

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXII Number 1

January 2005

Out with the Olds...



In with the GNU!



Lonestar Mensa Officers and Staff

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

President †

Karen Werner
9110 Curlew Drive, Austin 78748
(512) 291-4677 karen_lsmmensa@yahoo.com

Vice President †

Janet Kres
(512) 836-5773 j_kres@msn.com

Treasurer †

Kathie Blair
(512) 502-9083 KathieBlair@yahoo.com

Members at Large †

Margaret Wofford
(512) 266-8065 m_wofford@yahoo.com
Steve Harsch
(512) 443-9650 harschs@sbcglobal.net
Kelly Wagner
(512) 443-9650 BunRab@aol.com

Publicity *

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

Newsletter Circulation Manager *

Midge Kocen
(512) 502-8294 midgekocen@capmac.org

Testing Coordinator *

Paul Pierce
(512) 426-7765 pauljohnpierce@aol.com

Membership †

Brian Corcoran
(512) 819-0185 bricorc@yahoo.com

Bryan-College Station Area Coordinator

Jim Miller
(979) 777-9546 hj_miller@msn.com

Waco Area Coordinator *

Jerry Lenamon
(254) 399-9450

Program Coordinator *

Position vacant; please contact Karen Warner for details.

Ombudsman/Arbiter *

Kathleen Holiman
(512) 250-5488 gkholiman@sbcglobal.net

SIGHT Coordinator *

Steve Vaughan
(512) 388-5970 svaughan@austin.rr.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 (non-voting)

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
506 Canion St, Austin TX 78752
(512) 407-9753 bookbird@yahoo.com

Contributing Editors:

Jane Thompson *Out There*, page 4
Larry Scarborough *Lemon 13*, 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.

Commercial: 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.

Lonestar Mensa Voting Results for Officers during 2005

President: Karen Werner	12 Votes
Vice President: Janet Kres	15 Votes
Treasurer: Kathie Blair	13 Votes
Member at Large: Kelly Wagner	12 Votes
Member At Large: Steve Harsch	13 Votes
Member At Large: Midge Kocen	9 Votes
Member At Large: Margaret Wofford	11 Votes

Write in Votes for:

President: John Neemidge	1 Vote
President: Paul Anderson	1 Vote
Treasurer: Danny South	1 Vote

There were no "Hanging Chad" Problems. There were no "Demands to Re-count." Neither the State nor Federal Supreme Court was petitioned to Rule on the Validity of this election.

As a result of this election, the Following will be Officers for 2005

President will be:	Karen Werner
Vice President will be:	Janet Kres
Treasurer will be:	Kathie Blair
1st Member at Large will be:	Steve Harsch
2nd Member at Large will be:	Kelly Wagner
3rd Member at Large will be:	Margaret Wofford

Signed,
Paul Anderson - Election Committee Chair

Listen Up!

-by Karen Werner, President

I'm starting my second and last year as President of Lonestar Mensa. There are three new members on the Executive Committee and several new appointed officers. I hope that in this new year, I will see more local Ms get out and about at the various gatherings found on the calendar and What's Happening pages of this newsletter.

We've added several new regular events to the calendar in recent months. In addition to TGIT and Games Night, we also have a monthly GenX Pub Crawl, a Hump Day Happy Hour, and Saturday Night Poker. Anyone who wants to host a regular or one-time gathering, get-together or party is welcome and encouraged to do so; just let me or our newsletter editor, Rachael Stewart, know the details, and we'll help you to get it on the calendar. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month prior to month of publication (e.g., January 15 for the February newsletter mailed out at the end of January).

In March, we will have the Spring Party, which will be the second annual Crawfish Boil. We are again hosting a Regional Gathering over Labor Day. The RG's co-chairs, John Neemidge and Danny South, are working to make this one even better than ever, with so many different types of activities to entertain you that your only problem will be deciding what to do next. In between, there will be more parties, and hopefully, more regular activities added to the calendar.

I wish everyone good fortune and happiness in the new year. See you soon.



