduct **regularsurveys** to assess the needs of national Mensas/volunteers/members and their satisfaction with our work.



**Kymberley Wilson**

**Candidate for**

**International Director - Administration**

**Biography**

Born in Adelaide, Australia in 1952. Divorced with 3 adult children.

## Education

BSc (Science)

BSc Honours (Mathematical Sciences)

PhD (Applied Mathematics)

## Work History:

**Tutor, mathematics and statistics:**

**Well site Petroleum Engineer:**

Shell International

**Petrophysicist and Software developer:**

Shell International

Earth Energy Resources Consultants

Bond Petroleum.

**Owner, Software developer :**

Graphics and Technical Systems

Drilling Inventory and Procurement Systems.

## Mensa History

### Australian Mensa

Member since 2002

**Board/Executive positions**

Membership secretary 2007-2009

Chairman and NatRep to IBD 2011-2017

**Other positions**

IT coordinator,

Annual Gathering organiser

### Mensa International

IBD member since 2011.

Web Board - founding and current member

User support team for mensa.org website

## Other

**(Field) Hockey**

Assistant secretary, Registrar, team manager and umpire coordinator.

Western Australian State representative (2000-2009) and Australian representative (2008)

**Golf**

Current Ladies president and board member at a private club.

Single figure handicap.

**Other social organisations**

Secretary, editor, chairman and treasurer.

**Campaign Statement**

I am an outgoing, friendly person who enjoys the company and friendship available to Mensa members throughout the world.

Like many organisations, Mensa is being challenged by society to keep up with the sweeping changes in the way people connect and what they expect from an organisation. The DofA must be technically capable and have a track record of being able to deliver solutions.

We also live in a world where people call lawyers too easily and as an organisation we need to make sure our governance and systems are transparent and sturdy. The DofA must have a good grip on such matters.

Finally, our organisation is multi-cultural, diverse and varied in the skill and development of each National group. The DofA must be able to work effectively with people from all areas of the world.

I have the temperament, capabilities and experience to address these three challenges. My skills in IT, experience in governance and track record of getting things done means I can meet or exceed these expectations.

If I haven't already met you at a gathering or helped you with your mensa.org problems, please ask your chairman about my suitability for the role.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/249185632170766/

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

The bread and butter of the MIL Director of Administration'sdutiesare the oversight of the International Office, Publications, Direct International Members and volunteercommittees and individuals. The key to thisrole is to proactivelyseekways to improve the day-to-day operation and provide rapid responses and enhancedfunctionality. If these jobs are done well, nobodynotices, but if things go wrong it can have a bigimpact. The current and previousDofAs have done a great job in thesebehind-the-scenes areas and I intend to continuetheirwork.

As part of ExComm, the DofA must proactivelycontribute to policy discussions, workco-operatively with the otherdirectors and ensure the smoothrunning of meetings with agendas, minutes and otherdocuments.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

During my term as Australian Chair, I have put in place effective systems that take the organisation forward and set it up for future growth. I have overseen two migrations of our website, a change to our supervised test, introduction of on-line voting and made significant improvements in our governance, including development of ASIEs, numerous policies and a strategic plan. Membership has grown over 50%.

At IBD meetings, I have made numerous presentations and been proactive in discussions. I have also been involved with Mensa International's IT systems as a member of the Web Board and the user support team for the website.

As the Director of Administration, I will continue to contribute to Mensa, where my experience and skill set can be used to move forward the updating of Mensa International's on-line presence and the consolidation of the work of my predecessors on governance and processes.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

Mensa is challenged as a global organisation thatneeds to move with the times. We must keepimprovingour online presence and exploit the global opportiunities of technology. My experience with IT generally, and AustralianMensa's migration of its website specifically, willbeuseful in thisarea.

Internally, weneed to consolidate and shareourexperience. Mensa is full of giftedpeople with a vast array of experience and expertise, doingusefulthings in their part of the world. Yet time and again, weseeindividualcountriesdevloping new policies, programs and systems from scratch, ratherthanbuilding on thatcombinedwisdom.

The Director of Adminsitrationcanfacilitate the exchange of bothideas, and more tangibleaspects of buildngour organisation, between the different national Mensagroups. Wealsoneed to encourageindividualmembers in the development of leadership and otherpersonalskills.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

An updating and improvement of communications between Mensa and the public and between Mensa organisations in different countries. In particular, this will involve improving our on-line presence and systems.

An active contribution to the policies and decisions of ExComm and the IBD, and the promotion of harmony and cooperation within those bodies.

Encouragement and assistance for newer and smaller Mensas to get their own systems and processes in place and up to date.

Improve the transparency in Mensa International and ExComm by making our policies, procedures and decisions available to all members, in a way that is easy for them to access, understand and implement for themselves.

Support the Executive Director and Director of Development in their efforts to expand Mensa into new countries.

Develop and set in place a system for National Mensa teams to share ideas and function as a global network rather than in isolation.

****

**Dan Burg**

**Candidate for**

**InternationalDirector - Administration**

**Biography**

Mensa has been a large part of my life since 1981. I was national chair of American Mensa for two years, a national board member for fourteen years, and have been a local group officer for 30+ years. Most importantly for me, I met my wife in Mensa, and we have two children we think the world of. Mensa has been good to me. I, in turn, have tried to give back to Mensa.

Internationally, I have represented American Mensa on the International Board of Directors thirteen times. I was also on the IBD’s Executive Committee for the two years that I was AML chair (2013-2014). I have chaired the international Governance Papers Advisory Committee continuously since 2010, when it was founded; have served as Constitution Review Officer continuously since 2015; and have served on the International Name and Logo Committee continuously since 2002, including as its chair in 2008-2010.

