

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXII Number 2

February 2005



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Larry Scarborough *Lemon 13*, page 7

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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.

LISTEN UP!

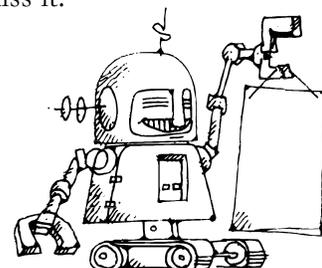
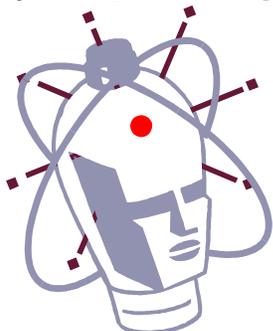
-by Karen Werner, President

We've had a great response to the new Poker Night. This activity will be rotating between different addresses to make it convenient for everyone. Next month's game will be at Ted Alexander's home in Georgetown. See page 7 for specifics. This past weekend, I was ahead 85 cents after 5 hours. One of the unluckier ones lost \$1.05. It's a great time. Come join us. If there are too many for one game, we'll split up into two games. We've also had a tremendous response to Hump Day Happy Hour. Both of these activities are new and are designed to bring out the new and old members alike. Also, just a few months ago, we instituted a GenX Pub Crawl. All of these events happen monthly. Also in February, Charity Smith, her husband Burt, and young Benjamin are inviting all Mensa members, with or without children, to meet at the Austin Zoo for lunch and a stroll among the creatures. If you have children of any age, watch upcoming newsletters for family-focused activities. And don't forget TGIT, every week at Central Market. The crowd changes weekly; if you haven't been in a while, you haven't been at all. Please join in these activities or volunteer to host your own. We want to see you.

For this month's Monthly Meeting, expect a change of pace. We haven't had a scientific presentation for a while, and this one promises to be over the top. Our speaker will be Dr. Hal Puthoff. In addition to reading the Monthly Meeting Announcement in these pages, feel free to Google Dr. Puthoff. I'm betting you'll push other things aside to hear what he has learned and published about wildly divergent and unconventional areas of scientific and governmental research.

[Editor's Note: Karen's column originally included a lookup reference for the Austin Zoo trip. However, no announcement arrived in time for inclusion in this edition of the Dillo. For information about the zoo visit, please contact:

Charity Smith
(512) 835-8990
charitysmith@hotmail.com]



February Monthly Meeting

February's Monthly Meeting will be held on Monday, February 7, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, west of Mopac at the Far West Blvd. exit.

This month's speaker will be Dr. Hal Puthoff, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Austin. Dr. Puthoff is a theoretical/experimental physicist who will discuss his current research into zero-point energy.

Classically, empty space (the vacuum) can be considered to be a void. Quantum theory tells us that empty space is not truly empty; it is a vast ocean of random, fluctuating quantum processes, resulting in an underlying sea of energy that undergirds all phenomena, known as zero-point energy, or ZPE. The adjective "zero-point" signifies that such energetic activity exists even at a temperature of absolute zero where thermal effects disappear.

Dr. Puthoff's talk will range from fundamental issues (why don't atoms collapse? Where does inertia come from?), through laboratory attempts to extract useful energy from vacuum fluctuations (can the ZPE be "mined" for practical use?), to scientifically grounded extrapolations concerning "engineering the vacuum" (is "warp-drive" space propulsion a scientific possibility?).

Dr. Puthoff received his Ph.D. from Stanford University. He performed more than four decades of research at General Electric, Sperry, the National Security Agency, Stanford University, and SRI International before coming to Austin. He is the author of Fundamentals of Quantum Electronics, as well as numerous technical articles on electron-beam devices, lasers and quantum zero-point-energy effects.

Dr. Puthoff gained attention when he and colleague Russell Targ were asked to test the alleged psychic abilities of Uri Geller. