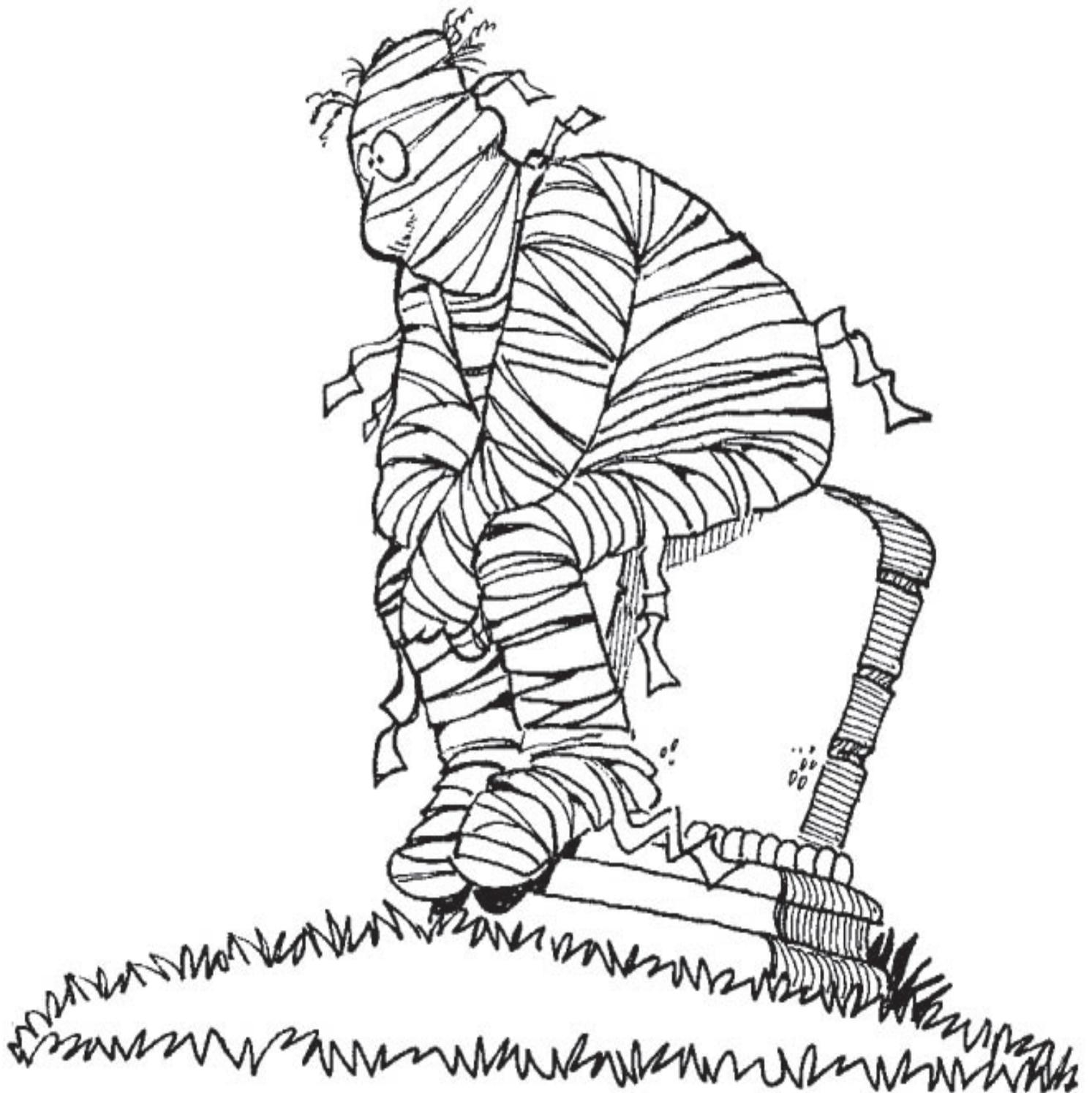


Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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October 2002