**Campaign Statement**

I want to help more people around the world find and belong to Mensa while at the same time finding ways to better serve the members we already have. Being the International Director-Administration, with its portfolio of communications and business office and appointee oversight, is a good fit for me to help make that happen. I am excited about being able to concentrate on the international aspects of Mensa to a much greater extent than in the past.

My style is integrity and quiet competence. I provide historical perspective and advice. I use my professional training in law and business to address issues as they come up. I try to treat every person, and every issue, fairly. I try to get everyone involved (just ask my committee members). I quietly pick up tasks that others have dropped. I follow up with people and follow through with responsibilities.

Please vote for me. If elected, I pledge to use my broad and deep experience for the advancement of Mensa worldwide. Thank you.

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

There are three major aspects to being International Director-Administration: duties assigned specifically to the Director-Administration, being part of the International Board of Directors, and being part of the IBD’s Executive Committee. I see all three aspects as being equally important. The Director-Administration is responsible for supervising the publications of Mensa International, including the international web site and the Mensa World Journal; supervising the international business office; and working with various appointees and committees, among other things. The IBD sets policy, and discusses and clarifies existing policies, via one face-to-face meeting per year and electronic discussions between meetings. The IBD ExComm carries out the IBD’s policies on a day-to-day basis between meetings of the full IBD, via one additional face-to-face meeting per year, several conference calls per year, and frequent electronic discussions. Each of these aspects has a different focus, and I see all three as being equally important.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

More so than for many of the international officer positions, the Director-Administration has to be comfortable with processes and details. These are areas I definitely have a lot of experience in and comfort with, as shown by my service leading the Governance Papers Advisory Committee and the Name and Logo Committee and as Constitution Review Officer.

I also think I have a lot to bring to this role in terms of policy-making. My thirteen years on the IBD and my two years on its Executive Committee have given me a good sense of what we have done; what has worked and why, and what has not worked and why it hasn’t. The first step toward a bright future is not repeating the mistakes of the past, but rather using past experiences to inform decisions made toward the future of our society. I want to help make that future.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing international Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

Mensa International’s business office is located in England. Many aspects of Mensa’s business affairs might be affected by the UK leaving the European Union following the Brexit vote, including currency exchange rates for Mensa’s British pound, American dollar, and Euro accounts; transnational expenses; and, potentially, travel expenses and procedures, among other things. The Director-Administration, as supervisor of the business office, will be involved with having to deal with all of that.

Another important issue facing international Mensa is growth. Mensa is spreading to more and more countries, which is good; but some of the countries in which we are trying to develop national Mensas might not have a history of Western-style democratic processes, and that is something we have to be aware of. Expanding the worldwide Mensa family is worth doing, but it has to be done with sensitivity and understanding by all while still maintaining Mensa’s round-table values.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

Planning for updating Mensa International’s web site has already started. As the Director-Administration has supervisory responsibility for the web site, I would work to implement an updated site with our volunteers who put our data on the web site and with the professional firm that has been hired to do the technical work. Our current web site was fine for when it was created, but that was done several years ago, and an updated site is definitely needed.

Other projects would be smaller than that, but there are a lot of them. The Director-Administration is in charge of the recruitment process for all international appointees; reviewing each issue of each international publication before it comes out; and taking part in the many issues that come before the ExComm on a daily basis. I have the organizational skills to keep all those diverse areas moving forward while not leaving anything behind.



**Rudi Challupner**

**Candidate for**

**InternationalDirector - Development**

**Biography**

Born in Vienna (Austria) 1954, but living in the country-side, near beautiful lakes, forests and mountains. Married to Doris, also a member of Mensa. Mother tongue German, fluent in English, half fluent in French and Spanish.

Education: primary and secondary school, commercial high school, technical college, studies of economy and computer science, degree in electrical engineering, MBA in general management from the University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

Professionally I work in a Management position in Austria. Former jobs included Chief Financial Officer, Project Manager for different challenges (technical, commercial, business process re-engineering), Head of Accounting and Controlling, IT-Manager, ...

For my work I travel internationally, lived in Scotland, Mexico, France, Italy, Canada, among others. My main hobby (besides Mensa) is travelling, in total I visited more than 100 countries. This means I know a lot of cultures and life styles which is very useful for an international position within Mensa.

**Campaign Statement**

I joined Mensa Austria 1980, where I had more or less all positions: Local Secretary, Regional Secretary, Proctor, SIG-officer, SIGHT, editor, organizer gatherings, co-ordinator YoungMensa, Treasurer, Director Administration andChairman.

As Chairman, but also before, I attended most IBDs and many other international gatherings. I supported actively National Mensas, especially in Eastern Europe, and served in the Election Committee.

In my first term as International Treasurer there was a difficult financial situation. These days are gone, as my second term could prove. Both cost saving and the more efficient use of funds brought us back into solid structures. From the four budgets I presented to the IBD, the last three were accepted unanimously! Something that never happened before! This shows that I am able to deliver high quality work.

One of my targets is to spread out the idea of Mensa into new countries, the other target is to support even big National Mensas in their ambition to grow. I laid down the financial basis – I would be happy if you would give me the opportunity to invest our additional money wisely into the development of Mensa.

For a greater Mensa and for more pleasure for all of us!

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

The most important aspect of Mensa itself is its attractiveness. Mensa includes high potentials of all kinds. This makes Mensa unique, this makes the contact between Mensans inimitable. The ideas can be exchanged in many ways: printed, electronically, in a variety of meetings.

This attractiveness of Mensa must be communicated and increased. How? Well, every newmembercontributes to it, makes Mensa more colourful, more interesting.

The Director of Development is in a key position to spread the awareness of Mensa and to form the worldwide basis for a positive development of Mensa. He has to provide his time and energy to make Mensa known in new countries and he also has to deepen the awareness of Mensa in countries with already developed National Mensas.

