

Mensa International Elections

Candidate Statements



Grethe van Geffen

Candidate for International Chairman

Biographical statement

I joined Mensa in 1997 and was active from the beginning in many ways. Becoming chair in 2008 was a logical step and I did that for almost 6 years. I saw the international character of Mensa as an opportunity so we organised EMAG in Utrecht in 2009 and the international Leadership Program was invented there on my initiative. The workshop HIQ at work I developed spread internationally after presenting the workshop at EMAG Prague, German and American AG's, Silvensa and IBD. In daily work I am a specialist in culture and diversity issues in organisations (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKiTEog37NY>) and I work also in complex decision making processes for public institutions, especially in the context of changing laws and legal systems. I have been on boards for over 20 years, traditional high level ones like the Chamber of Commerce Amsterdam but also young ambitious ones like: <http://amsterdamsandalusischorkest.nl/>

See also

http://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=40462655&trk=tab_pro

Awards: <http://grethevangeffen.nl/prijzen-awards/>

Campaign statement

Mensa is worth every minute we put in it. And those minutes were a lot for me, I counted that just in my almost 6 years as chair of Mensa the Netherlands I spent already 4500 hours. But I realized so much and I loved the Mensans I could work with. Yes sometimes there are problems but overall the quality of the people to work with and their warmth and sympathy is great. I believe that we can do even more and better if we can manage our differences in age and culture more and better. Everybody's contribution can be included if we are ready to step back and listen and see the potential. This would be my first, second and third ambition as international Chair.

One of the great duties for the international chair is the IBD meeting; I want to build upon the work that was done by former chair Willem Bouwens to create dynamic interaction between large and small countries and encourage mutual learning. Also I want to bring IBD decisions closer to the members by (online/real time) streaming of the IBD meeting and better communication.

Please find more and actual information at <http://grethevangeffen.nl/elections-mensa-international/>

Answers to IBD Questions

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

To bring Mensa International forward with the Excom members and all the national Mensa's involved while being transparent and accountable in decision making. Mensa International offers great opportunities as

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international events like AMAG, EMAG, Silvensa grow and the Leadership Program is now well on its way. Serious challenges for Mensa International lie in clear communication, developing a learning community (instead of reinventing the wheel) and working as an effective organisation. The accent of the chairing role has to be in 1. Transcultural and Transgenerational Leadership 2. Focus 3. Teamwork 4. Real progress, have ideas turned into action.

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

I am passionate about Mensa, both national and international: it is a great community and it can grow and develop more in any aspect. Mensa offers so much to its members and this is why not just me but thousands of other members feel involved and want to contribute. During my 6 years as chair of Mensa the Netherlands I have shown that together with many talented members we can realize growth in membership (40% during my period) and growth in Mensa activities and growth in influence at the highest society level concerning HIQ at Work and the educational system. My ideas about chairing Mensa can be found in this video that I developed with former international chair Willem Bouwens:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gJ2hvxfis>.

Nominated by: British Isles, Croatia, the Netherlands, New-Zealand, Pakistan, Slovenia, Spain.

My languages: fluent in Dutch, English, French, German, good Turkish, some Spanish.

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

Mensa International does not always have a good reputation and it deserves better. First of all this is a communication problem, the focus of Mensa International is more on being 'complete' (which makes things complex) than on being transparent and accountable in what is done or using new media in a creative way. This can be improved with more innovative ways of communicating.

We also need to address the differences that individual members and national Mensa's feel: real differences or perceived differences, they influence our cooperation and lie in the interesting but challenging area of culture and diversity. Mensa welcomes many young members worldwide especially in Asia and some fast growing countries: can our Boards that are usually older provide what they need? And do we not just respect cultural differences between countries but really listen to each other and benefit from the talents that our diverse community offers?

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

More interaction between the national Mensa's with effective support from Mensa International, thus creating more international activities and a better learning community. Less re-inventing of the wheel: clear and findable communication and presentation of solutions found. The next step in our International Leadership Program: lots of opportunities there to develop it further to the benefit of all countries. Transparency and accountability in decision making. Focus on what matters (Mensa International has limited sources) and be good and visible in that. An Excom team that cooperates effectively including generations and cultures in the best way. IBD meetings that can be streamed worldwide so that all members can see what is happening there and be inspired. IBD meetings that inspire.

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If you would like to exchange your own ideas before casting your voice, I am

interested! Please email grethe.vangeffen@mensa.nl



Her past careers included managing museum volunteers, leading tour groups, designing graphics for an ad firm, and tutoring gifted students. Elissa's formal education includes a bachelor's degree in English Literature and a master's degree in Florida History Studies. Her most treasured and enduring education and avocation, however, is what she has learned and absorbed while serving as a Mensa volunteer.

Elissa Rudolph's Campaign Statement, 2015

Elissa Rudolph

Candidate for International Chairman

Bio for Elissa Rudolph for 2015 Mensa International Election

A Mensa member for more than half her life, Elissa began volunteering for her local group in various roles. Fourteen years ago, she was appointed American Mensa's Membership Officer, followed eventually as Chair for the largest national Mensa group. Since July of 2013, Elissa serves on the AML Board as Past Chair. In that same month Elissa became Chair of Mensa International Ltd., a position that she will seek again in 2015.

Elissa now works as a freelance editor of doctoral dissertations and proofreader for a global textbook company (www.giraffics.biz).

My main initiative as International Chair the past two years was to do what I could to retain our global family environment/feeling while moving us forward taking advantage of technical innovations. As an example of connections via technology, I have virtually attended a Mensa France gathering and one in Mexico. The invitation is out there for any Mensa group to contact me via Skype and I will arrange my schedule to attend. Almost all of my interactions with Mensans on any level—local, national, international—convince me that we are one big family with no real borders. Gatherings are family reunions; some come from nearby and some travel half the day to attend just like modern scattered families do. If we cannot be physically together, social media provides ways to keep us all connected, whether we are located in the next city or halfway around the planet. As a Mensa leader, I have always believed that the main objective in all of our diverse programming is to set the stage for Ms to interact with each other easily whether it is to work on a community project, a school

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program, or just to bring a group together for fun.