Lonestar Mensa Officers and Staff

Web Site: <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>

President †
John Neemidge
(512) 310-7863 neemidge@usa.net
1807 Messick Place, Round Rock, TX, 78681-7126

Vice President †
Dylan Warren
(512) 371-3948 wolfman01@austin.rr.com

Treasurer †
Midge Kocen
midserv@austin.rr.com

Member at Large †
Karen Werner
(512) 291-4677 wernernag@hotmail.com

Program Chair *
Karen Werner
(512) 291-4677 wernernag@hotmail.com

Publicity *
Paul Anderson
(512) 259-7824 wrdslngr@swbell.net

Newsletter Circulation Manager *
Helen Siders
(512) 799-6985 helensiders@aol.com

Gifted Children Resource *
Michele Vaughan
(512) 388-5970 michelerenee@austin.rr.com

Testing Coordinator *
Sam Waring
(512) 453-0730 curmudgn@prismnet.com

Membership ‡
Geri Neemidge
(512) 310-7863 gneemidge@usa.net

Bryan-College Station Area Coordinator *
Jim Miller
(979) 777-9546 hj_miller@msn.com

Waco Area Coordinator *
Jerry Lenamon
(254) 399-9450

Ombudsman/Arbiter *
Kelly Wagner
(512) 443-9650 BunRab@aol.com

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)
Dan Wilterding
(817) 573-4454 (before 10PM)
rvc6@us.mensa.org
504 Atchley Dr, Granbury TX 76048

† -- Elected position (voting) ‡-- Appointed position (voting)
* -- Appointed position (nonvoting)

SIGHT Coordinator *
Steve Vaughan
(512) 388-5970 sv@blackhat.net

American Mensa, Ltd.
(817)607-0060
AmericanMensa@us.mensa.org
www.us.mensa.org
1229 Corporate Drive West , Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Newsletter Editor *
Rachael Stewart
335-4409 bookbird@yahoo.com

13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin, TX 78729

Contributing Editors for October:

Helen Siders
Midge Kocen
Taz Waring
TJ Lundeen
Kartik Jayanarayanan

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Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by John Neemidge, President

Fall Festivities

Fall is finally here — and with it, the promised end of ads for LonestaRG IV (since it's over and done with). You'll find a full report on the RG elsewhere in this issue; suffice it to say here that it was a great success, both financially and in the opinion of the attendees. If you missed it, you'll have to wait a year for next year's RG, LonestaRG V: Five Year Reunion (though you'll only have to wait a few months before I start trying to convince you to sign up!).

This month Geri and I will be hosting our Halloween Party (it'll be on Saturday, October 26th). You'll find an article about that elsewhere, too. (Page 11. -Ed) It's the biggest party for us all year, and I hope you'll attend if you can. This'll be the first year in quite a few that we won't either have just ended the RG or be in the busiest part of getting ready for it, so we're hoping it'll be better than ever. Of course, we hope you can make it to all of LSM's events, but the Halloween Party is our personal favorite.

Also this month, we'll be finalizing the slate of candidates for the LSM elections. We're electing a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and three Members-At-Large in November. While we expect at least one candidate for President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, and are sure of at least one Member-At-Large candidate at press time, you're welcome to run for any position. If you'd like to run, contact our Nominating Committee: Rick Crabtree or Margaret Wofford (I can put you in touch with them if you need contact information). You can also volunteer at the October Monthly Meeting.

We have a new Testing Coordinator. Sam Waring, a longtime member of LSM and holder of many different jobs within the group, is our new Testing Coordinator. Sam's first job as Testing Coordinator is National Testing Day, which will be held on Saturday, October 19th. If you have friends who need to take the Mensa test to become members, please let them know about this test and send them to Sam to sign up.

Mark your calendars — plan on attending LSM's Holiday Party, Sunday afternoon, December 15th. It'll be a lot of fun — we're back at Zilker Clubhouse this year, and we've got plenty of things planned. We hope many of you will come celebrate the holidays with your Mensa friends.

Member News

-submitted by Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair

Lonestar Mensan Charity Smith married Burt James Bartell on September 6th, 2002.