Development means to initiate and support the creation new National Mensas, but also to initiate and support campaigns to grow well established National Mensas.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

36 years on national and international level gave me a solid background and understanding of the different needs of all groups and individuals within Mensa.

When I wasresponsible for Mensa Austria, the situation was “challenging”. Since then and still we arefine and healthy. The situation was little similar when I was elected International Treasurer four years ago. Also these days of struggle are gone.

Due to the good financial basis we should intensify develop Mensa worldwide. We should use the funds available to support the growth of Mensa, in countries with no Mensa groups, with small National Mensas and with big National Mensas as well.

In the past I managed projects within Mensa and in my job. These experiences permit successful work in the years to come. Furthermore – I changed from full to part time employment. So I can focus on Mensa activities on an extended timely basis.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

Growth is achieved every year. But Mensa should grow faster than at present. Now most efforts of Mensa International to reach growth focus on spreading out name and awareness of Mensa into new countries. This is important of course and should continue.

But we should not have this strategy only. Growth has a second main pillar. There are many well established National Mensas, with membership between 500 and 50.000, and little or no growth. This we should tackle too. Mensa International should work closely with responsible officers and support National Mensas in their endeavour for growth.

The International Board should provide financial assistance, install best practices and regular exchange of ideas, electronically and face to face,

always in close co-operation with a National Mensa. They usually know quite well where and how to develop. Mensa International therefore should not impose any activity, its role is to support comprehensively.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

Before I was elected Treasurer four years ago finances were quite bad. They are solid now, savings and restructuring released funds – now they have to be used wisely.

In the past development almost exclusively focused on the creation of Mensas in new countries. But there is a development perspective in countries with existing National Mensas too. I would like to continue spreading the ideas of Mensa into new regions, but also to cooperate with National Mensas, support initiatives, contribute to their further development.

The Director of Development must be familiar with a variety of cultures and ways of life. I promise to use all my experiences and my increased timely possibilities to develop Mensa with all its brilliance into a good future.

Mensa not only should be interesting for Non-Mensans to join, but also for actual and past members. This is the target I would like to work for.



**KarineNzeutem**

**Candidate for**

**InternationalDirector - Development**

**Biography**

Born and raised in Paris, my family roots are in Cameroon. Besides Paris, I have also lived and work in Douala (1 year), San Francisco (7 years), New-York (3 years) and London (1 year).

I am Mensa France former Vice-Chair (2014-2016) and have attended several international events from EMAGs to US AGs and IBDs.

As vice-chair, I focused on improving the international relations, which led to Mensa France having one of the highest participation rate in international elections and obtaining the organization of the 2017 IBD meeting. As an IBD Board member, I have worked actively on motions regarding communications for non-English speakers. I am the first black woman in history to become a member of the IBD.

Professionally, I am an independent business consultant in Financial Markets. I hold an Executive MBA degree from HEC Paris and Babson College (Boston, MA).

Contact *Karine for Director of Development* <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646442272324589/>

**Campaign Statement**

It is with great passion that I respectfully submit my modest candidacy to serve on the Board of Mensa International.

As a later entrant into the race, I have unfortunately missed the nomination window in some national Mensas including the US.

Over the years, I have been a dedicated and active IBD Board member and Mensa volunteer. As member of the ExComm I will focus on:

* nurturing collaborative relationships
* bringing effective project management processes so that members and volunteers experience genuine improvements.

If elected as DoD, I will initiate an exploration of the ways MIL may best meet the needs of isolated Mensans and contribute to the development of Mensa groups in underrepresented regions.

We need to raise more awareness of Mensa, we need to attract more members, we need to be represented in every country of the world, we need to provide services to members that make it worthwhile to be a member!

Most people who meet me say that I am very enthusiastic. I can’t help it (and it’s contagious!). Leading the development of the Mensa community is a beautiful challenge I would like to tackle. Please join me on this quest.

Floreat Mensa.

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

The most important role of the Director of Development (DoD) is to help and guide Mensa groups to be established and to later grow into FullNational Mensas.

Creating and promoting a Mensa group requires time and patience. The DoD must also be someone accustomed to communicate and work with people from different cultures. To do so, the DoD must be a true educator to act as a facilitator of learning.

I hone those skills throughout life as a project manager, public speaker, forum moderator, graphic design instructor and dance teacher.

Motivating and helping members to go through the creation process is the most important aspect of the role.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

The development of Mensa Groups is a topic that is close to my heart. There are still many countries in the world where Mensa has no presence. In my years as Mensa France vice-chair and Proxy in charge of International relations, I have received many requests from isolated Mensans and candidates wanting to develop Mensa in their country.

Because I have lived and worked in three continents I know how to help Mensa to fully embrace cultural diversity in order to grow.

I have assisted members from Algeria and Tunisia to help them promote their Mensa group. That experience gave me a good understanding of the challenges (cultural and financial) Mensans encounter while setting up a structure. I took great interest in that topic and in bringing diversity to Mensa.

Furthermore, I want to be the voice for the underrepresented minorities in Mensa.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

In the field of development, which is the focus of the DoD, I see many challenges:

* Many countries lack a standardized IQ test to enable them to grow rapidly
* International Special Interest Group lack visibility
* Direct International Members are too isolated and do not get enough benefits from their membership

If Mensa wants to grow in the next few years, it will become increasingly important to tackle those issue to increase member retention and to develop in new regions.

My role will be to raise awareness on those topics within the Executive committee so that we can work together in achieving growth.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

During my term, I would like to see growth of Mensa in regions such as Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

To do so, I will pursue the achievement of formation of new Mensa groups with the help of established national groups and Direct International Members (DIMs), coordinated by Mensa International.

I will establish best-practices documentation to help anyone who wishes to create a Mensa group in his or her country. I will make myself available for DIMs and make them feel welcome and part of the Mensan family by advocating for their needs.