Answers to IBD questions

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

Our global network needs a leader to whom all can look for guidance, support, and encouragement. That leader does not have to be an expert in all areas of Mensa management, but should serve as a person who knows where, how, and whom to contact when solutions and advice are needed by national Mensas. A leader is not a leader however without followers or a team of followers that leads in coordinated directions. The current MIL Executive Committee with its varied experiences, languages, cultures, talents, and skills has led MIL effectively for the past two years. This committee is approachable, flexible, and possesses deep knowledge regarding the needs and wants of Mensa members worldwide. As the team leader, I see that we have made progress and will continue to forge ahead under a successful leader.

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

Two years ago, I volunteered for this role, and now having been gratified in seeing progress, I wish to continue to guide MIL to even greater success. I still see the international chairman opportunity as one in which I can use all of my Mensa experience and knowledge gained over nearly four decades to focus on making our international bonds even stronger and more relevant. Over the past 14 years, I have visited many Mensa gatherings around the world and I see the commonalities we all have as well as the ways in which we differ. Most of our

differences are exciting and add vivid color while expanding our curious minds. I would like to see all Mensans enjoy that expansion of their membership and I think I can continue to make that happen.

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

With the continuing expansion of technology in the past few years and more to come, I see that Mensa International must be there to adopt and embrace whatever new tools emerge to help the organization become more efficient, more flexible for its members. We cannot be static and keep going back to the “way we used to do it.” We have a unique niche in the world and we should be doing all we can to keep “Mensa” a well known and well respected word, signifying an environment where smart people can interact, innovate, and make the world a better place while enjoying each other’s company.

The obstacles to this forward movement are apathy and the inability to be receptive to new ideas. Mensa should be agile organization that can find ways around, over, under, and through these obstacles especially if the top leaders are forward thinkers.

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

Two years later, similar goals come to mind:

- transparency at the top level
- a more interactive web presence for all Mensans
- a collegial atmosphere in which to deal with the challenges
- mentoring of future leaders through LEAP and other programs

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- promoting volunteer opportunities so that more Mensans become involved

Although these ideas are mine and serve as my personal goals, I cannot achieve any of them without the express assistance of the rest of the International Board of Directors and the Executive Director.

Elissa Rudolph (German)

Biographie

Schon ihr halbes Leben ist Elissa Rudolph Mensamitglied. Vor etwa 12 Jahren wurde Elissa auf nationaler Ebene tätig, zunächst als Mitgliedschaften-Beauftragte der Amerikanischen Mensa, dann als zweite stellvertretende Vorsitzende, erste stellvertretende Vorsitzende, und derzeit als Vorsitzende der größten nationalen Mensagruppe. 2006 leitete Elissa das Diamant-Jubiläum zu Mensas 60-jährigen Bestehen. Dieses festliche Zusammenkommen in Orlando, Florida, war die größte Mensa-Geburtstagsparty, die es je gab!

Ihre Position als Vorsitzende der Amerikanischen Mensa macht Elissa gleichzeitig zur Repräsentantin gegenüber Mensa International. In dieser Funktion hat sie bereits weltweit Treffen von Mensanern organisiert. Eine Folge ihrer internationalen Interessen ist das internationale 'Leadership Exchange Ambassadors Program' (LEAP), welches sie gemeinsam mit einer Gruppe von innovativen Denkern initiierte.

Elissas formale Ausbildung beinhaltet einen Bachelor in Englischer Literatur, sowie einen Master in der Geschichte Floridas. Ihre höchst geschätzte Ausbildung jedoch sind ist das vielseitige Wissen und die Erfahrungen, die sie bei Mensa sammeln konnte.

Wahlaussage

Mensatreffen jeglicher Ebene – lokal, national, international – sind Familientreffen. Echte Grenzen gibt es nicht. Wie bei Familienfeiern

kommen Manche von nebenan, Andere reisen einen halben Tag um dabei zu sein. Aber sobald sie angekommen sind, sind sie zuhause.

Wenn wir physisch nicht zusammen sein können, bietet Social Media uns Möglichkeiten verbunden zu bleiben. Mein Hauptanliegen als internationale Vorsitzende würde es sein, während wir uns weiterentwickeln, dieses Gefühl einer großen Familie aufrechtzuerhalten und dabei die Vorteile innovativer Technologien zu nutzen. Als Mensa Vorsitzende habe ich immer daran geglaubt, dass das Hauptziel unseres vielfältigen Programms in der Ermöglichung von einfacher Interaktion zwischen Ms liegen sollte. Für eine detaillierte Auseinandersetzung, gehen Sie bitte auf www.elissarudolph.com.

Vier Fragen

1. Was ist für Dich der wichtigste Aspekt des Amts für das Du kandidierst?

Der wichtigste Aspekt ist Führung. Mensa braucht Leiter, an die man sich für Betreuung, Unterstützung und Zusprache wenden kann. Führungskräfte müssen keine Experten auf allen Gebieten des Mensa Managements sein, aber sie sollten wissen wo, wie und wer kontaktiert werden kann wenn nationale Mensen nach Rat und Lösungen suchen. Eine internationale Vorsitzende muss erreichbar, nahbar, flexibel und, zuallererst, sich den Notwendigkeiten und Wünschen von Mensanern bewusst sein.

2. Warum stellst Du Dich für dieses Amt zur Verfügung und was qualifiziert Dich besonders dafür?

Seit über drei Jahrzehnten bin ich bei Mensa in leitenden Positionen. Mein Wissen und meine Erfahrungen werde ich in meiner Position als internationale Vorsitzende einbringen um unsere internationalen Verbindungen noch stärker und bereichernder zu machen. In den letzten 12 Jahren habe ich viele Mensatreffen außerhalb der Vereinigten Staaten besucht. Ich sehe unsere Gemeinsamkeiten, und ich sehe, wo wir uns unterscheiden. Die meisten unserer

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Unterschiede sind stimulierend und bringen zusätzliche, kräftige Farbe. Sie erweitern unseren neugierigen Verstand. Ich wünsche mir, dass alle Mensagruppen wachsen, sowohl in Zahlen, als auch an Erfahrungsreichtum. Ich denke, ich bin die Person, die genau dies bewirken kann.

