

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXI Number 5

May 2004

Serving up news, literature, and
fabulous clip art for "Who
knows?" how many years!



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2004

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Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by Karen Werner, President

I'm at a loss for words this month. Things have been a little out of sync for me lately.

For the first time in two and a half years of getting speakers for the Monthly Meetings, I had my first no-show in April. The speaker confirmed several days before the meeting that she would be there, and then booked another engagement without letting me know.

Then, when I should have been writing this column, I was choosing to resign from my job instead. It's a decision I have mixed feelings about. I enjoy my work, but I feel the owner is going in a direction I want to have nothing to do with. On the positive side, I spent last weekend with my dog at a beachhouse in Port Aransas. While it was pouring rain in Austin, I was body surfing in the Gulf.

This month, we are going to do something we do every couple of years, and we will be holding a Lonestar Mensa Soapbox Night as the agenda for the May Monthly Meeting. Any member is free to talk on any subject, with a tentative time limit of 15 minutes (subject to change based on the number of speakers). For those of you who have expressed an interest in talking to the group, now is the time.

John Neemidge reported at April's Ex-Comm meeting that the hotel room rates for our RG over Labor Day have been reduced. Sign up for the RG; you'll have a great time.

I also got an e-mail from the San Francisco Bay Area group saying they will be hosting an RG over Thanksgiving this year. I will send that announcement to the announce list. Although we also have an RG in Dallas over Thanksgiving, those of you who haven't been to San Francisco in a while, or ever, might want to give that event some thought. I certainly am.

A reminder, also, that Houston is hosting an RG this month over Memorial Day. I believe the theme has changed, and it will be related to games and lots of them. Houston has hosted some wonderful RGs, and if you have the time, you should go.

I don't need to remind you that the AG is in Las Vegas over July 4. I have booked my hotel room and flight and have registered. The folks in charge are sending out updated notices now, so things are progressing in an exciting fashion. Personally, I think this will be a memorable

AG, and if you don't attend, you will be sorry.

Anyone who is interested in hosting a party or picnic should let me know and we will post an announcement in the newsletter. We can never have too many get-togethers

Bye for now. See you soon.



April ExCom Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Karen Werner, President

April's Ex-Comm Meeting Minutes are submitted by Karen Werner. In attendance were Karen Werner, Margaret Wofford, Kathie Blair, Helen Siders, Mark Kres, Janet Kres and John Neemidge.

The meeting was called to order by Karen Werner at 6:00. Karen reported on Mensa testing dates. Sam Waring, testing coordinator, has set testing dates for potential new members for April 18 and May 15. We discussed the need for additional proctors. Janet Kres has been a proctor in the past, and Karen will check with National to see what the requirements are for reinstatement. Other potential candidates are also working toward accreditation, and potential additional proctors were also discussed.

Kathie Blair reported that she is now getting monthly bank statements and will start providing the Ex-Comm with monthly accountings.

John will be working on putting together a compilation of local resolutions passed by the Ex-Comm over the years and still in effect, so that these resolutions are readily available to the Ex-Comm and to the members.

Several officers suggested putting on a Lonestar Mensa garage sale or white elephant drive to benefit our scholarship fund. They will work on identifying potential dates and sites.

John reported that the hotel rates for our RG over Labor Day have been reduced, and are now under \$70 per night.

Helen reported that she will no longer be doing the picnics. Several other possible candidates were suggested to take over this task, and will be contacted to see if they are willing to do so.

Attendees discussed the long standing practice of reimbursing party givers up to \$100 for hosting one of the quarterly parties. The general feeling was that most members are not aware of the availability of subsidy from LSM funds.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Thus Spake the N.O. (e.g. the National News Pages)

NomCom Seeks Candidates

The National Nominating Committee is finally operational. We have a committee of over 60 people and hopefully, we will be able to add some more members from local groups very soon. Probably by the time you read this, those additions will have been made.

We are looking for qualified candidates to run for all the positions of the American Mensa Committee. This includes The Chair, The 1st Vice Chair, the 2nd Vice Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Also, there are 10 Regional Vice Chairs. Our goal is to try to have at least two candidates that have gone through the NomComm process for each position on the ballot. That means we are looking for 30 people to run in the election.

Could you be one of the select few? Have you ever thought about taking a more active role in the management of Mensa? This could be the time for you to fulfill that thought. All you have to do is decide to put your name in for consideration to the NomComm.

First, you should read the American Mensa Bylaws, sections 3-6. These parts of our bylaws describe in detail exactly what qualifications are required in order to be an officer of Mensa. And it's not very hard to meet these qualifications.

