

Armadillo Literary Gazette

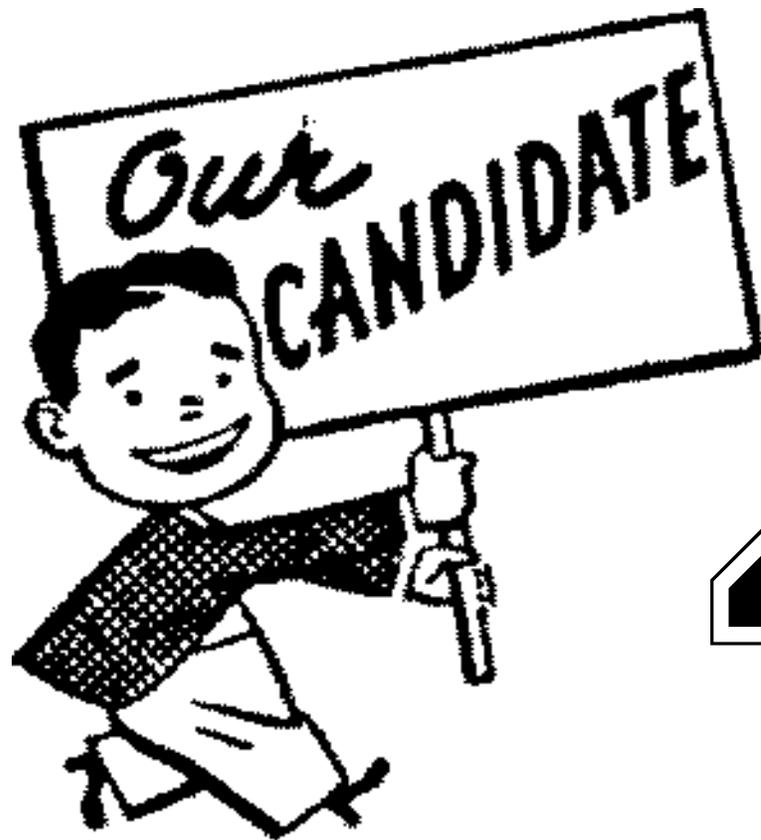
A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXI Number 10

October 2004

TODAY'S EPISODE:

WHO WILL BE



***Lonestar Mensa ExComm Elections
are next month! Who should be on the ballot?***

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

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Publication Information

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to:

ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE

c/o American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103

The *ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE* (USPS 554-650), the official publication of Lonestar Mensa, Group 786 of American Mensa, Ltd., is published monthly at 13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin, TX 78729. Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX.

Mensans who are not members of Lonestar Mensa may subscribe for \$10.00 per year. Send subscription requests to the publication address.

Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text format only) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, except for those works copyrighted by the author.

Advertising Rates and Policies

Non-commercial: Lonestar Mensa members may submit 2 per year at no charge. 4 line maximum, subject to editor's discretion as to date of publication.

Commerical: Business card sized (2" x 3") ads are \$10 for one month, \$25 for three months, and \$40 for six months. Publication may be delayed due to space considerations. Ads must be camera-ready, and should be submitted electronically if at all possible. We reserve the right to edit for content if necessary. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. The deadline for ad submission is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by Karen Werner, President

It's Election time for Lonestar Mensa.

If you are interested in running for Executive Committee office, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (see the opposite column for details). A majority of the current Ex-Comm is term-limited out, so we have several seats vacant. Different positions have different duties, but the time requirements are minimal for most of the positions. You can always contact me to ask about the specifics of a particular position. Some of the present Ex-Comm members are running for re-election, but you may run for any position, whether or not there is another candidate for that office. We also have vacancies in appointed positions, which are listed on the inside cover of this newsletter.

A new regular event has been added to the calendar. Danny South has a **GenX Pub Crawl** scheduled every month.

I am interested in starting a **Hump Day Happy Hour**, beginning somewhere between 5:30 and 6:00 at a designated downtown watering hole. Please contact me if you think this is an activity you might participate in. I don't want to end up drinking by myself, but I'd love to hang out with fellow mellow (or not) Mensans.

If you didn't go to the RG, you messed up. In my humble opinion (concurring in by everyone who filled out a survey at the event), this was one of the best we've had, in terms of food, beverage, activities, and speakers. I met a number of Mensans I didn't know before, both local and far flung, and each and every one of them was a cool person to get to know.

See you soon. Call me if you want to know more about the Executive Committee or Hump Day Happy Hour.



Executive Committee Election

It's election time for the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee. The six elected offices to be filled are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and three Members at Large. The Nominating Committee is looking for members to fill these positions beginning January 1, 2005. If you would like to learn more about the duties of a particular office, please contact current President, Karen Werner, at 291-4677 or Karen_lsmmensa@yahoo.com. Nomination deadline is the October 12 Monthly Meeting. Please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members before October 12 to express your interest in running for office. You can also be nominated from the floor at the October Monthly Meeting.