3. Was sind für Dich die wichtigsten Themen, mit denen Mensa International derzeit und in der Zukunft konfrontiert ist?

Die Technologie hat sich in den letzten paar Jahren unglaublich schnell verändert. Mehr Veränderungen werden kommen. Mensa International muss neue Möglichkeiten aufgreifen, damit die Organisation effizienter und flexibler wird. Wir können nicht bleiben wie wir sind und wir können nicht zu dem zurückkehren 'wie wir es immer gemacht haben'. Wir sind einzigartig und wir sollten sicherstellen, dass „Mensa“ ein bekannter und respektierter Begriff bleibt, der für eine Umgebung steht, in der intelligente Menschen interagieren, kreieren und die Welt zu einem besseren Ort machen, während sie gleichzeitig ihre gegenseitige Gesellschaft schätzen.

Hindernisse, die unser Vorankommen behindern sind Apathie und die Unfähigkeit sich neuen Ideen zu öffnen. Dies gilt nicht nur für Mensa, sondern ist ein globales Thema. Ich sehe Mensa als eine agile Organisation. Ich denke, sie kann diese Hindernisse wahrnehmen und Lösungswege finden – ausweichend, über, unter, oder direkt durch sie hindurch – insbesondere, wenn die Top-Führungskräfte Menschen sind, die sich selbst als vorausdenkend definieren.

4. Was möchtest Du während Deiner Amtszeit erreichen?

Da gibt es mehrere Dinge, die mir dazu einfallen:

- Erhöhung der Transparenz auf höchster Ebene
- Entwicklung einer interaktiveren Internetpräsenz für alle Mensaner

- Förderung einer kollegialen Atmosphäre
- Betreuung von zukünftigen Führungskräften durch LEAP und andere Programme
- Mehr Möglichkeiten für Freiwilligenarbeit, sodass mehr Mensaner Lust bekommen sich zu engagieren

Wenngleich dies meine Ideen und persönlichen Ziele sind, kann ich nichts davon ohne die Mitwirkung des internationalen Vorstands und des Geschäftsführenden erreichen.

Elissa Rudolph (French)

Biographie

Elissa Rudolph a été un membre de Mensa pour plus de la moitié de sa vie. Il y a environ 12 ans Elissa s'est installée sur le plan national comme American Mensa l'officier en d'adhésion de, puis comme deuxième vice-président, premier vice-président du Conseil et président actuellement pour le plus grand groupe national de Mensa. En 2006, Elissa a présidé le 60e anniversaire de diamant de Mensa. Ce rassemblement festif à Orlando, en Floride, était la plus grande fête de Mensa!

Président de l'American Mensa, Elissa sert en tant que représentant de Mensa International. À ce titre, elle a déjà encouragé des interactions Mensans partout dans le monde. Une extension de ses intérêts mondiaux a été l'international Leadership Exchange Ambassadors Program (LEAP), qu'elle a contribué à créer avec un groupe d'autres penseurs innovateurs. L'éducation formelle d'Elissa comprend un baccalauréat en littérature anglaise et une maîtrise en histoire de la Floride. Sa formation la plus précieuse et la plus durable, cependant, est ce qu'elle a appris et adopté alors qu'elle est une bénévole de Mensa.

Déclaration de la campagne

Les rassemblements de Mensan sur tous les niveaux — local, national et international — sont des réunions de famille. Ils n'ont aucunes véritables frontières. Comme les réunions de

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famille, certaines personnes viennent de près et de quelques voyages pour assister à la demi-journée, mais une fois-là, ils sont chez eux.

Si nous ne sommes pas physiquement ensemble, les médias sociaux peuvent nous aider à rester connecté. Ma principale initiative internationale de Président serait de conserver ce grand environnement/sentiment familial tout en nous déplaçant vers l'avant, en profitant des innovations dans la technologie. Chef de file de la Mensa, j'ai toujours pensé que l'objectif principal de notre programmation diversifiée doit préparer un Ms d'interagir entre eux facilement. Pour une discussion plus approfondie, visitez à www.elissarudolph.com.

Quatre Questions

1. Que voyez-vous comme l'aspect le plus important du rôle dans lequel vous vous trouvez ? L'aspect le plus important est le leadership. Mensa a besoin de dirigeants, qu'il peut chercher aux conseils, soutien et encouragement. Les dirigeants ne doivent pas à être des experts dans tous les domaines de la gestion de la Mensa, mais doivent savoir où, comment et qui à contacter lorsque Mensa nationales ont besoin de solutions et conseils. Un président international doit être disponible, accessible, souple, et la plupart de tout connaître ce que Mensans ont besoin et veulent.

2. Pourquoi sont portés volontaires pour ce rôle, et en particulier ce qui vous qualifie pour elle? J'ai été dans des postes de direction de Mensa pendant plus de trois décennies. Je vais mettre mes connaissances et d'expérience au poste de président international pour rendre nos obligations internationales encore plus fortes et plus gratifiantes. Au cours des dernières 12 années, j'ai visité de nombreux rassemblements de Mensa au-delà des États-Unis Je vois ce que nous avons en commun et les façons dont nous sommes différents. La plupart de nos différences est stimulante et ajoute des couleurs vives. Ils élargissent nos esprits curieux. Je voudrais voir tous les groupes de Mensa croissent en nombre et en richesse

d'expérience. Je pense que je suis la personne qui peut y parvenir.

3. Que voyez-vous comme les plus importants enjeux de Mensa International à l'heure actuelle et dans l'avenir? La technologie a rapidement changé au cours des quelques dernières années. Plus les changements sont encore à venir. Mensa International doivent s'intéresser à de nouveaux outils pour aider l'organisation à devenir plus efficace et plus souple. Nous ne pouvons pas rester les mêmes, et nous ne pouvons pas revenir à la « voie qui nous permettant de le faire. » Nous sommes uniques, et nous devrions garder « Mensa » un mot bien connu et très respecté, ce qui signifie un environnement où les gens intelligents peuvent interagir, innover et faire du monde un endroit meilleur tout en profitant de l'autre société. Les obstacles au mouvement en avant incluent l'apathie et une incapacité à être réceptif aux nouvelles idées. Cela ne se limite pas à Mensa ; C'est un problème mondial. Je vois Mensa comme une organisation agile. Je crois que cela peut reconnaître ces obstacles et trouver des moyens autour, au-dessus, sous et à travers eux, en particulier si les hauts dirigeants sont des gens qui sont eux-mêmes des penseurs vers l'avant.