Next, you should contact someone on the NomComm and talk with them about how to sign up. Your Local Secretary has probably appointed someone within your local group to be a representative on the NomCom. Then contact that person, ask for a Candidate Information Form. If your local group does not have a representative, you can contact me. Believe me, I will be more than glad to send you the CIF. Of course, if a NomComm representative approaches you and asks you to run, you should be very complimented. It means a lot of people think very highly of you and feel you would do a great job as an officer of Mensa.

Fill out the CIF, use more paper if you run out of space. I expect most people in Mensa can write a lot about themselves, their accomplishments both inside and outside of Mensa. Of course, you can always get the CIF online at the Mensa website. Download it, fill it in, and e-mail it to me.

Now, isn't that simple? I know you have questions. I probably have some of the answers. So here goes!

Where do I find the CIF? Go to the Mensa website. You can access the CIF in the Officer Resources section of the Web site (us.mensa.org/officerresources). It's the first file in Other Forms and Documents when you *List All* files. Can't get to that section of the website? Send me an e-mail and I'll send you a copy. All CIFs need to post-marked no later than midnight, July 31, 2004. That means snail mail and e-mail. Anything received after that will be discarded.

How do you get in touch with me? Send me an e-mail at nomcomm@us.mensa.org. Call me at the numbers listed below. Send me a letter by snail mail at the address listed below. You can possibly find me at an RG. I will be attending the AG in Las Vegas. Just look for the somewhat blonde lady wearing a purple hat and having a look on her face that says "What the &*)#\$\$^# have I done?"

By the way, the assistant chair to the NomComm is Mr. Steve Burnham. He has been a very valuable resource and help in these first couple of months. Steve can also be reached pretty much the same way I can and he can answer all the same questions and probably a whole lot more. His e-mail is AsstNomComm@us.mensa.org.

Okay, now keep us busy! Start contacting those NomComm reps, listen to them when they contact you. Fill out the forms and send them in! We want to hear from you!

Stormie Kullman
Nominating Committee Chair
Nomcomm@us.mensa.org
59 Washington Drive Piedmont, SC 29673
864-295-1315 864-238-7032



Mind Games 2004

Mind Games 2004 was held this weekend in Chicago. CAM put on a great event with 187 people attending.

Sixty games were entered into this year's competition.

The winners are:

10 Days in Africa, Out of the Box Publishing
Rumis, Educational Insights
Basari, Out of the Box Publishing
Yinsh, Rio Grande Games
Bridges of Shangri-La, Uberplay

Thus Spake the N.O. (e.g. the National News Pages)

Mini Minutes of the American Mensa Committee Meeting

March 20, 2004
Charlottesville, VA

The AMC met in conjunction with the Jefferson Country Regional Gathering.

Appointments: Karen Bauernschmidt, INTERLOC Editor; Maggie Truelove, Assistant RVC Region 10; Alan Baltis, Assistant RVC Region 3; Mike Seigler, Leadership Development Handbooks Coordinator.

Appointments made between AMC meetings were announced: David Felt, Awards Committee Chair; Sean M. O'Connor, Esq., Interpretive Counsel; Stormie Kullman, Nominating Committee Chair; and Dan Wilterding, Site Selection Committee Chair.

Sixty-two members were appointed to the Nominating Committee (names will be listed in the full Minutes of this meeting). Members may be added to the Nominating Committee until August 1, with AMC approval, although before June 1 is preferred. Please contact your RVC or Committee chair Stormie Kullman for further information.

New Coordinators are being sought for the Community Activities Program and the Literacy Grant program.

The Colloquium bid of Borderline Mensa, "Earth in Mind: Fueling the Future" to be held in Tucson, Arizona, March

4-6, 2005, was accepted pending the approval of the final bid packet. Bids are still being sought for the 2007 Annual Gathering.

The fiscal year budget for 2004-2005 was adopted. The charge for prior evidence review was increased to \$30. A dues increase from \$49.00 to \$52.00 annually for dues paid on or after 1-1-05 for the 2005-2006 membership year has been proposed. It has also been proposed that the local group subsidy be increased from \$8.15 to \$8.64. Both of these proposals will be discussed for a second time and voted on at the July meeting.

The AMC adopted the recommendation of the SIGS committee to make Special Interests Groups a membership benefit. Exact procedures will be worked out over the next few months.

The Policies and Rules Governing the Conduct of Hearings were amended to allow a respondent in a national hearing to choose to use an arbitrator of the American Arbitration Association as the finder of fact. The National Hearings Committee would still determine a sanction if the AAA arbitrator found that an act inimical had been committed.

The next meeting of the AMC will be Las Vegas, Nevada, on July 3, 2004, in conjunction with the Annual Gathering.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Vasiliauskas, Secretary AMC

Cooking With Karen

-by Karen Werner

Following is a recipe for Lemon Basil Chicken, which is high on flavor, low on calories, and fits within a low carb diet.