-Charity and James

photo by John Neemidge

On September 18, 2002, Amy Fox became engaged to Jason "Raven" Jackson (some of you may remember him as the "grillmeister" from the April LSM picnic). They are planning a December, 2003, wedding.

Volunteer Activity Report

-submitted by John Neemidge

Lonestar Mensa helped out again this year at the Friends of the Austin Public Library's annual Monster Book Sale. We had a table with information about Lonestar Mensa, and group members helped the Friends count books, hand out bags, restock and straighten tables, and pack up. We also bought lots of books ourselves! Participating this year were Jan Cox, Midge Kocen, Janet & Mark Kres, Harold Morgan, Geri & John Neemidge, and Margaret Wofford.



-John Neemidge with Paige & David at the Booksale

photo by Geri Neemidge

Taz Mania

-by Taz Waring

Okay, so I have officially survived two full days at Lyndon Baines Johnson High School in Austin, TX. I can't say that it has been easy. Those of you who know me have probably heard me gripe about Austin Independent School District (AISD) combining the two magnet programs in the district into one. For those of you that have no idea what I'm talking about, AISD has had two Academies in recent years, one focusing on Liberal Arts (English/History) and the other on Science, Math, and Technology. The Liberal Arts Academy (LAA) was housed at Johnston, and the Science Academy was housed at LBJ. (On a side note: both schools produced poor scores on standardized tests until the magnet scores were averaged in.) Last year, the school board voted to combine the Academies into one huge Academy. Since the LAA was about half the size of the Science Academy, the Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) is now housed at LBJ. This arrangement really wouldn't have made much of a stir if the Academies had been combined each year until the class of 2005 graduated. The class of 2006 would then have become the first graduating class of LASA. But why should AISD do something sensible like that? Instead, the district packed up the LAA classes of '03, '04 and '05, and shipped them off to LBJ at the beginning of this school year.

I began high school as a student in the LAA. I was rather offended when the district informed me last semester that my only choices for the rest of high school were to transfer to LBJ or drop out of the magnet program. Since I was an athletic trainer, a good deal of my friends were not in the LAA. I was uprooted from the school I had come to adore and transplanted into a rather hostile environment. (The Academies are the best of friends and the worst of rivals, simultaneously.) I actually started school a week before AISD officially started. I arrived at LBJ on August 12th in time to start football practice. In that week, I became close to many of the members of the team and was 'adopted' into the family. If only the magnet was so simple. Most of my LAA friends have come up to me in the last two days with the complaints of 'I hate this place' and 'I miss Johnston.' I can only shrug because regardless of my expectations, I have adapted to LBJ with an incredible ease. Walking through the hallway involves stopping every few steps to check on how a player is feeling or giving an old friend a hug. I was informed by two of my friends on Monday morning that I "know too darn many people." It appears that I will adapt to and enjoy LBJ. I only wish all the magnet kids were as lucky as I am.



ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by John Neemidge, President

The meeting was held September 8, at Fresh Choice Restaurant. Attending: John Neemidge, President; Midge Kocen, Treasurer; Karen Werner, Member At Large; Geri Neemidge, Membership Officer; Helen Siders, member.

John called the meeting to order at 5:30.

We discussed the status of some outstanding RG reimbursements. We also discussed printer bills; John was to correct the bills sent by the printer and forward them to Midge. John also was to forward mailing cost reports to Midge.

We discussed the just-completed RG. Midge reported that initial financials show the RG took in \$5494.50 against expenses of \$3952.50. There are at least \$200 in pending reimbursements outstanding, and some of the income is earmarked for scholarship funds; however, it's clear that the RG showed a profit excluding scholarship fundraising of approximately \$1000 or more. All profit was made during the RG; looking at income, we were at approximately \$3700 revenue before the RG started (however, without walkins we would have been able to control expenses and break even). We also took in \$140 in registrations for next year's RG during LonestarRG IV, and others are expected before the end-of-September deadline. We also discussed whether to have a smoking room at next year's RG. Utilization of the smoking room was extremely light this year, despite having the same facilities and setup as last year. However, since the RG is profitable and we want everyone to enjoy hospitality, we decided to continue the smoking room. We discussed the need for additional volunteers and the possibility of keeping registration open longer hours to allow latecomers to register. Midge moved, Geri second, a motion to approve going forward with next year's LonestarRG - LonestarRG V: Five Year Reunion. The motion passed 4-0. Next year we decided that the brunch will either need to be significantly improved or cancelled.