4. Que-est ce que vous souhaitez atteindre durant votre mandat?

Plusieurs éléments viennent à l'esprit :

- Accroître la transparence au niveau supérieur
- Développer une présence web plus interactive pour tous les Mensans
- Promouvoir une atmosphère collégiale
- Engager futurs dirigeants par le biais de saut et d'autres programmes de mentorat
- Créer des occasions de bénévolat pour que Mensans plus veuillent s'impliquer

Bien que ces idées sont les miennes et servent mes objectifs personnels, je ne peux atteindre aucun d'eux sans l'assentiment du Conseil d'administration de l'International et le directeur exécutif.

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Elissa Rudolph (Spanish)

Biografía.

Elissa Rudolph ha sido miembro de Mensa la mitad de su vida. Hace doce años, Elissa fue promovida al cargo de Oficial Nacional de Membresía de Mensa en Norte América, después a segunda vice-presidencia, seguida de la primera vice-presidencia y es actualmente la presidenta de la organización nacional de Mensa más grande de los Estados Unidos de Norte América. En el 2006, Elissa presidió el Sesenta Aniversario de Diamante de Mensa. Esta reunión se llevó a cabo en Orlando, Florida y fue la celebración más grande que Mensa ha tenido.

Como presidenta de Mensa en Norte América, Elissa sirve como representante en Mensa Internacional. En este cargo ya empezado facilitar relaciones entre Mensas a nivel mundial. Un producto de sus intereses internacionales fue el Programa de Intercambio Internacional de Líderes Embajadores (LEAP), el cual ayudó a crear junto con un grupo de pensadores innovativos.

La educación formal incluye una licenciatura en Literatura Inglesa y una maestría en Historia de Florida. Sin embargo, su más valiosa y constante educación es la que ha aprendido y adoptado durante su tiempo de servicio como voluntaria en Mensa.

Declaración de Campaña

Las reuniones de Mensa en cualquiera de sus niveles –local, nacional, internacional- son reuniones fraternales. Estas no tienen fronteras ni barreras. Como en reuniones familiares algunos miembros viven en los alrededores y otros viajan medio día para asistir, pero una vez allí, están en casa.

Si no podemos estar de cuerpo presente, diversos medios de comunicación social nos ayudan a permanecer en contacto. Mi principal iniciativa como Presidenta Internacional sería perpetuar los lazos y el sentimiento fraternal este ambiente laboral mientras que avanzamos

tomando ventaja de los nuevos avances tecnológicos. Como líder de Mensa siempre he creído el objetivo principal de nuestros diversos programas es colocar los cimientos para facilitar las interacciones entre los Ms miembros. Para más detalles visite www.elissarudolph.com.

Cuatro Preguntas

1. De acuerdo a su opinión, cuál es el aspecto más importante de su rol ?

El aspecto más importante es el liderazgo. Mensa necesita líderes de los cuales pueda recibir guía, apoyo, y aliento. Los líderes no tienen que ser **expertos** en todas las áreas gerenciales de Mensa pero deberían saber dónde, cómo, y a quién contactar cuando Mensas a nivel nacional necesiten soluciones y consejo. El presidente internacional debe de estar disponible, ser accesible, flexible, y sobre todo entendido sobre las necesidades y deseos de Mensans.

2. Porqué se ha ofrecido voluntariamente para tomar este cargo, y qué la califica para ello ?

He servido en Mensa en posiciones de liderazgo por más de tres décadas. Traigo conmigo conocimiento y experiencia a la posición de **Presidenta** Internacional para hacer nuestros lazos internacionales cada vez más fuertes y provechosos. En los últimos doce años, he frecuentado muchas reuniones de Mensa fuera de los Estados Unidos. He visto las cosas que tenemos en común y las cosas en las que diferimos. La mayoría de nuestras diferencias son estimulantes y llamativas. Ellas expanden nuestra curiosidad. Me gustaría ver crecer a todos los grupos de Mensa en cantidad y ricas experiencias. Yo creo que soy la persona que puede lograr estos objetivos.

3. Cuáles son los desafíos más importantes

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que Mensa Internacional enfrenta en estos momentos y en el futuro ?

La tecnología ha avanzado rápidamente en los últimos años, y más cambios están por venir. Mensa Internacional debe adoptar nuevas herramientas de trabajo y organización para ser más eficiente y flexible. No podemos permanecer en el mismo lugar y no podemos regresar a la manera en la solíamos trabajar.

Somos únicos y deberíamos conservar “Mensa” una palabra bien conocida y respetada representando un ambiente donde personas inteligentes pueden interactuar, innovar, y hacer del mundo un lugar mejor y al mismo tiempo disfrutar el uno del otro.

Los obstáculos que impiden el avance de Mensa es apatía y la falta de disposición para recibir nuevas ideas. Este problema no solo confiere a Mensa, es un problema global. Veo a Mensa como una organización ágil y creo que puede reconocer estos obstáculos y hallar maneras de

superarlos, especialmente si las cabezas de liderazgo son visionarias.

4. Qué desea realizar durante su periodo de liderazgo?

Varios objetivos me vienen a la mente:

- Incrementar la transparencia en los niveles más altos.
- Desarrollar una web más interactiva y atractiva para miembros de todas las Mensans
- Promover una atmósfera educativa
- Capacitar a futuros líderes a través de LEAP y otros programas.
- Crear más oportunidades de voluntariado para mas Mensans que quieran tomar parte en Mensa.

A pesar de que estas son mis ideas y goles personales no puedo realizar ninguna de ella sin la aprobación de la Junta Internacional de Directorios y del Presidente Ejecutivo.



Kaj Lindholm

Candidate for International Chairman

Biographical statement

I have 48 years of life experience.

I have a degree from the university of applied sciences and about 25 years of experience as an entrepreneur.

I have been the chair of Mensa Finland for four years and two years the chair of Regional Mensa of Mensa Finland. I have also been a member of the IBD for four years and two years a member of Governance Papers Advisory committee.

I also consider my experience of eight years in international organizations important in running for this role. During those years I served five years as a Field Service Officer of the United Nations in former Yugoslavia and in Angola.

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During my international career I have had the chance to co-operate with numerous personnel from a wide variety of nationalities and religions, working towards common goals.

Campaign statement

I thank you for your interest towards the international aspect of our organization. I represent myself, my family, my hometown, Finland, Mensa Finland and International Mensa. But I am not running in these elections for any of those, but for the organization of Mensa itself.

With my candidacy I want to give the members of Mensa a choice: a peaceful, neutral diplomat from a small traditional Mensa country. A choice with natural authority.