Lemon Basil Chicken

Whole Chicken

2 lemons

4 garlic cloves (or less, depending on taste)

1 bunch fresh basil

1 tsp. (approx.) dried basil

1/2 - 3/4 tsp. garlic powder

Heat oven to 375°

Grate 2 tsp. lemon peel. Reserve. Cut two lemons in half.

Rub chicken down with juice from 1/2 lemon. Place garlic, remaining lemon halves and fresh basil in the bird's cavity. Sprinkle outside with lemon peel, dried basil, garlic powder, and salt and pepper.

Cover the chicken with a foil tent. Roast the chicken for approximately 30 minutes for each 1/2 pound, to 185°, preferably with a meat thermometer inserted. A 4 lb. chicken takes about 2 hours. After the first hour, start basting with juices every half hour. During the last half hour, remove the foil tent.

After the chicken is cooked, let rest for 15-30 minutes.

The juices make perfect gravy. Mix approximately 1 1/2-2 tbs. of corn starch with a small amount (1/4 - 1/2 cup) chick broth or water. Whisk into lightly boiling pan juices until thickened. Serve over chicken and mashed potatoes.

Three-Legged Stories

-by Jane Thompson

During a brief period of downtime at work the other day, I was telling the story about the time I was driving home from visiting Bill, my then boyfriend, in Oklahoma City on July 5th when my car decided to just totally break down and leave me stranded right outside Pauls Valley. Of course, all the mechanics in town had taken off for the long weekend so there I was, standing there, pitifully sweating in the 107 degree weather, when the wrecker driver told me about this mechanic, Orvill, who might be able to help. Orvill looked at the car, told me my water pump had died, and said he could probably get me a part, maybe. Meanwhile, I called Bill and told him I probably wouldn't make it back to Dallas before dark, after all, but not to worry because Orvill was going to fix the car.

Bill, ever helpful, offered to fly down in his private plane and take me on to Dallas, but I was rather insulted that he thought I couldn't handle a water pump problem and turned down his offer. Meanwhile, Orvill located a water pump from a buddy in a tiny little town only 40 miles away and we headed off toward god knows where in Orvill's incredibly old and beat-up car, which proceeded to break down on three separate occasions on this water-pump fetching trip. By this time I was getting a bit nervous about Orvill, who prattled happily about his years as a mechanic at the Ford plant in Russia between breakdowns.

It was full dark by the time Orvill started working on the car. He finally got the part on, but it turned out to be grossly defective. So, (we are talking an Oklahoma man here) Orvill drove me back to OKC, only halfway across the state, to Bill's apartment. We got there about 3 am and Bill didn't even get mad. He was very good-natured, which may explain how he put up with me for so long. The next day he flew me back to Dallas, then fetched me the next weekend to reclaim my car, which Orvill, against all the odds, had managed to fix.

It was at this juncture that I couldn't help but notice one of the youngsters at work shaking his head. He told me he just couldn't believe all the stories I tell.

Well, that reminded me of the time when I was in college (now for you Gen-Xers, this won't be a walk down memory lane, but a journey through uncharted territory) and my ex-boyfriend made the All-American football team and was going to be on the Ed Sullivan Show. (Look it up: Jim Grisham, OU, 1963. Bud Wilkinson said he was the best player he ever coached).

Back in those days there was only one TV set for 50 girls in the small college dorm, but I thought surely these sympathetic dorm mates would let me watch The Sullivan show to catch a glimpse of the guy I was still carrying a torch for (though not, admittedly, full time). Well, no. They flat refused to turn the channel to the Ed Sullivan Show no matter how much I begged and even ignored me when I pitched a fit. This left me completely bewildered—I would certainly let one of them watch her old boyfriend if he was going to be on TV.

It was years before I found out that they assumed I had made it up, that I could not possibly have dated an All-American football player—just like I made up all the stories about knowing the Four Preps and once riding a bus through a hot Texas night with J.Frank Wilson (“Last Kiss,” the world's worst song) and just missing meeting Clark Gable in Oklahoma City.

I don't believe I've had a very exciting life—it's especially hard for me to believe it now, since I spend all day in front of a computer editing medical articles and all night in front of a word processor, writing, drinking wine, and listening to “Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me” over and over.

The only remotely exciting things that ever happened to me were also pretty funny. Like the time I woke up at 4 am and found a burglar in my apartment. The exciting part was when I drew down on the cops when they burst in the door; the funny part was when they refrained from filling me full of lead, then went next door to wake up my neighbor because they thought I was too shaken to be left alone. In the confusion I forgot his apartment was filled with gro-lights and seedling marijuana plants; he pretty near had a heart attack when he saw two cops at his door at 5 am. He didn't see the humor in this, but I did, because I was still alive.

He was a medical student; later, after he graduated, (naturally) he performed a routine operation on me that went really, really bad. (No fault of his, I'm happy to report, and he swore he wasn't smoking at the time).

