

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXI Number 9
September 2004

I want you...



... to attend LonestarRG VI!

Details on page 6

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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

We're coming up on the time for election of next year's officers. Next month's newsletter will contain an announcement of the members of the Nominating Committee, which will be responsible for selecting candidates for the ballot. If you are interested in being a member of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee, please make your interest known to one of the members of the Nominating Committee or to me. You can also make a nomination from the floor at the time of the October Monthly Meeting. If you are interested in being considered for one of the appointed positions listed on the inside front cover, please make your interest known to a current Executive Committee member. Of course, we also have positions which are currently vacant for which we are actively seeking volunteers. Please contact me if you are interested in one of those positions.

Danny South is still interested in hearing from GenX members interested in either pub crawls or other GenX-focused activities. If you are a GenXer and want to participate or start an activity yourself, please contact Danny at 670-3470 (he has his answering machine hooked up now) or at dsouth@stewart.com. Any other members who want to schedule an activity can put an announcement in the newsletter by sending it to Rachael Stewart by the publication deadline, which is the 15th of the month. If you need assistance, just let me know.

On the weekend following the RG, we will be volunteering at the Friends of the Austin Public Library Book Sale. Please see this month's announcement for details.

I hope to see all of you at the RG over Labor Day.



August ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Margaret Wofford, Vice President

August 10, 2004

Attending: Karen Werner, President; Margaret Wofford, Vice President; Kathie Blair, Treasurer; Janet Kres, Member at Large; Mark Kres, Member at Large; Helen Siders, Member at Large; and John Neemidge, Membership Chair.

Karen convened the meeting at 6pm.

Kathie presented the June financial statements. After discussion, moved, Janet, seconded, Margaret, that the June statements be approved for publication. Motion passed unanimously.

John presented a list of actions still in effect that he had compiled. After discussion, moved, Janet, seconded, Margaret, that the ASIE regarding RG leftovers be revised as follows: 1) anything which can be kept for the next RG to be kept; 2) anything which can be used during the year for group events to be so used; 3) anything which cannot be saved or used to be 3a) sold to another RG committee at a 50% discount, or 3b) donated to charity. Motion passed unanimously.

John passed out copies of the last member survey, which was conducted in 1999. Members discussed the value of conducting another member survey. John suggested that if the ExComm decides to send a survey and it's direct mailed to members, that the group apply for RVC discretionary funds to cover the cost.

Janet has contacted Sam Waring and plans to observe the August 10 test session and then will conduct the RG test session with Sam or another proctor observing to qualify as a proctor.

Attendees discussed the chat list. Attendees agreed that the list moderator should be able to modify the participation of a list member who has broken the list rules. The affected member may appeal any such action to National. Moved, Helen, seconded, Janet, that the list moderator has authority to enforce the rules of the list. Motion passed unanimously.

Attendees discussed the Friends of the Public Library book sale scheduled for September 11-12. John will ask someone to coordinate the traditional volunteer effort.

Karen adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.

Margaret Wofford
Vice President

**Lone Star Mensa
Income Statement
Jan 1 2004 to Jun 30 2004**

Support and Revenues

National Support - American Mensa	
<i>Newsltr Subscriptions</i>	74.75
<i>Member Subsidy</i>	1938.36
<i>Testing</i>	262.5
Total American Mensa	2,275.61