My goal is not to take Mensa International in any particular direction. Instead, I want to make sure all the options and ideas for improvement will get equal treatment and be openly discussed. And to make sure that all decisions are made based on the majority's opinion and that they will be put into action and followed up.

My goal is to create conditions that enable the members of the board of Mensa International to perform their duties in the best possible manner for the benefit of our organization. And to ensure that all IBD members have an equal opportunity to present their ideas and bring up matters within our organization.

Please do not hesitate to ask your national chair her or his opinion about me.

Answers to the IBD questions

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

The chair's mission is to lead the board. It is not to steer the discussion and work of the board, but to ensure that all members are treated equally and have an equal role in discussions. The chair must make sure that all the aspects

and options will have equal treatment, clarify the discussion and ensure it stays focused on the matter at hand. Also, when required, break decisions into smaller units or combine them into larger entities.

The chair should create conditions that will enable all board members to perform their duties in the best possible manner for the benefit of the organization. The mission of the chair is to support all the members of the board and to ensure that they all are aware of what the others members are doing.

The chair's duty is to ensure the transparency and fairness of the board's work towards the organization.

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

The chair of the Mensa International has to be totally neutral and open-minded. The chair of the Mensa International should never think of his or her own interest or personal achievements or ambitions. The chair must keep completely separated his or her personal and professional goals from his or her role as the board chair. While working as a chair of Mensa Finland during the last four years I think I have been able to meet the above-mentioned demands. My personality, life situation and experience make me an excellent candidate for the role of the chair of Mensa International.

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

The world, and Mensa along with it, is continuously surfing on the wave of technology development. New ways and equipment are being developed in the area of electronic communication. It is important to be a part of this development. But it is even more important and challenging to keep traditions alive and maintain traditional ways to meet people. It is already a challenge, and will be also in the future, to successfully organize face-to-face meetings between members. It takes more time and requires more effort than electronic social

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media channels. It is also more challenging financially for the organization and for the members.

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

I wish that Mensa International will achieve, among national Mensas, a reputation of working transparently. I wish that co-operation with national Mensas will be close and continuous. I wish that the board of Mensa International will achieve the feeling of working as a solid unit. I hope that the atmosphere will develop into a direction where Mensa International is a member of the family with national Mensas and vice versa.

I hope that we will find together possibilities of how Mensa International could support more co-operation between national Mensas and ways of how national Mensas could help each other with their own experiences.

I hope that together we will be able to find new ideas and realistic ways to execute them to increase international happenings and interaction of members.

Elämäkerta

Minulle on kertynyt elämäkokemusta 48 vuotta.

Minulla on alempi korkeakoulututkinto ja noin 25 vuoden kokemus yksityisyrityksenä.

Olen toiminut Suomen Mensa ry:n hallituksen puheenjohtajana neljä vuotta sekä Suomen Mensa ry:n alueellisen hallituksen puheenjohtajana kaksi vuotta. IBD:n jäsenenä olen saanut olla neljä vuotta ja Governance Papers Advisory -komitean jäsenenä kaksi vuotta.

Tärkeänä kokemuksena kansainvälisen Mensan puheenjohtajuuden kannalta pidän myös yhteensä kahdeksan vuoden kokemustani kansainvälisissä tehtävissä ja toimissa. Noiden vuosien aikana toimin muun muassa viiden vuoden ajan Yhdistyneiden Kansakuntien Field Servicen palveluksessa entisen Jugoslavian ja Angolan alueella.

Kaikkien kansainvälisten kokemuksieni aikana olen saanut mahdollisuuksia toimia yhteistyössä useiden eri kansalaisuuksien ja eri uskontokuntien edustajien kanssa kohti yhteisiä tavoitteita.

Kampanja lausunto

Kiitän sinua kiinnostuksestasi järjestöämme kohtaan ja erityisesti kiinnostuksestasi sen kansainvälistä toimintaa kohtaan.

Edustan itseäni, perhettäni, kotikaupunkiani, Suomea, Suomen Mensa ry:tä sekä kansainvälistä Mensaa. Mutta en ole ehdokkaana näissä vaaleissa itseni, perheeni, kotikaupunkini tai Suomen tähden. Vaan järjestömme tähden.

Haluan ehdokkuudellani antaa järjestömmme jäsenille vaihtoehdon kansainvälisen Mensan puheenjohtajaksi. Vaihtoehdon joka on rauhallinen neutraali diplomaatti, pienestä perinteisestä Mensa maasta ja jolla on luontaista auktoriteettia.

Tavoitteenani ei ole viedä kansainvälistä Mensaa suuntaan tai toiseen. Vaan varmistaa kaikkien vaihtoehtojen ja kehitysideoiden tasa-arvoinen käsittely ja yhdessä asioista keskustelu. Sekä varmistaa kaikkien päätösten syntyvän enemmistön näkemysten mukaan ja seurata päätösten toimeenpanoa.

Tavoitteenani on luoda puitteet kansainvälisen Mensan hallituksen jäsenille jotka mahdollistavat heidän työskentelynsä parhaalla mahdollisella tavalla järjestömmme hyväksi. Sekä varmistaa IBD:n jäsenten ehdoton tasa-arvoisuus ja mahdollisuus tuoda asioitaan esille kansainvälisessä yhteisössämme.

Kysy rohkeasti oman maasi puheenjohtajalta hänen mielipidettään minusta.

Vastaukset IBD:n kysymyksiin

Mikä on mielestäsi tärkein näkökohta tehtävässä johon olet ehdolla?

Puheenjohtajan tehtävä on johtaa hallituksen toimintaa. Puheenjohtajan tehtävänä ei ole johdatella hallituksen työskentelyä tai keskustelua, vaan varmistaa kaikkien osallisten

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tasa-arvoinen kohtelu ja osallistuminen keskusteluun. Puheenjohtajan tehtävänä on varmistaa kaikkien näkökulmien ja vaihtoehtojen tasa-arvoinen kohtelu. Puheenjohtajan tehtävänä on selkeyttää keskustelu ja varmistaa sen keskittyminen olennaiseen, sekä tarvittaessa jakaa päätöksen teko pienempiin osa-alueisiin tai vastaavasti koota päätöksistä suurempi kokonaisuus. Puheenjohtajan tehtävänä on varmistaa kaikkien hallituksen jäsenten mahdollisuus suorittaa omaa tehtävänsä parhaalla mahdollisella tavalla, hallituksen yhteisten päämäärien saavuttamiseksi. Tukea hallituksen jäseniä ja varmistaa kaikkien hallituksen jäsenten tietoisuus toistensa tekemisistä. Puheenjohtajan tehtävänä on varmistaa hallituksen työskentelyn avoimuus ja oikeudenmukaisuus järjestöä kohtaan.