The exciting part was all the running and screaming people were doing; however, I was not fully able to appreciate this because I was busy bleeding to death. It was funny when he, pretending to be very professional and doctor-like, was attempting to explain the situation to my mother and suddenly, right there in the hallway of a major Dallas hospital in his first year of practice, burst into tears. I must say that my mother never thought it was funny, but I did, since I lived through the experience.

There was also the time I got arrested by the Air Police in the bathroom of a barracks at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston...I couldn't help it; it was a true emergency. Luckily, they just turned me over to my brother-in-law, who thought it was hysterical.

Now, if you really want to hear something funny some-time, get me to tell you about my frustrating two-year search to find a man who would cooperate with me in my efforts to lose my virginity 35 years ago. I kept meeting up with guys who wanted to get married; I had no desire to get married—I just wanted to get...well, you know. The story has a happy ending, as eventually I prevailed—but dang, who would ever have thought it would be so difficult!

If I were going to make things up, I would do it right. No lame stuff. I'd have captured that burglar, I'd know not the Four Preps but the Beatles, I'd ride that bus not with J. Frank Wilson, but with Elvis (after he died), and I'd STILL be a virgin.

What's Happening in May?

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, May 10

5:30pm

Buffett Palace

1012 W. Anderson Ln, Austin

Contact Karen Werner at (512) 291-4677 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 10

7:00pm

Austin Public Library

North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see the President's column on page 3 for meeting details.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, May 19

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, May 27

(at TGIT)

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, May 22

6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

May is:

- National Blood Pressure Month
- National Hamburger Month
- National Salad Month

So the theme is salads or dishes with hamburger, but they should be healthy for one's blood pressure (low-cholesterol, low-sodium) if possible. Please call and say what you're bringing so we don't wind up with 7 kinds of meat loaf!

Directions from Riverside Dr between IH35 & Congress Ave: the house is on the SE corner of the intersection of Travis Heights Blvd & Riverside Dr. There is a traffic light at the intersection. Park on Travis Heights & enter the house at the back door. Do not attempt to park on Riverside Dr.

Are you in college and/or between 18 and 24? Then check out the new msn group for those of us in and around Mensa at <http://groups.msn.com/CollegeMs>.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

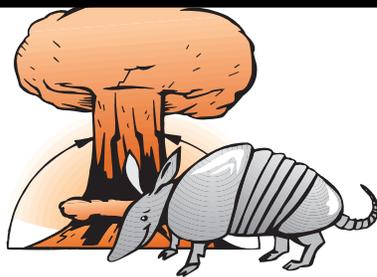
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|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Mark H Kubiak | 18 Lori L Barr MD |
| Eric W Strom | 19 Renata Claridge |
| 2 Bryan Goodson | David W Madden |
| Jane K Thompson | 20 Raymond Doo |
| 3 Janice H Brasher | Richard C Montgomery |
| John C Venthem | 21 Scott D Burgess |
| 4 Marcus Doyle | Cathy J Kesler |
| Joshua D Hull | 22 Jeff Mills |
| Margaret B. Lewis | Sfc Russell E Nelson |
| 6 Michael Riggs | 23 Josephine W McNamee |
| 7 Rachael E Stewart | 24 Lauren Morgan |
| 10 Thomas Ostegard | Ronald J Theriault |
| Lynn Skaggs | 28 James Schroeder |
| 12 Robert A Dollars | 29 Cathryn L Cox |
| Michael Dworaczyk | Lesley C Gonzalez |
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| 15 Willie M Browning-Evans | |
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Are you not quite a teen and not quite GenX? Then check out the new msn group for those of us in and around Mensa at <http://groups.msn.com/CollegeMs>.



LonestaRG

LonestaRG VI (VI VI!): RGMageddon
Sep. 3-6, 2004
Austin, TX

- Speakers on war, famine, pestilence, death, chaos, mayhem, and other cataclysmic matters
- Post-apocalypse Dance
- Abundant hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Discussion room
- Games and contests
- Scholarship raffle
- Goodies and Prizes
- And much more!

It's a post-apocalyptic paradise! Join us for our own version of armageddon, and see what comes next. Hospitality will be a whole lot better than fallout shelter rations. Wear your best camouflage outfits and come prepared to party like it's the end of the world! Bring the whole family – we have discount rates for children. Registration is only \$40 until June 7th (children 7-14 half price, 6 and under are free). Register online at our web page (<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/rg6reg.htm>) with payment via PayPal, or send registrations to Danny South, 2323 Wells Branch Pkwy Apt B204, Austin, TX 78728-6764; make checks payable to "Lonestar Mensa RG". For more information, including pictures from previous LonestaRG's, and more, see the web page (<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>) or contact John Neemidge at 512-310-7863.