We then discussed the upcoming elections. We need a Nominating Committee and an Election Committee. We will likely return to having three Members At Large next year; however, membership numbers to make certain of this were not available as of the ExComm meeting.

Helen volunteered to become Circulation Manager.

Midge proposed moving LSM's account to Guarantee Bank, as they offer no-fee banking to nonprofit organizations. Moved Geri, second John, to allow the LSM Treasurer to move LSM's bank accounts as appropriate to best serve the organization. Passed 4-0.

John adjourned the meeting at 6:30.

Chair's Report: LonestarRG IV

-submitted by John Neemidge

Lonestar Mensa's fourth annual Regional Gathering, LonestarRG IV: Pet Peeves, was held over Labor Day Weekend 2002. We all had a great time enjoying the fruits of so much planning and effort.

The weekend got started on Friday afternoon, with Registration and Hospitality both opening officially about 5pm. Ray O'Connor, our Hospitality chair, already had fresh bread baking. As time went on we built up quite a crowd in Hospitality. Later in the evening, we had a lively game of Carnelli, followed by a round of Hot Seat. After all that, we took advantage of the hot tub.

Saturday started with a testing session at 9am - although Hospitality had been going for a while, with Rachael Stewart cooking up breakfast. Speakers started at 9:30 and went all day; as always, people loved the speakers and asked lots of great questions. We had a Animal Rescue Fair from 11 to 2, with many local pet rescue groups participating, giving out information about themselves and, in at least one case, adopting out a pet. We had lots of games all day Saturday as well. Saturday night the costume dance was lots of fun, with many clever costumes.

Sunday we continued with more excellent speakers and lots of games. The screening of PrizeWhores, a documentary about radio station contests, was well attended and enjoyed. During dinner we had the Progressive Petting event, where everyone could meet the pets brought to the RG. After dinner, Dr. Karl Trappe delighted the crowd with the Physics Circus, an interactive demonstration of many different physics principles that was both enlightening and lots of fun. After the Physics Circus, many of the crowd stayed to enjoy the Name That Movie game (postponed from earlier Sunday due to technical difficulties).

Monday we wrapped up with two speakers and a brunch, followed by awards and prizes. We had lots of great prizes, thanks to a heroic effort by Walter Stewart in rounding up donations, as well as Kartik Jayanarayanan's work in calling restaurants. The Neemidges won the raffle quilt donated by Kelly Wagner. The raffles raised nearly \$200 for LSM's scholarship fund. Initial checks of our budget show that the RG made about \$1000 profit, excluding money earmarked for scholarships; this income will help LSM have more and better events in coming years.

Thanks to the many people who made LonestarRG IV such a success. Geri Neemidge arranged our wonderful speakers. Ray O'Connor did another great job in providing a bountiful Hospitality feast. Janet & Mark Kres made sure all our registration records were in order. Midge Kocen kept track of our income and expenses, wrote checks, and other money management. As I mentioned before, Walter Stewart went above and beyond any expectations in getting prizes, and Kartik Jayanarayanan called many restaurants seeking donations as well. Kelly Wagner produced a beautiful quilt for our raffle, and also hosted a Pet Toy Workshop. Paula Beard designed our great logo. Paul Pierce hosted Exquisite Corpses, Margaret Wofford hosted Pet Tales, and Hugh Brown again hosted the ever-popular Discussion Room.