Paul Anderson, Nominating Committee Chair
259-7824

wrdslngr@swbell.com

Lise Waring, Nominating Committee Member
453-0730

hobbyt@prismnet.com

Ron Theriault, Nominating Committee Member
Ron-T@austin.rr.com

LEMON 13

BY LARRY SCARBOROUGH



LonestaRG VI: A Good Time For All

-by John Neemidge, RG Chair

About 100 Mensans, from Lonestar Mensa, across Texas, and other states too, converged on the Holiday Inn Northwest in Austin over Labor Day Weekend for LonestaRG VI, and a good time was had by all. The weekend got started Friday night with a hotly contested jigsaw puzzle race. Up next was a LonestaRG tradition, Carnelli. The evening's events finished up with a spirited round of Nuclear War, a card game of total destruction.

Saturday we started by offering the Mensa admission test. The middle of the day was filled with a variety of speakers, workshops, and games. Some of the most popular speakers were Almadar Hamdani of the ACLU, Jason Craft speaking on Comic Book Apocalypses, and Lamar Hankins' talk on why funeral directors almost always have the upper hand. On the other side of the program, the drawing game Exquisite Corpses, led by Paul Pierce, continued to be popular, many people enjoyed the Scrabble Scramble (presented by Gulf Coast Mensa's Johanna Laite), and Walter Stewart led a workshop on designing your own survival shelter. We also had a very popular and much enjoyed chocolate tasting to break up the afternoon. Hugh Brown again ran the Discussion Room, and he says it went better than ever this year.

Saturday night we held the Post-Apocalypse Ball. Peg Pywar, Johanna Laite, and the Neemidges were the costume contest winners. This year we tried a new non-DJ format which many people seemed to really like. The dance was popular, and everyone enjoyed the camo netting, fallout shelter signs, blacklight, and various glowing objects throughout the room.

Sunday brought more speakers and events. Highlights included Katherine Arens' presentation on war movies and popular history, Lee Cooper's talk about ham radio and emergency communications, and Wizzie Brown who spoke on the hated fire ant. It was a great day of workshops, including Spike Gillespie's Write Your Own Obituary presentation, John Flanagan's introduction to making balloon animals, Kelly Wagner's knitting workshop, and Ray O'Connor's Pranic healing tutorial. Sunday night included popular, controversial, and provocative speaker Robert Jensen, the Neemidges' ever-popular Name That Movie, a Karaoke party, and another round of Nuclear War.

We wrapped up the weekend with Sunday's Awards and Prizes event. The Hell's M's Party Animal vote was held

by Ray O'Connor, and I was the winner this year. Many people left with some great prizes, we found some books a new home, and people said goodbye and made plans to see each other at an RG soon.

Many people worked on LonestaRG VI, and I want to thank each of them. Geri Neemidge did a terrific job of getting a wonderful group of speakers for us. Ray O'Connor offered up his usual superlative hospitality, which many RG-goers described as even better than ever. Danny South got everyone registered for the RG. Margaret Wofford and Kathie Blair combined efforts to keep track of our finances -- we turned a small profit, which has been added to Lonestar Mensa's scholarship fund. Paul Pierce was our logo artist -- and our t-shirt printer was so impressed that our RG t-shirt has been added to his personal Hall Of Fame. Barbara Bartlett, Janet Kres, and Margaret Wofford collaborated on the white elephant bags and book sale. Karen Werner made a variety of salads for hospitality, and Helen Siders came out early to make omelettes. Paul Pierce, Walter Stewart, Kelly Wagner, and Margaret Wofford led games and workshops, and Kathie Blair and Kelly Wagner helped out on the Karaoke and singalong. Many, many others spent time volunteering in hospitality, registration, as speaker assistants, and many other things big and small. Thanks to everyone who helped and made LonestaRG VI a good time for all.

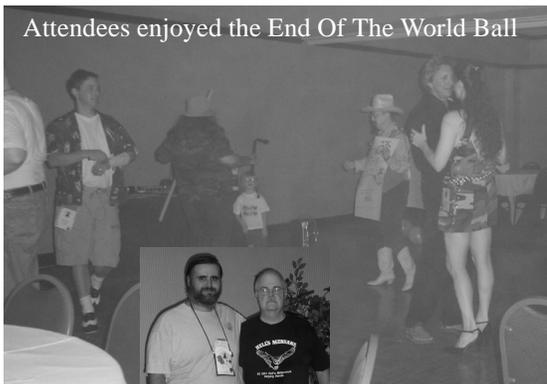
With LonestaRG VI a memory now, it's not too soon to start looking forward to LonestaRG VII: Seven Deadly Sins. We're planning a great weekend for you over Labor Day 2005 -- stay tuned for more details. If you'd like to get involved with LonestaRG VII, just let me know -- we're always looking for committee volunteers, and there's lots to do. We also expect the process to be a little different this time, as we're looking forward to someone else chairing 2006's LonestaRG VIII. Working on the RG is both fun and rewarding -- get involved! See you next Labor Day!