January Monthly Meeting

January's Monthly Meeting will be on Monday, January 10, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the **OLD QUARRY LIBRARY, 7051 VILLAGE CENTER DRIVE**. Our speaker this month will be a representative from the Sierra Club, who will speak about the organization's agenda during the upcoming legislative session. Among the organization's priorities in 2005 are issues involving clean water, including local waterways and South Padre Island, as well as nuclear waste disposal. Come and find out what the Sierra Club plans for the legislature and what the legislature plans for us.

Out There

-by Jane Thompson

It seemed like a good time to try Internet dating. I hadn't had a date since 2001, unless you count that disastrous first date when that guy stole seven dollars out of my purse when I went to the ladies' room, and I really didn't count that one. I keep running into people who tell me how successful their foray into the world of cyber-dating was, and how they met true love there. I wasn't so interested in true love; adult conversation and a couple of dinners out would have done it for me. I just wasn't meeting anyone; maybe it's my age. When your hair turns grey, somehow you're too old for even the guys with grey hair.

So I plunged into it, thinking, after all, how bad could it be? I don't have to meet anyone I don't want to, and no one can hurt my feelings if I don't let them, right? I started out by filling out this long questionnaire about my likes and dislikes, my living arrangements, my religion and my politics. I was honest, 'cause you want someone who wants the real you, right?. And I used a photo taken within the past year, because you can't fool them forever.

I put that profile up on the Internet, out there in cyberspace, and was just amazed. Right away I got lots of guys who were interested in my profile. But I discovered something interesting. Many of them didn't read the profile at all. They just e-mailed at random, evidently. I weeded out the religious nuts and the conservatives and the smokers (yes, I quit smoking again) and the ones who wanted more kids and was left with three guys named Larry. I dubbed those Larry 1, Larry2, and Larry3. I went over their profiles carefully and picked Larry1 to meet.

I have heard all the harrowing tales about being careful, so made arrangements to meet Larry1 at a restaurant. I e-mailed his profile to my sister so she would know who I was with. He was a therapist, non-smoker and on paper we matched perfectly. We had a lovely dinner and I discovered that Larry1 was really boring. I don't know what he discovered about me, but needless to say, I never heard from him again. We split the bill.

Next guy I heard from was named Bill. His profile also met muster, and he e-mailed me two or three times a day. He wanted to see some of my stories, and went overboard in praise of them He was funny and friendly and, after a while, asked for my phone number. So, for a couple of weeks, I had several e-mails a day plus a couple of phone calls a day from a pleasant, funny man. Say, this may work out. We met for lunch and everything went great, except

maybe that he took a couple of business calls during lunch. Oh, well, can't have everything. He insisted on picking up the tab, because "this was our first date." Afterwards, he asked what I was going to do after lunch. I answered that I had to go to the doctor. He said, leering and winking, wasn't there something else I would rather do? "No," I answered. That was the last I heard from Bill.

Hell, I just met the man.

Mark e-mailed me next. He lived two hundred miles away and I thought that was a little inconvenient, but he insisted that our profiles matched so well that he would be happy to drive what I considered a ridiculous distance to have a relationship with me. Oh, well, I thought, it's just e-mail, and he didn't ask me to drive. So, when he asked me to send him stories, I did. And he raved. He insisted that I must turn my stories into screenplays. I explained that I don't know how to write screenplays and wouldn't know how to market them, either. He became very huffy, but eventually decided that I had the right not to write screenplays, though he let me know how weird I was for not wanting to do it. Off to a rocky start.

We got farther into the cyber-relationship and things were going well, except of course, for my writing career, when I finally remembered to tell him that I have cats. He replied that he loved cats and got along with them well, but wanted to know if I had litter boxes. That seemed odd to me, as cats and litter boxes go together almost without saying in the city. But I answered him, telling him that yes, of course, I had litter boxes for the cats. He then told me that he couldn't stand people who had litter boxes and that's the last I heard from Mark. All in all, probably not a bad thing.