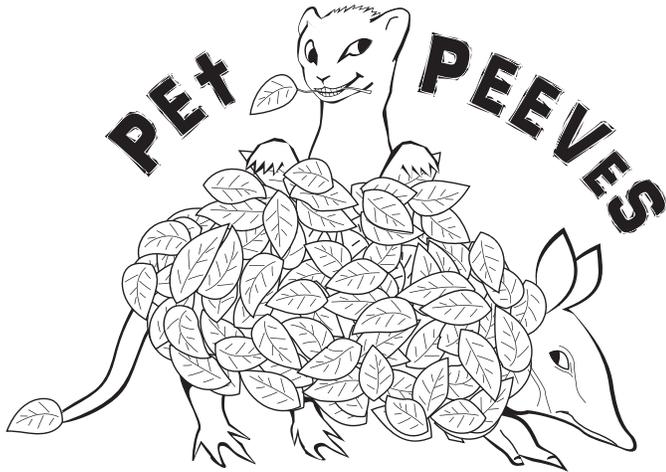


-Jane Thompson demonstrates Gyroscopic effect at the Physics Circus (photo by Geri Neemidge)

Also, thanks to Brown Distributing for donating four cases of beer for hospitality, and to our prize donors: Applebee's, Austin Aqua-Dome, Carrabba's, Fresh Choice, Fuddruckers, Ironworks BBQ, Marie Callender's, PC Tech, Pet Corral, Red Hot And Blue, Taj Palace, and Kelly Wagner.

If you were at LonestarRG IV, I'm sure you're already looking forward to next year's RG. If not, I hope you won't miss out — we've already got a lot planned, and we think it'll be bigger and better than ever. Next year's RG is entitled LonestarRG V: Five Year Reunion, and will feature some of the best-received speakers from prior years, along with new speakers on reading, writing, 'rithmetic, and other educational topics, along with a prom-themed dance and plenty more. Keep an eye on your 'Dillo for more information, registration forms, etc. If you'd like to help out with next year's RG, please contact John Neemidge to volunteer — we've got plenty to do, and would love to have more people involved.

LonestaRG IV



*-Erich Graham sits on a bed of nails at the Physics Circus
photo by Geri Neemidge*



*-Midge Kocen in costume as her 'pet peeve' - Tax Forms.
photo by Geri Neemidge*



-Hospitality 101 -- from left: Linda Streitfeld, John Adams, Johnny Zweig, Anna Schoolfield, Shelly Sunderman, David Neemidge, Paige Neemidge, Geri Neemidge, Rosalie Rodgers, and Randy Farmer

Laughing Up an Essay

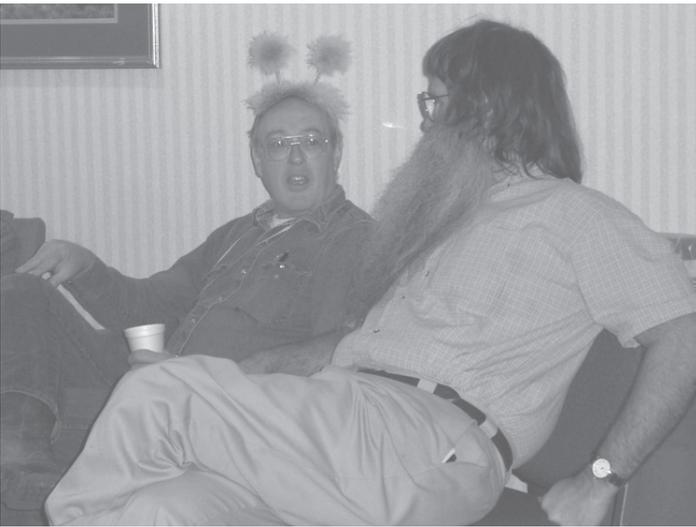
-by Kartik Jayanarayanan

Judging the essays for the MERF scholarship essay contest was anything but boring work. The good essays made interesting reading, such as the two winning entries that were published in the last month's 'Dillo. There were however some that didn't quite make the cut, but were so hilarious that we felt they shouldn't go unmentioned.

A gentleman who wants to be a teacher was clear about why he needed a scholarship, "In order to be a good teacher though, I need to get a good education. I need to go to get a good education [sic] so I need to go to college and in order to go to college I need funding. Any scholarships would help immensely." One was dead serious about his goal of becoming a baseball coach, "I've always loved playing baseball and when all the other kids just thought of it as a game, I thought of it as a life or death situation."