Furthermore, International Special Interest Groups (iSIG) do not have the visibility they deserve. I will work in close relationship with the iSIG coordinator to help SIG owners promote their group on the international level via social media and the Mensa World Journal.



**Tomas Blumenstein**

**Candidate for**

**InternationalDirector - Development**

**Biography**

* living in Prostejov, Czech Republic;
* married, two children;
* graduated from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, working as a building designer (architect), currently focusing also on education – gifted children in particular;
* Mensa member since 1995, volunteer since 1998;
* former chairman of Mensa Czech Republic (2007–2015);
* International Director for Smaller National Mensas (2015–2017);
* member of Gifted Children expert group of the Ministry of Education;
* coordinator of the EMAG 2010 orgateam;
* organized several annual gatherings of Mensa CR (11×), as well as hundreds of other events – lectures, excursions, abroad trips;
* started the Logical Olympiad competition (2008), and was the main coordinator in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014;
* organized numerous conferences and seminars for teachers;
* participated in 8 EMAGs, American Mensa AG in Boston and in San Diego, 10 IBDs and one Asian Mensa Gathering.

**Campaign Statement**

My life is strongly connected with Mensa, especially with development of new projects and activities. Thanks to my long period in IBD, my work on national level and visits to many national Mensas I got a wide overview of good practices, strengths of NMs, and also of good leaders. I want to share my experience in new countries and support development of existing Mensas as well. I want to motivate and encourage volunteers in their activities, show them that every idea can be useful and that their help is appreciated. I will continue with connecting responsible volunteers on national level both on-line and face-to face. I will support the renewal of LEAP project, but under more efficient conditions. I will help NMs in their activities focused on Gifted Children.

Resume:

- sharing experience

- encouraging and motivating volunteers

- supporting Gifted Children programs of Mensa

I look forward to working with anyone who is elected, but want to put in a good word for BjörnLiljeqvist, Isabella Holz, Nick Sanford (and Mark Dettinger – position elected separately by SNM chairs). We share a common vision and complement each other's strengths. Together, we will make a powerful team.

Tomas Blumenstein   
tblumen@mensa.cz  
+420 603726030  
skype: tblumen

www.blumenstein.cz/DD

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular makes you qualified for it?**

I have served as a Mensa volunteer since 1998 on

many different positions including the chairman of Mensa Czech Republic (2007–2015) and International Director for Smaller National Mensas (2015–2017). I have always been focused on development of Mensa and on starting new projects. I am good at creating new structures and especially at encouraging volunteers to work on Mensa projects. I like to share my experience with members of growing National Mensas and to motivate them for Mensa activities.

**2. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

1. **Development of new national branches:**BjörnLiljeqvist, current DD, has started huge systematic development work with his team in many countries all over the world. It would be my pleasure to continue his work (especially in Kenya, South America, UAE and China), creating the tools for new national Mensas and teaching them how to successfully run Mensa in their countries.
2. **Development of existing National Mensas**: I would like to support the development by increasing the experience exchange, both by describing successful projects and increasing the amount of international communication among volunteers in general.

**3. What do you consider the most important issues Mensa is facing currently and will be facing during next few years?**

It is important to focus on NMs who need help with adapting to the new world of technologies and with attracting younger members, who have a big potential of becoming new volunteers.

We will also make more use of the international aspect of Mensa, and encourage members to organize and participate in international events as well as offer them on-line tools.

We should use the potential of members for creating a new IQ test.

We are often discussing Mensa contribution to society. There is large space in the area of gifted children identification, education, and support. We already have many interesting Mensa GC projects in National Mensas – let us spread them worldwide. This will also help to recruit new volunteers and keep them satisfied with their work.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

I would like to fulfil the project of creating a complete database of existing Mensa projects, experiences, tools, and skilled volunteers, which I already started as Networking of NationalMensas ([www.blumenstein.cz/DSNM](http://www.blumenstein.cz/DSNM)). This should serve as an inspiration (and sometimes as an instruction manual) for all the new and existing teams and their development. I would like to create a very open environment within our society, where every volunteer will feel that his work is welcome and appreciated.

And of course, I would like to support creation of new National Mensas and their growth, by combination of on-line support and present training sessions in new countries.



**Peter Fröhler**

**Candidate for**

**InternationalDirector - Development**

**Biography**

Peter Fröhler joined Mensa late in life after his retirement from the United Nations in 2007. Peter was member of the IEC 2010/2011 and he chaired the IEC 2012/2013. He was MPAC co-chair and since 2014 he chairs the Web Board. He also actively served on the 2015 E-voting committee. In Germany he is member of the Mensa Strategy Team. During his 30 years of service at the United Nations he gained invaluable work experience in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual international organization. He built very successful international teams, conceived and implemented complex global projects and excelled at solving problems.Peter holds a master's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. He is fluent in German, English and French and he has working knowledge of Spanish. He has always been committed to continuous learning and he considers his experience as a Mensa volunteer an invaluable asset.

Peter Fröhler wurde erst nach seiner Pensionierung bei den Vereinten Nationen 2007 Mensa Mitglied. Er war Mitglied im internationalen Wahlausschuss (IEC) 2010/2011 und Vorsitzender des IEC 2012/2013. Er war stellvertretender Vorsitzender vom Marketing andProduct Advisory Committee und er ist seit 2014 Vorsitzender des Web Boards. Er war auch aktives Mitglied des 2015 E-voting Komitees. Bei Mensa in Deutschland ist er Mitglied des Vereinsentwicklungsteams. Bei den Vereinten  Nationen hat er in seiner 30-jährigen Dienstzeit unschätzbare Arbeitserfahrungen in einer multikulturellen und mehrsprachigen internationalen Organisation gewonnen. Er hat sehr erfolgreiche internationale Teams zusammengestellt, komplexe globale Projekte entworfen und umgesetzt und sich durch effizientes Lösen von Problemen ausgezeichnet.Peter hat ein Diplom in Mathematik und Informatik. Er spricht fließend Deutsch, Englisch und Französisch, und er hat mittlere Spanischkenntnisse. Er ist überzeugt vom Konzept des lebenslangen Lernens und er betrachtet seine Erfahrungen als Aktiver in diversen Positionen bei Mensa als sehr wertvoll.

