

# Why 300 members have asked for the recall of the chair

## and, let's rebuild Mensa the right way



In March, hundreds of Mensans have written to the National Election Committee to ask for a recall of Lori Norris, the chair of American Mensa. This groundswell of outrage is unprecedented, and the members' message is clear: **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

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Hundreds of members do not ask for the removal of the chair lightly; the majority of the AMC doesn't censure the chair lightly. While contemplating all the reasoning that supported these unprecedented actions, we can wonder why the recall didn't come earlier. In this article, you will find details that illustrate why many members are eager to see the situation resolved once and for all. They want to help shape a better future for Mensa, and they are asking to:

**VOTE THE CHAIR OUT!**



**AND REBUILD MENSA THE RIGHT WAY**

The current chair is perceived as being a long-standing obstacle to the progress of our organization and to the improvement of member benefits. The members are claiming rightly that the benefits and services rendered by Mensa are decreasing.

Should the chair be voted out, she would be replaced immediately by the first vice chair, avoiding any disruption in our business. This will help in addressing all of what needs to be fixed.

So, let's look at some key facts:

### SUMMARY: VOTE THE CHAIR OUT

- Our organization is failing big time in all metrics; such a situation requires a chair and an AMC laser-focused on improvement. Unfortunately, the chair in her current and past tenures (she was the first vice chair in her prior role) **has not shown any competencies** that could help fix it.
- On the contrary, **her lack of leadership** has driven the AMC to be very dysfunctional, and countless national officers resigned under her watch, keeping the trend spiraling down. **She was censured** in December for that exact reason.
- She has done nothing to prevent the unlawful removal of 10 AMC officers, leaving the remaining AMC **acting against the bylaws**.
- The chair's **very limited competency** hides under a **profound lack of transparency**; she appears to take great pleasure in her position: her surprising way to report her national and international Mensa trips illustrates only how much she likes traveling but not what she has learned or done during these Mensa-funded trips.
- She seems to **protect an obscure and suspect balance sheet**.
- Lori Norris is a long-standing member, well known for attending many gatherings and playing games all along, which is nice, but **absolutely nothing in her personal or professional credentials has prepared her to successfully lead an organization like ours**.

### AND REBUILD MENSA THE RIGHT WAY

**Mensans want and deserve good governance.**

This means that **the current chair must be removed**, at which point she will be seamlessly **replaced by the first vice chair**. It is expected that the unlawfully removed AMC officers will be reinstated so the new chair and the restored AMC can then **lead American Mensa out of its current crisis and put it on track for success**:

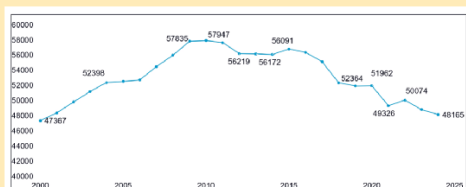
- Provide such an appealing value proposition for membership that American Mensa can attract new members, retain existing members, and encourage lapsed members to renew.
- Enable members to engage in meaningful public service through Mensa, to serve the public, and to enhance our reputation, which will create opportunities for revenue sources other than member dues.

# VOTING THE CHAIR OUT WILL BE A FIRST GOOD STEP TO RESTORE FAIRNESS AND SUCCESS IN AMERICAN MENSA

## KEY FACTS

### THE CHAIR LACKS LEADERSHIP AND THE NECESSARY COMPETENCIES

- Her columns and reports never express any clear vision for the future of American Mensa or describe any important achievements. Nor could she describe any achievements to members at the last Annual Gathering.
- American Mensa has lost 10,000 members in the past decade, consistently witnessing about a 2% drop each year. Unfortunately, the only solution that the current chair offered to this problem was to increase membership dues by 30%, which was explained only by "inflation." Nobody has ever heard Norris talk about the membership decline and the need to fix it.



Yearly membership - losing 10,000 members in recent years. Shown at AMC meeting 12/7/24

- The membership figures are even worse than they seem. The average age of members (55) is increasing, which means that we are failing to attract the young members who will be the future of the organization.
- At the last special meeting of the AMC in December, the chair was censured for incompetence.
- The chair has repeatedly used false citations of law and rules to squelch dissent. She is a liability for our organization.

- There have been many resignations and dismissals of national officers on her watch, creating a detrimental working climate. Many AMC officers have highlighted the dysfunctional nature of the AMC under the chair's tenure, expressing disappointment that internal politics were not serving the members' interests. The chair has consistently failed to address the issue of improving benefits for the membership.
- The chair was clearly supportive of the illegal expulsion of the 8 RVCs, which is further damaging our already weakened organization. The AMC has been holding meetings without the legally required quorum, and a legal action is preventing any elections to replace the illegally ousted RVCs. Her reckless behavior is a liability for our organization.
- She travels extensively nationally and internationally at Mensa's expense. Yet she never explains how these travels have benefited our organization (learning, new ideas, or insights). Instead, she just reports how much fun she had, which has frustrated many members, particularly in light of the recent dues increase.



### LACK OF TRANSPARENCY = LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- People who have had experience in other nonprofit organizations are astonished by the extraordinary levels of confidentiality within the governance of American Mensa.
- All organizations must keep some things confidential. However, why does the chair insist on operating behind this impenetrable cloud of secrecy?

- American Mensa has an obscure and suspect balance sheet. Nobody in the organization seems to be able to explain it: the many questions raised by members and officers are simply unanswered. A thorough look at the available documents cannot allow anyone to gain any clarity. This doesn't bother the chair. Why?
- Excessive secrecy has been used to hide the leadership's incompetence, complacency, bad or unlawful decisions, wasteful spending, and the organization's poor financial status. No transparency helps a great deal to remove any level of accountability. The secrecy also serves to maintain the same individuals in positions of power: very few members are willing to volunteer for an organization that operates with such a high level of confidentiality.

### RESTORE MENSA FAIRNESS



With a new chair and the reinstatement of the 10 expelled members, the AMC will create a simple, collaborative plan to help American Mensa grow and thrive:

- Attract new members, particularly YMs and Young Adult Mensans.
- Create new and exciting programs that would make membership feel worthwhile to potential and existing members, while encouraging lapsed members to come back.
- Enable members to engage in meaningful public service through Mensa, both to serve the public and to enhance Mensa's reputation.
- Leverage Mensa's branding to create opportunities for revenue sources other than member dues.

**IT IS TIME TO ACT:  
YOU HAVE THE POWER  
TO IMPROVE MENSA**