A student who wants to be a church minister understands her limitations, "Though my plans may change due to my lack of omnipotent wisdom, I hope to attend a private university somewhat close to me." A budding tutor who wants to make a difference in students' lives writes about her tutoring experience, "After tutoring him and helping him through the year I helped him understand that I made a difference in his life." A senior in high school aiming to work for the FBI writes, "I have known that I would attend Texas A&M University from birth."

Lastly, there was a future kinesiologist giving the reason for choosing his field of study, "Surrounded by screaming fans, my eager teammates, and my unwanted nervousness, I stood on the volleyball court in unexpected shock. Immediately, I took a quick look at the scoreboard, and realized the reality of the situation. After the opponent had scored three additional points, I sensed that my high school volleyball career was coming to a halt. Comprehending that this was indeed my last volleyball game, I realized how valuable sports are to me, and the fact that I am determined to accomplish my goals of attaining more knowledge about exercise, fitness, and nutritional science."



*-Dale Parish and Hugh Brown enjoy serious(?) discussion.
photo by Geri Neemidge*

-Sheri Soltes and Griffy show training techniques used with 'buddy' dogs for the hearing impaired and disabled.

photo by Geri Neemidge



*-Dixie Wofford (Lab) meets Poco Williamson (mutt?)
photo by Geri Neemidge*

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Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)
Rachael Stewart
13106 Bidwell Drive
Austin, TX 78729-7420

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Rachael Stewart
13106 Bidwell Drive
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PS Form 3526, October 1999

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 John J. Remidge BUSINESS MANAGER Date 9/23/02

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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- Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.

PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

Have you registered for the LDW in Tulsa? Topics include: Servant/Leader Principle, Editing and Newsletters, Effective Group Money Management, Recruitment and Retention, and more. Among the speakers are names such as Amyx, Ramsdell, Miller, Paden, and Jackowski; you may recognize all or some of these, there are more not listed. Beginning the evening of Friday, November 8, Workshops continue through the day on Saturday with three sessions on Sunday to end before noon. See page 10 for registration and contact information; please come, please share, please help us grow.

Something else to consider while you are in a registering mood — the Feast of Pleasures and Delights will take place over the Thanksgiving weekend. Definitely something to consider if you can be in the Dallas area at that time, North Texas Mensa does an RG up right!

Arkansas Mensa was the host for my latest group visit. They meet in an small upstairs room at a coffee-shop, with enough people go make it cozy and comfortable. The nearly two dozen folks that I met were engaging, enlightening, and an absolute pleasure to be around. I lost track of how many subjects we touched on during the four or five hours that we talked, what might have been “hot button” topics elsewhere were treated enthusiastically and without rancor. A truly engaging group, my thanks to them for having me.

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6

rvc6@us.mensa.org

817-573-4454

504 West Atchley Drive

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October Birthdays

- 
- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10/01 | Robert Brian Holder |
| 10/03 | Thomas M Spillman Jr
Diane E Tominaga
John David White
Richard W Knight |
| 10/04 | Ms Karen M Werner |
| 10/05 | Mr Mark L Kres |
| 10/08 | Karla Ault Smith
James Froedge |
| 10/10 | Mr Robert Allan Larson |
| 10/11 | Dusty Harshman |
| 10/14 | Kelley Saveika |
| 10/15 | Vicky Yvonne Spradling
Michelle R Miller |
| 10/17 | Ms Linda Joyce Streitfeld
James ‘Beau’ Eccles Esq |
| 10/19 | R Kelly Wagner |
| 10/21 | Codie Smith |
| 10/23 | Mr David H Green
Mr Michael Bennett McCormick
Marc Eisenbarth |
| 10/26 | Robert I May |
| 10/27 | Marie Pierce |
| 10/28 | W Andrew York |
| 10/29 | David R Travis
Mr Terry L Cost
Erik W Mulloy |



Online Access to the ‘Dillo

-from Geri Neemidge, LSM Webmaster

The Armadillo Literary Gazette will now be offered in an online version. The online files are in PDF format and are available in a password protected area of the Lonestar Mensa web site. To view these files, you will need to find the user name and password for the Mensa server in your current Mensa Bulletin. The files are linked off of the Lonestar Mensa News page -

<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lsmnews.htm>

These files are just like the printed version of the ‘Dillo, only harder to lose!