Miksi olet vapaaehtoinen tähän tehtävään, ja mikä erityisesti tekee sinusta pätevän siihen?

Kansainvälisen Mensan puheenjohtajan tulee olla täysin neutraali ja avoin. Kansainvälisen Mensan puheenjohtajan ei koskaan tule ajatella omaa etuaan tai henkilökohtaisia saavutuksiaan tai tavoitteitaan. Järjestömme puheenjohtajan tehtävän tulee olla täysin irrallaan puheenjohtajan henkilökohtaisista ja ammatillisista tavoitteista.

Toimiessani Suomen Mensa ry:n puheenjohtajana viimeiset neljä vuotta olen mielestäni pystynyt henkilökohtaisesti täyttämään edellä mainitsemani vaatimukset. Luonteeni, elämäntilanteeni ja elämäkokemukseni tekevät mielestäni minusta erinomaisen vaihtoehdon kansainvälisen Mensan puheenjohtajaksi.

Mitkä näet olevan tärkeimmät asiat joita Kansainvälinen Mensa nyt ja lähivuosien aikana joutuu kohtaamaan?

Maailma, ja Mensa sen mukana, menee jatkuvasti lujaa teknologisen kehityksen aallolla. Uusia tapoja ja välineitä kehitetään jatkuvasti sähköisen viestinnän alueella. On tärkeää olla mukana kehityksessä, mutta vielä tärkeämpää ja haastavampaa on ylläpitää perinteitä ja perinteisiä tapoja kohdata ihmisiä. Haasteena jo nyt ja tulevaisuudessa tulee olemaan jäsenten tapaamiset kasvotusten. Se vie enemmän aikaa vaatii enemmän vaivannäköä kuin sosiaalisen median kanavat. Myös rahallisesti se on haastavampaa sekä järjestölle kuin yksittäisille jäsenille.

Mitä toivot saavuttavasi kautesi aikana tehtävässasi?

Toivon kansainvälisen Mensan saavuttavan avoimuuden ja yhteisen tekemisen maineen. Toivon kansainvälisen Mensan saavuttavan läheisen kanssakäymisen tason kansallisten Mensojen kanssa. Toivon kansainvälisen Mensan hallituksen saavuttavan yhteisen tekemisen tunteen. Toivon ilmapiirin kehittyvän suuntaan jossa kansainvälinen Mensa on osa kansallisen Mensa perhettä ja päinvastoin. Toivon meidän yhdessä löytävän mahdollisuuksia miten kansainvälinen Mensa voisi tukea enemmän kansallisten Mensojen yhteistyötä. Tapoja joilla kansalliset Mensat voisivat auttaa toisiaan omien kokemustensa avulla.

Toivon yhdessä löytävämme uusia ideoita ja niiden realistisia toteuttamistapoja, jotta voisimme lisätä jäsenten kansainvälisiä tapaamisia.

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Bibiana Balanyi

Candidate for International Chairman

Biographical Statement

Contribution to Mensa

- Joined Mensa Hungary in 1994 (founded 1993)
- Have been active from the very beginning
- Was elected chair first in 1997, served 9 years in total
- Assisted in building up a very active Full National Mensa with 800 members (having 1400 members now after steadily growing)
- 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) – a world record 😊!
- Successfully initiated an amendment to the MIL Constitution
 - Attended 14 IBD meetings

Personal

I am 42 years old and work as free-lance translator with own company. 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?

Because

- I am young with fresh ideas
- I have rich experiences in development, communication, publicity
- I understand Mensa governance on local and international level
- I want to be as successful in this role as I was as Director Development (13 country status upgrades!)
- I am strong in understanding different cultures
- I speak many languages
- I am energetic, empathic, ready to listen
- I am insightful, can give rational conclusions
- I defy the stereotype
- I have a sense of humour
- I have a heart for Mensa

What plans?

- Greater visibility for international level
- Renewed international website with enhanced content and extensive pool of information, functioning as knowledge centre
- Positive and encouraging atmosphere where all opinions are heard
- Better understanding for locality while

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- keeping the global character in mind
- Increased co-operation among countries while understanding differences
 - Better exchange of knowledge, experiences
 - Mensa living and growing
 - A colourful international Mensa that is not an abstract concept for members and countries
 - Fresh approach
 - Standing up for fairness
 - Being available for consultation

Why to vote?

Because

- Mensa is... us!
- It is you to shape and develop it!
- Let your voice be heard!

Be part of the international community!

Visit www.mensa.hu/balanyi for more!

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 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 also must 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?

After receiving so much from Mensa – I want to give back.

– What qualifies me for this role is my knowledge of Mensa governance both on local and international level. During my nine years as national chairman and four years as International Director of Development, I participated in fourteen 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 five foreign languages; I worked and lived abroad in a multi-cultural environment. Therefore, 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 a 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 😊.

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

- Increased visibility inside and outside. Mensa groups and their 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.
- 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.
- Increased co-operation and cohesion 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, especially by an improved and re-structured international website serving as knowledge centre.
- Attracting young people; winning new people for Mensa who will become future volunteers.
- Continued effort of making rules better understandable for the countries. Assistance and understanding.

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

- Greater visibility for international level (both inside and outside) through a renewed and re-structured website with enhanced content and an extensive pool of information.
- 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 those countries.
- Genuine assistance for countries.
- Better understanding for locality – countries, culture, people – while keeping the global character in mind.
- Increased cohesion and co-operation among the countries while understanding and respecting differences. Better exchange and sharing of knowledge, experiences, documents, ideas with a view to develop.
- A multi-faceted international Mensa embracing everyone. A colourful international Mensa 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.
- Progress towards ‘higher goals’ set by Constitution.