**Campaign Statement**

Mensa International (MI) can be taken to a much higher level by expanding the membership, increasing the number of Mensa countries and building an international network of Mensans.

I plan to continue the ongoing development work notably in China and India and I will support development efforts on all continents. Today we have established Mensas in only 46 countries. Therefore there is enormous potential for expansion.

MI is a volunteer-driven organization. Without the effective support of volunteers at all levels this organization would come to a complete standstill. I am strongly committed to support a working environment that caters for the needs of volunteers and values their work.

Increasing transparency regarding the activities of the IBD is a high priority. At the same time we need to ensure that the work is fun and enjoyable.

I am fully committed to constructively working with the other elected officers, the ExComm members and the Executive Director to form an effective governing body.

My praxis oriented approach, my capacity to listen to others and my extensive problem solving experience at the international level will make MI stronger and more attractive.

Mensa International (MI) kann durch signifikant wachsende Mitgliederzahlen, Erhöhung der Anzahl der Mensa Länder und den Aufbau eines internationalen Netzwerks von und für Mensaner auf eine viel höhere Ebene gehoben werden.Die laufenden Entwicklungsaktivitäten, besonders in China und Indien, plane ich fortzusetzen und die Entwicklungsbestrebungen auf allen Kontinenten zu unterstützen. Gegenwärtig existiert Mensa in nur 46 Ländern. Es gibt also ein gewaltiges Erweiterungspotential.

MI baut auf die Unterstützung durch ehrenamtliche Mitarbeiter. Ohne deren effektive Arbeit auf allen Ebenen würde der Verein untergehen. Ich habe die Absicht, ein Arbeitsumfeld zu schaffen, das die Bedürfnisse dieser Mitarbeiter erfüllt und ihre Leistungen würdigt.

Größere Transparenz der IBD Aktivitäten ist eine wichtige Priorität. Gleichzeitig müssen wir sicher stellen, dass die Arbeit Spaß macht und angenehm ist.

Ich bin bereit, mit den anderen gewählten Amtsinhabern, den ExComm Mitgliedern und dem Exekutiv Direktor konstruktiv zusammen zu arbeiten, um eine gut funktionierende Führungsmannschaft zu bilden.

Meine praxisorientierte Vorgehensweise, meine Fähigkeit, anderen zuzuhören und meine weitreichende Problemlösungserfahrung auf internationalem Niveau werden MI stärken und attraktiver machen.

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

Understanding the needs and challenges of emerging and provisional Mensas is key to provide successful guidance and support. Encouraging and actively supporting initiatives in new Mensa countries by providing guidelines and hands-on advice will also lead to sustainable progress. All of this can only be done in close cooperation with other board members and volunteers from national Mensas. The DoD will provide leadership and teambuilding while effectively managing our multi-cultural and multi-lingual environment. And in addition he must be a competent communicator with a strong capacity to listen to others. He must encourage and facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices. And he must ensure that the work of all volunteers is fun and enjoyable.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

I have been active at the international level of Mensa since I joined. I have successfully chaired various committees and actively participated in others. The knowledge and experience I gained during 30 years of service at the United Nations uniquely qualifies me for this role. I have a vision of taking this organization to a much higher level by expanding the membership, increasing the number of Mensa countries and strengthening the international network of Mensans. During my professional life I have been to over 100 countries and I have a global network of friends, colleagues and acquaintances. I am praxis oriented, I can listen to others and I have extensive experience of solving problems at the international level. I would like to put all of these resources at the service of Mensa International to make it stronger and even more attractive.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing Mensa International at the present time and in the next few years?**

Mensa International (MI) needs to prepare to face the following challenges:

* The world in which we live is rapidly changing and MI needs to adapt to new challenges arising from increasing membership and member countries. MI has to keep abreast of evolving technologies in particular as they affect communication channels. And it needs to ensure that the related changes turn MI into a stronger and more efficient organization.
* Electronic voting that is first being offered during this election needs to be further developed to permit a more active feedback mechanism from members worldwide on important issues.
* MI has to become more effective in providing global services for the benefit of all Mensans. In this context it has to deploy innovative efforts to build an efficiently performing global network of Mensans.
* MI has to look after its volunteers without whom the organization would come to a standstill.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

The following sets out a few key priority areas that I would tackle:

* I would aim at two new Mensa countries supporting the preparatory process and guiding them to become emerging Mensas.
* And I would like to assist two Mensa countries to succeed in their efforts to progress to the next higher level.
* Innovative communication methods: I plan to consider new and more interactive communication tools to strengthen global interaction with Mensans interested in supporting development efforts.
* Mensa is a volunteer-driven organization. Providing an environment conducive to the work of volunteers is of utmost importance.
* Management of change: Many of the ways our organization has been run can be enhanced or at least have to be reviewed for effectiveness. We need to have the courage to engage in new approaches.