Where are the Volunteers?

-by Midge Kocen

I rejoined Mensa a few years ago when I moved to Austin, and became active about a year and a half ago.

What do I mean by active? I try to attend TGIT and meetings as often as possible. I haven't made the Games night or parties yet. This year I did attend the RG. I also joined the Board last year as Treasurer. I helped at the Friends of the Library Book Sale last year and this year.

Why am I writing this? I'm amazed at the lack of volunteer help when it's called for. It should be a simple matter to volunteer at the RG. The registration table wasn't officially open except for Friday evening and a short period Saturday morning. Some of the Speakers weren't greeted and introduced at their venue. You were already at the RG, why didn't you offer to spend an hour at the registration desk? If you attended a session why didn't you volunteer to escort the speaker from the hospitality area to the room and introduce them. These speakers come to our RG and don't charge a fee.

It's a little harder to volunteer at the Book Sale – You have to commit and actually go to the Crocket Center. I think 4 people volunteered for Saturday and 3 were there. Sunday 3 people volunteered and did show up. I haven't included John & Geri in the count at either event. They were at the Book Sale the entire time and stayed to help pack books. With a membership of over 400, why aren't more of you helping? Are you aware that most of the work is being done by John and Geri? If you volunteer (and show up) you get more out of Mensa planned events.

Thanks for hearing my 2¢ worth.

Belton Lake Camping Trip

-submitted by Helen Siders, Co-Coordinator

Join the Lonestar Mensans October 19-20 for a fun-filled camping weekend at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area, about 15 minutes west of Belton. BLORA offers primitive tent camping at \$4/night. \$3 entrance fee. Water for the tent sites and hot showers are close. There are RV sites with water and electric for \$12/night for those who would prefer that. There are also cottages at \$30/night for those even less hardy souls. Bring food for yourself and your family. Dogs are OK.

We are going Oct 19-20 for the cooler weather, (lot of Yankees in Mensa!), making it too late in the year to use

BLORA's beach and waterslides. Check the park out at <http://www.hoodmwr.com/blora.htm> or do a google search on BLORA.

Those who don't want to camp can still come for the day and enjoy the companionship of your fellow Mensans. There is fishing. The riding stables and mountain bike trails will be open. And there are several playgrounds for the kids.

To register, please e-mail jrickcrabtree@hotmail.com (Rick Crabtree) who will cheerfully answer any questions and reserve your overnight accommodations. Or call Helen at (512) 799-6985 if you don't use e-mail.



November Leadership Development Workshop

-submitted by TJ Lundeen of Eastern Oklahoma Mensa

Do you know the four models of leadership and why one might be better than another for your group, and why it's even worthwhile to know that? Neither do I, but after I listen to the presentation at the LDW on November 8-10 in Tulsa, I might have some idea.

Although this LDW is being hosted by the Eastern Oklahoma Mensa group and the region in general, members from any region are welcome and encouraged to attend. We're offering two new topics never before presented at an LDW, including one on sharing success stories. Speakers include the Executive Director herself; Mensa's Gentle Giant Dan Wilterding, otherwise known as RVC 6; the bubbly Isolated M editor, Susan Ramsdell; former AMC Chairman Dick Amyx; the irrepressible (does that mean she doesn't wrinkle?) Kim Jackowski; and others. The weekend is learning in the way you wish school had been.

Rooms are at the Best Western Airport and are a low \$50/night. Breakfasts are free. Dinner Friday is free, too. And all the information and camaraderie are also free for the pickin'. Breaks for snack food at mid-morning and mid-afternoon help replenish the brain food. Oh yes, there is the huge jacuzzi in the hospitality suite at nights, and it is full of—— soda pop! To register, write to Carl Hartline at carlyledt@aol.com or call him at 918-592-6516 and leave a message on the machine. For hotel reservations, call toll-free at 888-438-0780 and ask for the Mensa rate.