From then on, I made sure to reply only to people who met all my criteria, plus had pets. (It was getting harder and harder to find liberals who didn't smoke, didn't proselytize, wanted someone my age, and could tolerate litter boxes). This time I came up with another Bill. He sounded interesting. He was a sculptor, lived fifty miles away, not too close and not too far, and had cats. There. We got along well on e-mail, and when he came to town for lunch he behaved so well I took him and introduced him to my kitties. Things were looking up. He didn't want to move too fast for me, and we could take about politics without screaming. We had a second date planned when he e-mailed to say his old girlfriend had moved back to town and therefore, he wouldn't be keeping the second date.

Okay, one more time. This time I wouldn't wait for the

guys to come to me--I would search for them. I found a guy right away who met all my criteria except one--he had a dog rather than a cat. Well, we could probably work that out. So I bravely e-mailed him and sent my profile to him. And guess what--he answered me right away! He loved my profile and photo and wanted to get together right away and he was taking a trip next week and did I want to go with him? Way too fast for me. I never even learned his name.

Nope, cyber-dating is not for me. I folded my profile and gave it up. It's not so bad. I can be a liberal all by myself and root for Oklahoma even though I live deep in the heart of Texas and have cats and litter boxes to my heart's content. There are definitely worse things than being alone.

News from the National Office

Mensans to tackle energy issues at Colloquium 2005

On March 4-6, 2005, Mensans from around the world will gather in Tucson to explore the issues surrounding renewable energy. Among the event's top-rated speakers are hydrogen fuel cell researcher John Turner, author David Orr, and environmental journalist Alan Weisman. Speakers will be followed by small group, Mensa-style discussions on the societal changes, economic impact, and technological challenges of renewable energy.

You're invited to join your fellow Mensans in this unique atmosphere of intellectual inquiry. Colloquium 2005:Earth in Mind will take place at the Tucson Sheraton Hotel and Resort. Register online or call (817) 607-0060 ext. 122.

For more information, visit www.colloquium.us.mensa.org.

Mini Minutes of the American Mensa Committee Meeting

December 4, 2004 in Orlando, Florida

Appointments: Robin Crawford, Communications Officer; Jim and Barbara McIntyre, American Mensa 60th Anniversary Coordinators; and Keri Guillbault, Gifted Children Outreach Coordinator.

A Records Retention Policy was adopted.

A Planning and Review Committee was established to poll

AMC about perceptions of how American Mensa is functioning, and to recommend changes and involve the AMC in planning arising from annual surveys. This committee will conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director's performance, with feedback and information from the AMC. The committee will also be available to advise the Executive Director on staff-related issues and concerns.

The Policies and Rules Governing the Conduct of Hearings, the Procedure to Implement Regional Hearings, and the Dispute Resolution Guidelines were amended for clarification and to conform to the bylaws. Regarding regional hearings, calling a hearing is discretionary, certain sanctions may be imposed only by the AMC, and if the person with whom a complaint is filed (RVC or 2nd Vice Chair) chooses not to call a hearing, the complainant may appeal to the First Vice Chair.

National Publications Guidelines were adopted, clarifying roles and responsibilities and consolidating print and internet policy for our national publications.

A uniform policy regarding SIG funds was adopted.

SIGs are the result of the personal efforts on the part of volunteer SIG Coordinators and their designees. Participation in a SIG is at the discretion of the particular SIG's Coordinator. Disputes over SIG membership may be taken to the SIGs Officer for mediation.

The following candidates are nominated to run for the specified offices in the next Mensa International election: Chris Leek, Chairman; Jim Werdell, Director of Administration; Stacey Kirsch, Treasurer; Willem Bouwens, Director of Development; Tim Knights, Director of Development.

Central Alabama Mensa's bid to host the 2007 AG in Birmingham was accepted, pending legal review of the hotel contract. Bids are especially encouraged for the 2008 AG from Regions 1, 7 and 8.

The World Gathering 2006 core committee was approved.

The resignation of Oscar Zeiger, chair of Project InkslingerR, was accepted with regret.