Revenue	
<i>Interest on CD</i>	110.62
<i>Adjustment</i>	6.00

Total Support and Revenues 2,392.23

Expenses

New Letter Publication	
<i>Postage</i>	389.92
<i>Printing</i>	993.06

Mensan Parties	
<i>Supplies</i>	100.00

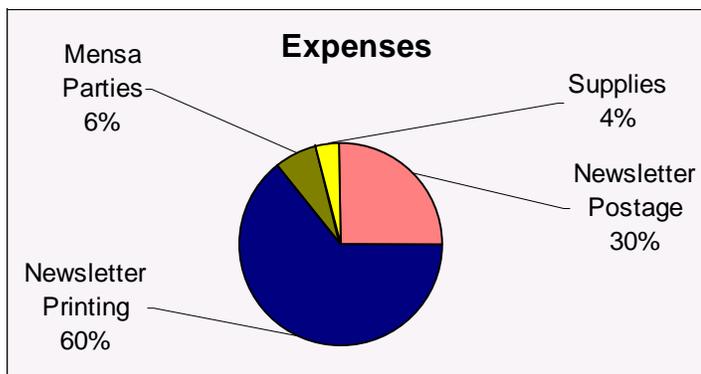
Other	
<i>Supplies</i>	61.76

Total Expenses 1,544.74

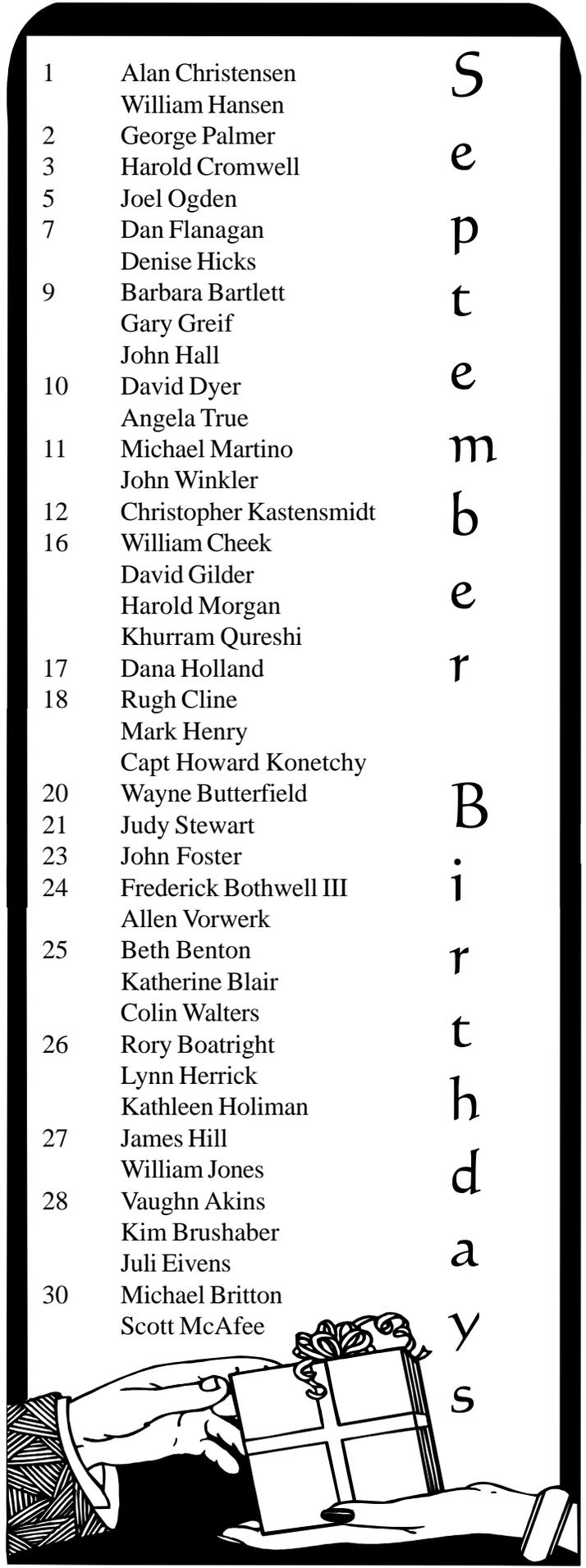
Change in Net Assets 847.49

Beginning Liabilities and Net Assets 2,231.06

Ending Liabilities and Net Assets 13,078.55



-Submitted by Kathie Blair, Treasurer



Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

This month I would like to let you know about some of the topics under discussion by the AMC. Knowing your thoughts on these matters would also be a good thing, so please drop me a line sometime before my departure for the AMC meeting (departure: Thursday September 16). There are four items for now, two involved with risk management & two others that are not.

The first issue has to do with the AMC minutes: Available online or (by request) as hard copy they have, for the past several years, been moderately verbose in that the voting record for the AMC members are indicated as are the names of those making major points during discussions. In your opinion should these minutes take on a more bare bones corporate model indicating only the results of actions taken without showing how the various AMCs voted; should they contain more indications of any discussions (who said what) leading up to the vote; or, should they stay as is?

Risk management has been an ongoing concern both in determining acceptable levels of risk and in developing safeguards (rules and guidelines) to address these risks. Food safety has been singled out as being among the more significant risks and has therefore been given quite a bit of attention. One proposal is that any RG (or AG) hospitality Chair be required to have taken a training course in food preparation and handling -- often available from local government bodies, soon to be available from the AML national office. Local events often serve food be it potluck, crockpot or just a table of assorted perishable goodies; should the proposal be extended to include hosts of these local functions?

Another subject coming under the R-M umbrella is gatherings. To be advertised in the national Bulletin a gathering must meet certain criteria to be approved by the RVC and the Membership Officer; some organizers (SIGs for example, although not necessarily) choose to forgo this "approval" process for their events, relying instead on word of mouth and notices in local newsletters. Advertising in Mensa publications (local, regional, or national) and on Mensa-sponsored web sites present a degree of legal risk to the organization in that these "unapproved" functions might seem to be condoned by Mensa but are not covered under the provisions of our insurance policies. Should ads and notices of these events be disallowed in local newsletters and websites?

Finally (for this column at least): For the past three decades the AMC has met in various locations throughout the country in an effort to be more available to the general membership and to give members better opportunity to witness and take

part in the operation of AML. Typically less than a dozen people sign the meeting register as visitors for a meeting although dozens may be found in Hospitality and elsewhere taking advantage of the chance to share conversation and views with one or more AMC officers. From the AMCs perspective these are working weekends with little chance to really enjoy the area or the RG (if there is one) -- generally arriving in the host city on Friday afternoon in time for committee meetings (often lasting until midnight), having the AMC meeting all day (at least) Saturday and then departing on Sunday. The suggestion has been made that as a cost-saving measure the AMC conduct more, or even all, of its meetings at the national headquarters in Arlington, Texas. Currently one meeting every two years is scheduled for Arlington after elections as an orientation for the newly seated AMC. Roam or Rome (Arlington): what is your preference, and why?