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Annika Thurlow

Candidate for International Director- Development

Biography

My name is Annika, I'm 27 years old and have been an active Mensa member since 2008. I live in Wellington, New Zealand, but enjoy travelling all over the world. My background is in dispute resolution, having completed my Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts in 2011. I have worked as an investigator, a mediator and in customer service, giving me a lot of experience in communicating with people of all ages and backgrounds. I love having a busy and active life, having competed in fitness competitions in 2014, and I plan on doing so again in 2015. I love being involved with Mensa, both as a member and a volunteer, and look forward to meeting many more Mensa members around the world in 2015 and beyond.

Campaign statement

I grew up in rural New Zealand, and as I went through high school and university, like many other Mensans I found it difficult to relate to my peers. When I joined Mensa I found not only a group my age I could identify with, but people of all ages, from all different cultures who felt like family. I found this drove me to not only want to share this feeling with other people in New Zealand, but with people all around the world.

I am a strong supporter of development in Mensa. My focus has been in the area I know well, the recruitment and retention of younger Mensa members. I believe the same principles apply to members of all ages, fostering a supportive, active and welcoming environment for all members to enjoy, and I believe I can help apply this in the role of Director of Development.

Answers to IBD Questions

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

I see the most important role of the International Director of Development as providing a vital point of contact for both Emerging and Potential Mensas, helping Full National Mensas grow and develop. In addition to this being a friendly face for Direct International Members, helping them to meet others and perhaps start Mensa groups in their own countries. Many National Mensas need resources and guidance to help them reach their full potential, and being a clearly obvious point of contact for National Mensas, the Director of Development can provide this support from Mensa International. Through international promotion of Mensa, we can encourage growth and development in both Emerging and Full National Mensas.

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

Since joining Mensa in 2008 I have committed to identifying areas in our organisation which needed support and development. In 2009 I established the position of Young Members Coordinator and joined the Board in 2010. From there I have helped promote Mensa in schools and universities around New Zealand and at various events such as TEDx and Giftedness conferences. I attend local events and let newer members know, so they know a familiar face, and encourage our younger members to attend. I was selected as part of the 2013 Leadership Exchange Ambassador Programme where I attended the American Mensa Annual Gathering and European Mensa Annual Gathering and presented on what I had done for our organisation. I really enjoyed participating in both these events, and saw what amazing opportunities there were for Mensa members to contribute to the international Mensa community by becoming involved as a Director.

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

In an ever interconnecting world, groups like Mensa need to be able to provide discernible benefits for their members. Information is instantly accessible and meeting other people is simple, whether you are in the US, Europe or far away here in the South Pacific. Making sure that Mensa is an organisation people want to join and want to remain members of

is crucial, providing meaningful interactions for different people through multiple mediums. I always hear from members that it is the gatherings and meeting other Mensa members that really make Mensa an incredible experience, so I believe encouraging Mensa members to attend local, national and international meetings is one way Mensa needs to engage and retain its members. Whether by making gatherings more accessible, more frequent, and catering to different groups of people, we can encourage this participation around the globe.

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

As someone who is new to the international governance of our organisation I would take great interest in learning from those who have gone before me, while bringing a fresh perspective to the international board. I would like to see more communication between Mensa International and small and emerging Mensas, to ensure that even the smallest and newest Mensa groups are getting the most out of being part of our fantastic organisation. As a Mensa member in the Asia-Pacific region, an area with so much potential for Mensa, I would be so glad to be involved in the development of the area. I'd like to see more events, more interactions and more opportunities for Mensa members around the world, and would love to be part of this.

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Björn Liljeqvist

Candidate for International Director- Development

Biographical statement

Director of Development, 2013-
Director of Smaller National Mensas, 2011-
2013
Chairman, Mensa Sweden, 2007-2011
Born in 1975, joined Mensa in 1991. Various
volunteer positions at the local level since
then.
As chairman, I focused on improving
administration and structure, to enable
further growth in members and activities.
Sweden now has the highest percentage of
Mensa members worldwide. As an
international officer, I have worked actively
on issues of policy and procedure and
engaged with boards and members in many
countries to help them with local issues.
Professionally, I have a MSEE degree and a
background in embedded systems
engineering. I am now self-employed,
lecturing and writing on learning strategies. I
am multilingual and have a great interest in
different cultures.

More information at
www.bjornliljeqvist.com.

Campaign statement

I seek re-election as Director of Development of Mensa International. For my second term, I offer concrete results on a few areas, in line with my long-term visions for Mensa as a growing, global community.

In particular, I want to finalize a change in the way we test new candidates in countries without a Mensa. We need continuity from the first members up to the point where the group can function on its own. That path is not always smooth and the Director of Development has to take a guiding role.

Mensa International is not like a small National Mensa, but neither is it like a big one. It has elements of both. As an experienced IBD member with several reform motions on my record, I am equipped to address the policy issues of development in such a complex society.

Mensa has proved to be a concept that works, where we meet each other and ourselves and receive inspiration for life. I am one of many who have invested a lot of energy and time into developing the society over the years, and because there is more work to be done, I ask for your support.

Answers to IBD Questions

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

Ensuring that Mensa groups can be established and later grow into Full National Mensas.

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

I volunteer because I need more time to finish things I have started. I am qualified because I combine many years of experience working for Mensa at various levels, with a young mind and a consensus-oriented outlook. After four years on the ExComm, in two different positions, I now understand quite well how Mensa works at the international level.

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 my main focus, the first priority is getting a better system in place to start new groups. Also, we need better international "cohesion," to find structures for sharing knowledge and information. Generally however, I would say that the most important

issue is to "upgrade" Mensa for a new generation with modern views on what a society is, in times of online communities and social media. Mensa International can offer more to both members and national groups, so that there is a clear value in looking outside of one's local group. The core principles of Mensa are as sound as ever, but we have to adapt to a changing reality.

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

A solid system for testing in new countries and the formation of new Mensa groups, with the help of established national groups, coordinated by Mensa International. An opening for Mensa presence in countries where, for political reasons, independent NGOs may not operate. Mensa India as a FNM. One more FNM in Latin America and an EM in Africa is not impossible.



Rudolf Challupner

**Candidate for
International Treasurer**

Biographical statement (private and professional information)

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, quite fluent in French and Spanish.

Education: primary and secondary school, commercial highschool, 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, ...