MindGamesR 2006 will be hosted by Oregon Mensa in Portland.

The next meeting of the AMC will be in Columbus, Ohio on March 19, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Vasiliauskas, Secretary AMC

Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

Last month the AMC met in Orlando, determining (among other things) that the 2007 AG will be in Birmingham, Alabama and that the 2006 MindGames® will be in Portland, Oregon. Neither decision was an easy one given that for each event very good bids had been presented by qualified, capable and enthusiastic local groups. Robin Crawford (Chicago) was appointed Communications Officer. Several motions clarifying and consolidating issues related to Communications were passed thanks in large part to the efforts of Tim Folks (Baton Rouge), Robin's immediate predecessor. Other action included nominating two AML members to international posts: Jim Werdell as Director of Administration and Stacey Kirsch as Treasurer. The weather in Orlando was magnificent, or so I am told; as usual at AMC meetings we spent far too much time indoors.

Rumors circulating about a one-day fun event involving several contiguous local groups have brought questions to mind: How far would you be willing to travel for such an event? What would it take to tickle your fancy: mental or physical athletics; bizarre or unusual programs; or maybe the simple lure of a good time to be had by all? Share with me your thoughts, share also what it would take to instigate action on those thoughts.

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

In the not-so-distant future:

March 4 - 6, 2005 -- Register Now!

Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites

Tucson, Arizona

Come join a unique forum, Mensa-style, of stimulating intellectual inquiry and insights into the problems and promise of renewable energy. We will explore the associated societal changes, economic impact and technological challenges. Listen to internationally recognized speakers, then share your thoughts in round table discussions with fellow Mensans. More information available at <http://colloquium.us.mensa.org/> or from your LocSec.

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 \$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

LEMON 13



BY LARRY SCARBOROUGH



What's Happening in January?

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, January 8 7:00pm

Host: Danny South (512) 670-3470
dsouth@stewart.com

7:00 Gingerman 304 W 4th
8:30 Fado 3rd and Lavaca
9:30 Bitter End 310 Colorado
10:30 Coppertank 5th and Trinity
11:30 Casino el Camino 517 E 6th

ExComm Meeting

Date, Time, & Location TBA.

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

Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 10 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, Old Quarry Branch

7051 Village Center Dr., Austin

Please see page 3 for details.

Poker Night

Saturday, January 15 7:00pm

Karen Werner's Home

9110 Curlew Drive (512) 291-4677

Low stakes poker; nickel ante. RSVP to 291-4677 or karen_lsimmensa@yahoo.com. Bring munchies/snack; BYOB.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, January 19 7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

Hump Day Happy Hour

Wednesday, January 19 6:00pm

Opal Divine's, 700 W. 6th (corner of Rio Grande)

Meet fellow Mensans at Opal Divine's to eat, drink and be merry. The hostess will tell you where we are.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, January 26 (at TGIT)

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, January 22 6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin (512) 443-9650

Theme: Scandinavian food, since that'll probably be a cold weekend. If it's really cold, we'll have hot spiced cider as well as our usual assortment of soft drinks. Please make the dishes low-sodium if possible. Salt shakers will be available. Please call and let us know what you're bringing! Thanks.

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.



1	John Doughty	1
3	Carla Valadez	1
4	Jeffrey Reeh	1
7	Lydia Bierer	1
11	David Young	1
13	Larry Scarborough	1
14	Donald Hayes	1
	Glenn Smith	
16	Gregory Hampton	1
17	Laura Richardson	
18	Dustin McLean	
20	Deborah Jordan	1
22	Chris Conley	1
	Mark Ward	
23	Mick Henniger	1
	Erica Poole	1
25	Harry Keirns	1
	Kristin Zastoupil	1
	James Zimmerman	
26	Michael Armstrong	1
	William Mansfield	
	Joseph Rotunda	1
27	A G Ainsworth Jr	1
	Hans Weger	1
30	Mark Newman	1
31	James Rodden	1

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January

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

2005