What's Happening in October?

Thank Goodness It's Thursday

Central Market Café

Every Thursday

6:00-8:00pm

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin

(512) 206-1020

Meet us in the Café after work for fun, conversation & food. Prospective members welcome. Central Market Café is located in the Central Park shopping center on the east side of Lamar Blvd between 38th and 41st Streets. Central Market is the anchor store. Central Market Café is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

ExComm Meeting

Monday, October 7

5:30pm

Howson Branch Library

2500 Exposition Blvd., Austin

Contact John Neemidge at (512) 310-7863 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome. The library is located one block north of the intersection of Windsor Road (west of MoPac) & Exposition Blvd, on the NW corner of Exposition & Bowman Road.

Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 14

Dinner - Souper Salad

5:30pm

6700 Middle Fiskville Rd., Austin

Meeting - Austin Public Library

University Hills Branch

6:45pm

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Take 183 to Manor Rd. exit; go west on Manor Road past the HEB; turn left at the next light, which is Loyola. The library is on the right, less than one block up Loyola.

In keeping with our Halloween tradition, October's speaker is a mortician from Weed-Corley Funeral Home, a family-owned business. Darryl Thompson is the general manager for Weed-Corley, where he has worked for 21 years. After studying at San Angelo University, he attended mortuary college at the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. He worked in various positions with Weed-Corley before being named general manager.

Mr. Thompson will talk about his work as a mortician and as a funeral home director. He will also talk about what makes a person take up that type of work, and he will have war stories to tell. He will tell us about the types of services offered by funeral homes these days, including Weed-Corley.

Honor the holiday tradition -- be ready with your ghoulish questions for our death dealing speaker.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, October 16

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

Prospective members welcome. RSVP to Jerry Lenamon, (254) 399-9450.

LSM Camping Trip

Saturday and Sunday, October 19-20

Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area

See the article on page 10 for details.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, October 24

(at TGIT)

Help us assemble the newsletter! See Thank Goodness It's Thursday for directions.

LSM Mustelid Mansion

Seventh Annual Halloween Extravaganza

Saturday October 26th

7:00 pm

The Neemidges

1807 Messick Place, Round Rock

Join your fellow ghouls, goblins, witches, ghosts and spooks at Geri and John's seventh annual Halloween party. See how many decorations one house (and yard) can hold! Thrill to automated creatures talking to you from darkened rooms! Witness the horrors of beastly babies, fearsome ferrets, ghostly goats, and lunatic llamas! Be tempted by the terrifying trinity, Cheesehead, Meathead, and Diphead! Drink in the party spirit with Geri's famous witches' brew! Win acclaim in the costume contest! Bring your friends! Bring your family! Bring along some beastly beverages, potent potions, devilish delights and terrible treats to share!



Coming in November

LSM Fall Picnic

-submitted by Helen Siders, Co-Coordinator

November 09, 2002, at 4:00pm, come to a Fall Picnic at Northwest Park in north central Austin. Mark your calendars. This picnic will be similar to the previous events Mensans enjoyed last April 20 and May 18. Bring potluck food to share with everyone. Bring uncooked meat for your own family and grill it at the park. Pets on a leash are welcome.

Misty has developed a website with information about the Nov 09 picnic. Please access <http://b-b-fam.home.texas.net/LSMPicnic> to register for the picnic, enter what potluck food you can bring and see who else is coming.

More information next month. Questions check the above website or e-mail helensiders@aol.com.

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 TGIT	4	5
6	7 ExComm Meeting	8	9	10 TGIT	11	12
13	14 Monthly Meeting	15 <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16 Waco Area Mensa	17 TGIT	18	19 Lake Belton Campout
20 Lake Belton Campout	21	22	23	24 TGIT	25	26 Halloween Party
27	28	29	30	31 TGIT		

2002

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