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For my work I travel internationally, lived in Scotland, Mexico, France, Italy, China, Canada, among others. My main hobby (beside Mensa) is travelling, in total I visited more than 100 countries. This means I saw 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 possible: Local Secretary, Regional Secretary, Proctor, SIG-officer, SIGHT, editor, organizer gatherings, co-ordinator YoungMensa, Treasurer, Director Administration, Executive Director and Chairman.

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 Treasurer, Mensa International was in a difficult financial situation. These days are gone, we are on a promising way now. Both cost saving and the more efficient use of the funds brought us back into solid structures. Nevertheless more can be done, the job is not finished. Some started initiatives need to be pushed into full deployment.

In the past two IBDs many delegates thanked me for the clear and well equilibrated budget. Therefore I kindly ask you to support a second term as Treasurer.

I am sure that my knowledge of financial matters and my way of approaching both Mensans and Non-Mensans will help Mensa internationally to grow. I will continue to act strongly service oriented and to use the budget with a maximum effect for the international development of Mensa.

Answers to IBD Questions

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

Before I was elected Treasurer two years ago both the budget and the annual financial reports were very difficult to read and understand. In many items desirable clarity and transparency was missing. I wanted to improve the informativeness as well as the relevance and reliability of all papers.

This was done to a big extent, as I could see from a lot of positive feedback from delegates and members. Now the budget as well as the reports are considered much clearer and better equilibrated. Much was achieved, but the job is not finished, further optimization is planned.

This includes not only the speed of accounting and prompt responses to requests, but also to get in closer contacts with all members of Mensa by regularly publishing the most important financial key figures. Only then everyone is capable to make an own judgement, how efficient the financial funds are used.

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

More than 30 years of activity on national as well as on international level gave me a solid background and understanding of the different needs of all groups and individuals within Mensa.

When I was treasurer of Mensa Austria, the financial situation was "challenging". Since then and still we are financially healthy.

The situation was a little similar when I was elected International Treasurer two years ago. But these days are gone, we are on a

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promising way now. Due to the good insights into the Mensa finances right now I can initiate further improvement in the cost saving and in the more efficient use of the funds. Especially also to support the growth of Mensa internationally.

All these things and my sound international experience are the best guarantee and permit me to ensure you that I know how to handle financial matters in a reliable and professional way.

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

Mensa should grow internationally faster than at present and move into new countries. This task I don't consider to be the responsibility of the Director Development only, but of all leaders within Mensa.

Partly it was achieved, but this work has to be continued. There are still many ideas which have to be transferred into initiatives. As Treasurer I consider it as my responsibility to provide the necessary funds.

Life becomes more electronical and sometimes more complicated. We must meet the new opportunities, have a better presence in the electronic medias, put the right persons – and the necessary financing – into these opportunities. We have to attract young people, we have to foster them and their development.

Only then Mensa will not only meet its promise to offer a friendly social environment but also its mission to foster intelligence and to contribute to a better world.

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

I would like to present the annual financial figures in a further improved way of easy understanding.

I also like to see a sustainable worldwide growth of Mensa in membership and attractiveness. Whereas with attractiveness I don't mean that Mensa only should be interesting for Non-Mensans to join, but also for actual and past members.

As Treasurer I would like to support this general target as much as possible by maximizing the financial support for all National Mensas and SIGs worldwide, so that we all feel part of a dynamic group.

Within the ExComm I see myself not only as the keeper of the money, but also as the representative of a variety of cultures and ways of life. All these aspects have to be reflected in the financial proceedings, so that each single Mensan can rely on strong and prompt support from the top of the organization.

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Jacek Cywinski

Candidate for International Treasurer

Biography

I have been with Mensa for almost 10 years, holding many different positions and being actively involved on both national and international levels, including being:

2014 – now Member of Finance Advisory Committee, Mensa International

2014 – now Board member and National Testing Officer, Mensa NZ

2011 - now Member of LEAP, currently Vice-chair

2010 - 2012 Chairman 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 several years of experience of accounting/ taxation at both national and international levels which I gained at E&Y, Shell, Ministry of Finance, Treasury Control Office, my own chartered accounting practice and several other places.

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

Campaign statement

Mensa International is an amazing organisation which allows their 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 it by taking actions towards supporting international events like EMAG, AMAG, Silvensa, implementing electronic balloting, spreading knowledge about wonderful programmes like LEAP and presenting Mensa finance without any delays in an easy to understand form. I am involved in Mensa at various levels – from organising IQ tests (I have tested more than 4000 people), being involved in LEAP and by even marking essays for Mensa scholarships. I maintain a strong network of international connections, being in touch with people from almost all Mensa groups, which would be a great help in achieving my goals. Try to get involve in Mensa international life – please read materials of all candidates and vote. You may make the difference.

Answers to IBD Questions

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 encourage spending money in even more efficient way and by working towards increasing 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 Finance Advisory committee, 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 ongoing basis, to

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eliminate any doubts and provide full disclosure, which will allow to make decisions regarding Mensa International finance more effectively.

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 four years and the Chair of Mensa Poland for two years. I was also an IBD delegate for two years, so I know how Mensa organisations at both national and internal levels operate. I am a member of Finance Advisory Committee, which gives me a great understanding of processes around preparation of financial statements and potential areas of improvement and development. Additionally, I have had more than 11 years of experience in finance in different positions and fields. I have been actively involved in financial matters and I have been lobbying for full disclosure and an increase in the information provided to members.

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 three main issues facing International Mensa are member retention, balancing the budget, and taking advantage of new technology. I believe that these issues are connected. Member retention is an important issue facing Mensa International, and we need to consider the role of technology in this. Mensa International

should be making more use of modern technology available. We are now in the age of iPhones, Android, Facebook and Twitter. I believe we should take advantage of the many platforms for member interaction on the internet. Many of these methods are very cost effective, and will attract new members, and more revenue, to our society. People are aware we are an international organisation, however do not see interaction happening between members at an international level. We should adjust our regulations to allow members vote electronically, which could save us up to 30,000 GBP every second year.

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 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, supporting all growth-related initiative). Moreover, I will be providing finance information to members well in advance before the annual IBD meeting allowing the members time to gain an understanding of what they are voting on. I believe we do not currently use the potential we have. At the end of 2013 financial year there is no interest income. Basic managing of funds by putting our money into term deposits may help to double it at least, without any effort. Additionally, as per point 3 I will be supporting changes regarding international elections. I think we should allow an electronic ballot to reduce the cost of the elections significantly.

END CANDIDATE STATEMENTS