Kimberly Hicks, Alicia Glasser,
and Sarah Stevens

Johanna Laite as the Grim Reaper

Attendees enjoyed the End Of The World Ball



Ray O'Connor presents the Party Animal award to John Neemidge

Danny South, Tlaloc Espinosa, Angela Adams, Corwin Glasser, and Rodney Appling playing games



Scrabble Scramble winners Tlaloc Espinosa, Corwin Glasser, and Danny South



Marge O'Connor with a collection of balloon animals

October Monthly Meeting

October's Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the North Village Library, 2139 W. Anderson Lane.

The topic will be the Libertarian Party of Texas. We have three speakers lined up for this meeting. The first is Wes Benedict, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas. The second is James Werner, current Libertarian candidate for U.S. Representative in Texas Congressional District 25. The third is Jon Roland. Founder and President of the Constitution Society.

Wes Benedict has a Masters degree in Business and Engineering from the University of Michigan. He was the Libertarian nominee for Travis County Commissioner Precinct 4 in 2002 and a candidate for Austin City Council Place 6 in 2003.

James Werner is a consultant and works in sales of information management tools for the not-for-profit sector. He has a Bachelors degree from Vanderbilt University and a Masters degree in Spanish and Latin American literature from UCLA.

Jon Roland is a computer professional with a Bachelors degree in Math from the University of Chicago. He ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 23rd Congressional District Democratic Primary in 1974. He was also the Libertarian nominee for Texas Attorney General in 2002.

You can expect these highly educated and thoughtful political activists to talk about their own goals and the goals of the Libertarian Party in the upcoming election and beyond. They will provide background information on the Libertarian Party and what it stands for, and they will give you their opinions on what the Libertarian party and its candidates can offer you that other parties' candidates can't or won't. I'm sure they have a lot to say on quite a few topics of interest to many members of our organization.

I'd like to see a high turnout for this last meeting before the November election. I'll see you there.

The jigsaw puzzle race was a hit



Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

This month let's look into Gs, specifically the AGs.

What do you like about an AG? Is it the locale, the camaraderie, the programs, or just the chance to get away from home? An AG is a tremendous affair and a tremendous undertaking by the local group that essays to host one. The amount of work and dedication required for a project of this scope is immense; is it any wonder that so few groups are willing to put in a bid? The Site Selection Committee (SSC) is responsible for obtaining and evaluating these bids and, based on the bid(s) submitted, for determining the location of upcoming AGs. Planning and groundwork is at least a two year process, although when times are tight it has been done in less. Accepting a bid from a local group should be done four years out, three at the least -- the Las Vegas bid was submitted with less time than that. Currently bids are being sought for '08 although there are as yet none submitted for '07.

What should be done if no bid is received within a reasonable time frame? Should we hire a professional firm to do the work? That would be highly expensive and have little or none of the Mensa flavor we have come to expect. Should we call on the national office to do all of the planning? It would still be necessary to hire people for the round-the-clock caretaking that is required, and again much of the flavor would be lost. Las Vegas was done by the local group in conjunction with a nationwide net of very active volunteers; a giant step towards the consortium concept. Perhaps we should just do without and see how people like that; maybe some would be inspired to bid and ensure that such a thing never happens again.

I really don't know what we should do, I do know that the SSC cannot pull rabbits out of hats or bids out of thin air. Some members seem to think otherwise but it just ain't so. Given the dearth of bids perhaps the time has come to entertain the thought of staging an AG without the direct involvement of the local group. What do you think?

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6

rvc6@us.mensa.org

dtwtech@swbell.net

817-573-4454 (before 9 P.M.)

504 West Atchley Drive

Granbury, Texas 76048

Promotional blurb:

For those members born between 1976 and 1988 there's a new online group; read about & join it at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GenYMs/>

Don't forget this!!

In Dallas:

Feast of Pleasures and Delights XXV

November 25-28 2004

\$50 till November 15, \$55 after

Contact: Carol Hilson

9413 Shipman St

Rowlett, Texas 75088

972-475-9327

C_Hilson@msn.com

... or this --

In New Orleans:

MensAGumbo

Fun for Both Sides of Your Brain!

