

## Why Doesn't DAM have Activities in My Local Area?

*Dick Martin (December 2012)*

"Why doesn't Dayton Area Mensa have activities in my area?" That's what a new Mensan asked me a while back. I gave him my standard answer: "Because you haven't organized or hosted any yet."

**WHO?:** We don't have more activities, or activities in some geographic areas (that are assigned to DAM by National), because the members are not organizing and hosting them. This isn't the job of the Steering Committee or any elected or appointed officer of our local group. It's your job, and mine.

The Steering Committee's job is to maintain the chapter's infrastructure (get the newsletter out, pay the postage and printing bills, recruit new members, offer the membership qualification test to the general public from time to time, etc.) and to insure that there is at least one quarterly gathering or activity.

**HOSTING:** Anything else that appears on the calendar of activities is instigated by a member who cares enough to organize and host the gathering or activity. All one needs to do is to decide what, where, and when, and then send the information to the MPULSE calendar editor, whose contact information appears in each issue. Please include in the calendar item, your contact information (e.g. phone number, email address) in case anyone needs to ask for additional information. Please be specific about the location of the gathering; include the street address if there is one so GPS can find it. You don't need anyone's "permission" to organize or host a Mensa activity. Please comply with the published deadline for newsletter submissions. See the current calendar for the general format of calendar entries. If you need any information or assistance, please contact me or any Steering Committee member.

**WHAT KIND:** If we don't have the kind of activity you would like to attend, or want an activity closer to your home, workplace or wherever, please host one. It can be any kind of gathering you like: a museum tour, a hike in the woods, brunch, lunch, or dinner (or even breakfast) at your favorite restaurant, happy hour at your favorite bar, a gathering or party in your home with or without a particular theme, a picnic, or whatever you might enjoy. It can be a one-time special event, or a recurring activity, weekly, monthly or whatever you as host prefer. If you want RSVPs so you'll know how many or whom to expect, please say so in the calendar item. If the turn-out the first few times is small, please don't be discouraged. Most of our regular activities took a few months to "catch on." If you need any help getting started please contact me or any Steering Committee member.

**PUBLIC PLACES:** For a gathering in a public venue such as a restaurant, please consider how those who attend will find the Mensa group or table. Will the establishment staff know who and where we are and be able to direct someone to the Mensa group? We have "table tents," yellow cards with black Mensa logo and about 4" x 6" viewable area on each side that one can put on the table to help someone find us. Let me know if you need one and I'll send it to you. It's very frustrating to take the time and effort to go to the location of a listed Mensa gathering and then not be able to find the Mensa group. I've been there and done that several times while visiting other cities with Mensa groups and activities.

**MAYBE HERE:** There appears to be a "cluster" of DAMs with addresses in the Centerville-Bellbrook area. See the map with red dots representing DAMs' homes, on the left side of the Statistics Page. (Click on the map to enlarge it.) This area may be a good place for evening gatherings because it's close to home for a lot of us. I hope to see you soon at a gathering you host.