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 1984 there's a new online group; read about & join it at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GenYMs/>

Don't Forget these RGs!!

In Austin:

LonestaRG VI IRGmageddon

September 3-6, 2004

A post-apocalyptic paradise! Themed speakers, costume dance, games and contests, discussion room, late night pool & hot tub, prizes, abundant hospitality - meals included! Bring the whole family and party like it's the end of the world!

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

Contact Danny South

2323 Wells Branch Pkwy, Apt B204

Austin, Texas 78728-6764

registrar@lsm.us.mensa.org

... and in Dallas:

Feast of Pleasures and Delights XXV

November 25-28 2004

\$50 till August 31, \$55 after

Contact: Carol Hilson

9413 Shipman St

Rowlett, Texas 75088

972-475-9327

C_Hilson@msn.com

Volunteers Urgently Needed for Monster Book Sale

The Friends of the Austin Public Library Monster Book Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 11 and 12. Lonestar Mensans have been helping out at the Friends' Book Sale for years. We staff an information table and talk to prospective members about Mensa, help to keep the book sale tables in order, help direct people to the books they are looking for, and help clean up after the sale (on Sunday). It only takes a couple hours, and you'll be helping out both Lonestar Mensa and the community. The volunteers at this event have always had a lot of fun and have gone home with lots of bargain books.

The sale will be at Burger Activity Center, 3200 Jones Road, in South Austin (please note -- this is a new location). It runs from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. We urgently need volunteers all weekend; I'll arrange shifts based on when each of you can help. Please contact John Neemidge (by email - neemidge@usa.net - or by phone to 512-310-7863) if you can help out, and let me know when you can help. We really need volunteers for this event -- if you've got time in your schedule, please consider helping out!

September Monthly Meeting

The September Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14, at the North Village Library, 2139 W. Anderson Lane.

This month's speaker will be Sam Archer, Assistant Director of Community Involvement at Capital Metro. Mr. Archer will talk about Capital Metro's Long-Range Transit Plan. For the last several months, Capital Metro has been holding town meetings to solicit citizen input on the long-range plan. The Capital Metro Board plans to meet soon (before the Monthly Meeting) to decide on the details of the plan and to decide whether to place a ballot measure on the November ballot.

Commuter rail (a fixed rail system) is the only part of the plan which requires voter approval. Whether or not commuter rail is placed on the ballot and approved, Capital Metro has a plan to address projected growth in the area. Mr. Archer's "presentation will cover Capital Metro's response to that growth."

Come to the meeting to learn more about Capital Metro's plan and how it affects you, including how the various elements of the plan affect particular neighborhoods and sections of town.

It's Not Too Late!!!

- Speakers on war, famine, pestilence, death, chaos, mayhem, and other cataclysmic matters
- Post-apocalypse Dance
- Games and contests
- Scholarship raffle



Join The Party!

- Abundant hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Goodies and Prizes
- And much more!

It's not too late to join the fun! We've got so much planned for you at our sixth annual RG – don't miss out! Registration is \$55 at the door for the weekend, or \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday, \$30 for Sunday, and \$15 for Monday (children 7-14 half price, 6 and under are free). The RG is at the Holiday Inn Northwest, at 8901 Business Park Drive in Austin. Registration is on the second floor of the guest room area – take the lobby elevators. For more information, including pictures from previous LonestarRG's, a list of registrants, and more, see our web page (<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>)

What's Happening in September?

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.

Book Sale

Sunday & Sunday, September 11-12

Burger Activity Center

3200 Jones Road, Austin

See the article on page 6 for details.

ExComm Meeting

Tuesday, September 14

5:30pm

Buffet 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

Tuesday, September 14

7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see page 6 for details.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, September 15

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, September 18

6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

Theme: No Hassle Meals. Labor Day's over, and we've all put in hard time. We've earned a break. Please make your contribution low sodium if possible (salt shakers will be provided). Please call and let us know what you're bringing! Thanks.

September is a "no-kids, please" month. Ages 13+ are welcome.

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.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, September 23

(at TGIT)

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



Beyond LSM...

GenX at HalloWeem

It's official! There will be a Gen-X Meet-and-Greet at the Regional Gathering in Chicago on Friday night, October 29th, right after the costume party (~10:30pm). We'll be trekking to a local pizzeria for late-night snacks and beer.

If you are attending the RG, or if you'll be in Arlington Heights that evening, please join us!

Details about the exact location will be posted on the calendar shortly.

Ski SIG

February 5-13

The Ski SIG of American Mensa invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a half-week or week+ of snow skiing the deep fluffy snow on the Rocky Mountains of Aspen and Snowmass. For details see <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce> or contact John Adams, Trip2005@skisig.us.mensa.org, +1 713 666 9277, 8211 Fairhope Place, Houston, TX 77025-3201, USA.

2005 Post-AG Cruise

The 2005 AG in New Orleans will end with a Mensa cruise to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cozumel. Extra-Special pricing until August 5, 2004. Details at <http://www.suitecruising.com/ag2.htm>

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September

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

2004