**1. Was hältst du für den wichtigsten Aspekt in dem Amt für das du antrittst?**

Kenntnis und Verständnis der Bedürfnisse und Herausforderungen von Emerging und Provisional Mensas ist Grundvoraussetzung um erfolgreiche Anleitung und Unterstützung zu leisten. Ermunterung und aktive Unterstützung von Initiativen in neuen Mensa Ländern durch die Bereitstellung von Leitlinien und tatkräftiger Beratung wird auch zu nachhaltigem Fortschritt führen. Das geht jedoch alles nur in enger Zusammenarbeit mit den anderen Direktoren und ehrenamtlichen Aktiven aus nationalen Mensas. Der Direktor für Entwicklung leistet dabei Führungs- und Teamaufbauarbeit wobei er das multikulturelle und vielsprachige Umfeld effektiv managen muss. Darüber hinaus muss er ein kompetenter Kommunikator mit ausgeprägter Fähigkeit, anderen zuzuhören, sein. Er muss den Austausch von Ideen und bewährten Verfahren aktiv unterstützen. Und er muss sicher stellen, dass die Arbeit den ehrenamtlichen Aktiven Spaß macht und angenehm ist.

**2. Warum kandidierst du für dieses Amt und was speziell qualifiziert dich dafür?**

Seit meinem Mensa Beitritt war ich international aktiv. Ich habe diverses Komitees erfolgreich geleitet und war aktives Mitglied in anderen. Mein Wissen und meine Erfahrung aus 30 Jahren Laufbahn bei den Vereinten Nationen qualifiziert mich auf einzigartige Weise für dieses Amt. Mein Plan wird diese Organisation durch Mitgliederzuwachs, Erhöhung der Anzahl von Mensa Ländern und Stärkung des internationalen Mensanernetzwerks auf eine höhere Ebene bringen. Während meiner beruflichen Laufbahn war ich in über 100 Ländern tätig, und ich verfüge über ein globales Netzwerk von Freunden, Kollegen und Bekannten. Ich bin praxisorientiert, ich kann zuhören, und ich verfüge über ausgeprägte Erfahrung in Problemlösungen auf internationalem Niveau. Diese Fähigkeiten würde ich gern in den Dienst von Mensa International stellen, um die Organisation zu stärken und attraktiver zu machen.

**3. Was siehst du als wichtigste Herausforderungen für Mensa International gegenwärtig und in den nächsten paar Jahren?**

Mensa International (MI) muss sich auf die folgenden Herausforderungen vorbereiten:

* Unsere Welt ändert sich rapide und MI muss sich an neue Herausforderungen anpassen, die aus steigenden Mitgliederzahlen und Mitgliedsländern erwachsen. MI muss bei Technologiefortschritten auf dem neusten Stand bleiben speziell bezüglich Kommunikationsmethoden. Und MI muss sicher stellen, dass die damit einhergehenden Veränderungen die Organisation stärken und effizienter machen.
* On-line Abstimmungstools, die bei dieser Wahl erstmalig zum Einsatz kommen, müssen weiter entwickelt werden, um eine größere Beteiligung von Mensanern weltweit bei wichtigen Entscheidungen zu ermöglichen.
* MI muss seine Fähigkeit, effektive globale Dienstleistungen für Mensaner weltweit anzubieten, verbessern. Dafür muss MI innovative Anstrengungen machen, ein effizient funktionierendes globales Netzwerk für Mensaner bereit zu stellen.
* MI muss sich um seine ehrenamtlich Aktiven kümmern, ohne die diese Organisation nicht funktionieren würde.

**4. Was möchtest du während deiner Amtszeit erreichen?**

Die folgende Liste beschreibt einige Prioritäten, die ich angehen würde:

* Ich würde anstreben, zwei neue Mensa Länder als Emerging Mensas durch Unterstützung der vorbereitenden Aktivitäten und durch entsprechende Beratung aufnehmen zu können.
* Und ich würde gern zwei Mensa Ländern helfen, ihre Anstrengungen auf ein höheres Niveau zu gelangen, erfolgreich abzuschließen.
* Innovative Kommunikationsmethoden: Ich suche nach neuen und interaktiven Kommunikationsmethoden, um die globale Interaktion mit Mensanern, die an Entwicklungsprojekten mitarbeiten wollen, zu stärken.
* MI baut auf die Unterstützung durch ehrenamtliche Mitarbeiter. Ein Arbeitsumfeld zu schaffen, das die Bedürfnisse dieser Mitarbeiter erfüllt und ihre Leistung würdigt ist außerordentlich wichtig.
* Change Management: Viele Aspekte unserer Organisation können verbessert werden oder sollten zumindest auf Effizienz untersucht werden. Wir sollten den Mut haben, neue Verfahren in Betracht zu ziehen.



**Edith Wibberley**

**Candidate for InternationalTreasurer**

**Biography**

I was born in Germany and went to university in Frankfurt (Mathematics and Physics). I moved to England in 1972 to marry my husband Michael. We moved back to Germany (1976) and worked afterwards for 18 years self-employed while bringing up three children. In 1994 I started my career in banking, working in the department of accountancy and controlling. During the following years I finished my qualifications as a bank clerk (1998) and studied at the German Open University in Hagen in economics (2006) while working full-time.

After becoming a member of Mensa Germany in 2007, I took over the position of treasurer for Mensa in Deutschland e.V. in 2009. At the end of 2014 I finished working in fulltime-employment, and since then fill my time with book-keeping and banking for Mensa, improving my French and travelling through Europe. Since September 2016 I also do the book-keeping for Mensa Suisse.

Ichwurde in Gießen und studierte an der Universität in Frankfurt a.M.Mathematik und Physik. 1972 zogichnach England um meinenEhemann Michael zuheiraten. In 1976 kamenwirzurücknach Deutschland und verbrachten die nächsten 18 Jahremit der Erziehung von 3 Kindern und demselbständigenBetreibeneinerTankstellemitReparaturwerkstatt. In 1994 starteteichmeineKarriere in einer Bank, zuerstimRechnungswesen, späterim Controlling und vervollständigte parallel in den nächstenJahrenmeineAusbildungzurBankkauffrau (1998) und einDiplomstudium in Wirtschaftswissenschaft an der Fernuniversität in Hagen (2006).