July 6-10, 2005

Join us at one of the most spectacular locations on earth for an Annual Gathering designed to satisfy your every want, need, and expectation. Expect speakers beyond belief, astounding entertainment, and more! Adult pre-registration rates are \$70 by 12/31; \$75 by 4/8; \$80 by 7/1; and \$90 after 7/1. Adult daily rates are \$20 per calendar day by 7/1 and \$25 per calendar day when purchased onsite. Young Mensan registration rates are free for ages 4 and under; \$30 for ages 4 - 12; and \$50 ages 13 - 20. Young Mensan daily rates are \$10 per calendar day by 7/1 and \$17 per calendar day when purchased onsite.

Contact: AG2005, American Mensa, Ltd.

1229 Corporate Dr. West

Arlington TX 76006-6103

Online registration at http://ag.us.mensa.org/registration/ag_reg1.php

Statement of Ownership, Management, & Circulation

1. Armadillo Literary Gazette
2. 0554-650 3. 9/30/03 4. Monthly 5. 12 6. \$5.00/\$10.00
7. 506 Canion St., Austin TX 78752. Rachael Stewart. 407-9753.
8. SAME 9. SAME. SAME. NONE
10. American Mensa Ltd. 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103
11. NONE 12. Has not changed 13. Armadillo Literary Gazette
14. September 2004. 15a. 515 / 490
15b 1. 226/212 2. 278/265 3. 0/0 4. 0/0 15c. 504/477
15d 1. 0/0 2. 1/1 3. 0/0 15e. 4/3 15f. 5/4 15g. 509/481 15h. 6/9
15i. 515/490 15j. 97.86%/97.35% 16. October 2004
17. Helen Siders 9/16/04

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.

GenX Pub Crawl

Saturday, October 2

Host: Danny South

7:00 pm

(512) 670-3470

dsouth@stewart.com

7:00	Gingerman	304 W 4th
8:00	Fado	3rd and Lavaca
8:45	Bitter End	310 Colorado
9:30	Logan's	6th and Brazos
10:15	Coppertank	5th and Trinity

ExComm Meeting

Tuesday, October 12

Buffet Palace

1012 W. Anderson Ln, Austin

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

5:30pm

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 12

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see page 6 for details.

7:00pm

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, October 16

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

6:00pm

(512) 443-9650

Theme:

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.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, October 20

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

7:00pm

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, October 21

(at TGIT)

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

LSM Mustelid Mansion

Ninth Annual Halloween Extravaganza

Saturday, October 30

7:00 pm

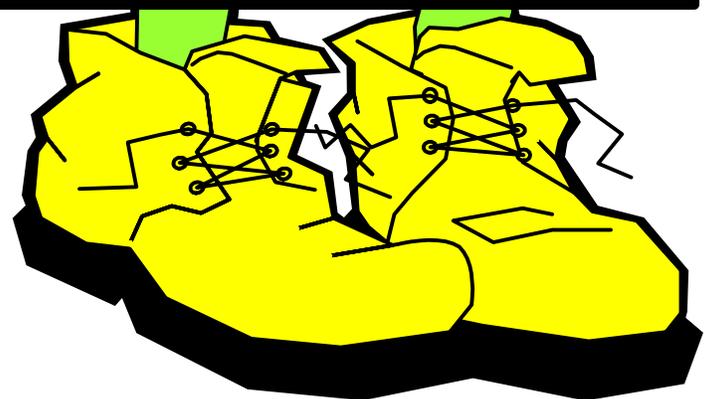
The Neemidges' 1807 Messick Place, Round Rock

Join your fellow ghouls, goblins, witches, ghosts and spooks at Geri and John's ninth annual Halloween party. See how many decorations one house (and yard) can hold! Thrill to automated creatures talking to you from darkened rooms! 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!



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | David Floyd | 20 | Taylor Thurston |
| | Melanie Gover | 23 | David Green |
| 3 | Thomas Spillman Jr | | Michael McCormick |
| | Diane Tominaga | 24 | Roger Waak |
| 4 | Karen Werner | 26 | Robert May |
| 5 | John Harrison | 27 | Marie Pierce |
| | Mark Kres | 28 | Kimberly Chapin |
| 7 | Chris Anderson | | Andrew York |
| | David Finkel | 29 | Terry Cost |
| 10 | Robert Larson | | Erik Mulloy |
| | Sally Pelow | | David Travis |
| 13 | Elaine Watson | | |
| 14 | Kelley Saveika | | |
| 15 | Rituparna Kar | | |
| | Michelle Miller | | |
| | Mathew Stern | | |
| 16 | John Perkins | | |
| 17 | Anthony DeCristofaro | | |
| | Leslie Griffin Jr | | |
| | Linda Streitfeld | | |
| 19 | Kelly Wagner | | |

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



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October						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 GenX Pub Crawl
3	4	5	6	7 TGIT	8	9
10	11	12 ExCom & Monthly Meetings	13	14 TGIT	15 <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16 Potluck & Games Night
17	18	19	20 Waco Area Mensa	21 TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 TGIT	29	30 Halloween Party
31						

2004