Nachdemich 2007 Mitgliedbei Mensa Deutschland wurde, übernahmich in 2009 die Kassenführungfür Mensa in Deutschland e.V..SeitEnde 2014 bin ichnurnochselbstständigtätig und verbringemeineZeitaußerdemmitdemVerbessernmeinerfranzösischenSprachkenntnisse und mitReisendurch Europa. SeitHerbst 2016 helfeichauchnochbei der Buchführung der Schweizer Mensa.

**Edith declined to submit a campaign statement**

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

Making sure that the transparency is kept to a maximum, so that interested members can find out what their contributions are used for, as well as making sure that agreed upon rules and regulations are kept by all as far as money is concerned. Giving all necessary financial information to the members of the IBD and ExComm when requested is part of this transparency. By doing this, I want to make sure, that the IBD has the means to implement their plans.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular makes you qualified for it?**

Having been successfully engaged with the finances of Mensa Germany for many years and implementing many changes together with the Board of Mensa Deutschland e.V. I have recognized my strengths. Keeping the finances in order enables the Board to work efficiently. Cutting costs and finding new ways of efficiency and thereby helping Mensa International to fulfil its goals are high on my agenda, as I have worked with the Board of Mensa Deutschland e.V. in this way and seen what can be done.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

As the membership in Mensa increases worldwide it is important, that Mensa International can help any National Mensa and SIG to develop. I see my job as a treasurer to help any National Mensa in financial questions, when asked, without interfering.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

I wish to make sure, that Mensa international has the means to implement their goals by keeping track on incoming and outgoing payments. I see myself also as an ambassador for Mensa International.

**1. Was siehst du als den wichtigsten Aspekt der Position an, für die du kandidierst:**

Das Sicherstellen einer hohen Transparenz, sodass jedes interessierte Mitglied sehen kann, wofür sein Beitrag verwendet wird, und das Einhalten von Richtlinien und vereinbarte Regeln sind für mich ein Anliegen. Gleichzeitig die Zurverfügungstellung aller notwendigen Zahlen und Informationen an die Mitglieder des IBD und des ExComm. Denn nur so können diese ihrer Aufgabe gerecht werden.

**2. Warum bewirbst du dich für dieses Amt, und was qualifiziert dich besonders dafür?**

Nachdem ich in den vergangen Jahren erfolgreich in der Kassenführung für Mensa Deutschland tätig war und während dieser Zeit viele Veränderungen zusammen mit dem Vorstand umgesetzt habe, habe ich meine Stärken besonders schätzen gelernt. Ein geordnetes Finanzwesen ermöglicht es dem Vorstand seine Arbeit

effizient zu erledigen. Das Einsparen von Kosten und das Verbessern der Effizienz bei der Arbeit hilft auch Mensa International seine Ziele zu erreichen, denn ich habe bei Mensa Deutschland diesen Weg zusammen mit dem Vorstand beschritten und gesehen was erreicht werden kann.

**3. Was sind die wichtigsten Themen für Mensa jetzt und in der Zukunft?**

Weltweit steigen die Mitgliedszahlen bei Mensa und es ist wichtig, dass Mensa International die Nationalen Mensas und SIGs in ihrer Entwicklung unterstützen kann. Ich sehe meine Aufgabe als Treasurer auch darin den Nationalen Mensas bei Fragen in Finanzdingen zu unterstützen, ohne mich einzumischen.

**4. Was möchtest du in deiner Amtszeit erreichen?**

Ich möchte sicherstellen, dass Mensa International die Mittel zur Verfügung hat, seine Ziele zu verfolgen, indem ich Zahlungseingänge und –ausgänge im Auge behalte; dabei sehe ich mich auch als Vertreter von Mensa International gegenüber den Mitgliedern und Nichtmitgliedern weltweit.



**Nick Sanford**

**Candidate for InternationalTreasurer**

**Biography**

CERTIFICATIONS:

Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Financial Risk Manager (Certified FRM)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Founder of Sanford Data Analytics: We transform raw data into actionable information; from any type of data, in any system, for any type of analysis or report.

13 years of experience doing corporate financial analysis in the United States healthcare industry.

MENSA EXPERIENCE:

Continuous member since 2002

On the American Board of Directors from 2007 – 2015

On the International Board of Directors from 2012 – 2015

Treasurer of American Mensa from 2011 – 2015

**Campaign Statement**

As the most recognized intelligence organization in the world, there are many ways that we can and should increase our brand awareness while simultaneously raising revenue. For example, we could develop a line of Mensa branded children’s toys or work with textbook companies to put our seal of approval on their products. As your Treasurer I will explore options such as these. From a cost perspective, I will review our structure to seek cost reducing options and will argue against spending money if there is no benefit to the members. That is, we shouldn’t spend money to fly people around the world if a Skype call will be just as effective. Beyond finances, I will push for Mensa International to undertake projects that all of the countries need. For the countries that want it, we could offer centralized membership processing, web services, marketing, and other functions. Mensa International can do these tasks for far less time and money than the combined cost of nearly 50 individual countries. For an experienced, forward thinking, and collaborative leadership team, please consider *voting* for*:*

## BjörnLiljeqvist: Chair

## Tomas Blumenstein: Director of Development

## Isabella Holz: Director of Administration

**Answers to IBD Questions**

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

A Treasurer is required to maintain oversight of the management, reporting, and auditing of the finances. Beyond that legal requirement, the Mensa International Treasurer should provide clarity to the financials followed by stability of the component charged to the National Mensa organizations. This understanding and confidence will enable the National groups to make long term decisions with less risk from uncontrollable factors.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

International Mensa has not done a good job of creating revenue opportunities for our brand nor have we adapted our cost structure to the modern times. I will lead discussions and take action on both of these areas.

Beyond finance, Mensa International can create structures to simplify national level governance. For example, maybe we should create an international membership process so that an emerging group does not have to create that process themselves. Likewise, we could create web services, communications, marketing, accounting, etc. Let’s remove the obstacles to creating a new national Mensa group.

I am a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), have been on the American Mensa Board of Directors for 8 years (4 of which as Treasurer), on the International Board for 3 years, and have spent my entire career doing finance.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

## The national Mensa groups do not cooperate well when it comes to cross border matters such as licensing. This problem has been looked at several times and it needs to be fixed once and for all.

## Mensa International needs to have a stronger purpose. Right now it primarily serves to bring the leaders of the various countries together once per year, but does not create a benefit at the IBD meeting in proportion to the expense. Either International should shrink to the proper proportion, or the benefit should increase.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

I want to quickly make the reporting of the financials easy to understand. The numbers cannot be changed, and if presented correctly, will leave little to discuss. I want to turn the focus to changing those numbers. I want to talk about our revenue and expense options followed immediately by implementing the impactful decisions that we make. For example, let’s evaluate the funding of the IBD meeting. Let’s discuss creating our own line of educational toys. Maybe we should fund the recording of presentations at the various Annual Gatherings and make them available to all members worldwide. Mensa International is operating under a system designed many years ago. I want to transform us to the modern times and keep the structure both relevant and beneficial.



**Jacek Cywinski**

**Candidate for InternationalTreasurer**

**Biography**

I have been with Mensa for almost 12 years, holding many different positions and being actively involved on both national and international levels, including being:

2014 – now Board member, Mensa NZ (previously Deputy Chair, National Testing Officer)

2015 – now MERF International Scholarship judge

2011 - 2016 Member of LEAP Committee, Vice-chair, Chair

2010 - 2012 Chair of Mensa Poland, IBD Member

2006 - 2010 Board member and Testing Co-ordinator, Mensa Poland

In professional life I am an investigator at Inland Revenue in Wellington, New Zealand. I have had 14 years of experience of accounting / taxation / finance management at both national and international levels which I gained at E&Y, Shell, Ministry of Finance, my own chartered accounting practice and several other places.

I have got an M.Sc. in finance and banking major: accounting, I am a certified accountant in Poland, I have a membership at Chartered Accountants Australia NZ.

**Campaign Statement**

Mensa International is an amazing organisation which allows its members to build a network of wonderful friends. I would like to get more members involved in Mensa at the international level. I will try to achieve this by taking actions towards supporting international events like EMAG, AMAG, Silvensa, spreading knowledge about Mensa International’s initiatives and presenting Mensa finance without any delays in an easy to understand form. I believe that the level of component (“tax” paid to Mensa International by National Mensan) should be adjusted to not overburden members. I am an independent candidate who is able to cooperate with anyone who wants to make Mensa even better. I believe that respect towards members is key to being a successful Mensa leader. I maintain a strong network of international connections, keeping in touch with people from almost all Mensa groups, which will be a great help in achieving my goals. I am serious about Mensa and I am determined to make our organisation better for all of us. I encourage you to get involved in Mensa international life – please read materials of all candidates and vote. You may make the difference.

Please visit my group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/671757612953006/>

**1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?**

The International treasurer should take care of Mensa International's finance by improving its financial position. It can be achieved by reviewing the expenses and encouraging the spending of money in even more efficient ways and by working towards enhancing income. I believe there is a need for a treasurer who will provide more information about the financial matters of the organisation, which will be disclosed with a proper notice to the ExComm and IBD members. In my opinion discussions about our finance should not be limited only to one occasion, but it should be held on an ongoing basis, to eliminate any doubts and provide full disclosure, which will allow decisions makingin regards to Mensa International finance more effectively. More information should be provided as well to our Members as they are ultimately paying for the operations of Mensa International.

**2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?**

I have volunteered for this role because I have knowledge about both Mensa and finance that I believe will be useful in the role of Treasurer. I was a board member of Mensa Poland for six years and Mensa New Zealand for three years. I was also an IBD delegate for two years as the Chair of Mensa Poland, so I know how Mensa organisations operate at both national and internal levels. I was a member of the Mensa International Finance Advisory Committee, which gave me a great understanding of processes around preparation of financial statements for Mensa International and potential areas of improvement and development. Additionally, I have had more than 14 years of experience in finance in different positions and fields. I have no problem with preparation of financial statements or budgeting and there is no better person for reviewing expense claims than an investigator/forensic accountant.

**3. What do you see as the most important issues facing international Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?**

I believe the five main issues facing International Mensa are member retention, reducing cost of operations, increasing transparency, better use of our knowledge resources, and taking advantage of new technology. Member retention is an important issue facing Mensa International, and we need to consider the role of technology in this. It is important to look at our cost structure as the increasing membership fees in many national Mensas are main reasons for members to not renew their membership. Additionally, it is important to work on greater transparency and visibility of Mensa International operations by recording IBD meetings which would allow a wider audience to be involved. We should create a knowledge base, where we could share all of the amazing resources from around the world, including materials on how to resolve the most common challenges a national Mensa can face.

**4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?**

As Treasurer, my personal goal will be protecting our budget realisation and maintain a stable financial position. These goals will be built on three foundations: full disclosure and information to IBD members, effectively managing costs and revenue and stimulating growth (by acting as the ExComm member, and supporting all growth-related initiatives, including support to future Mensa leaders). Yes, I think that the Treasurer has to go beyond his normal tasks and be available for members and work together on a better Mensa. More members, more funds, lower level of the component, lower dues. Additionally, it is important to develop metrics for spending Mensa International money even more efficiently. This would allow for more informed decisions about the level of the component to be made. Currently, we have no interest or investment income. I want to consider our options in this area and allow our funds to work safely for us.

END CANDIDATE STATEMENTS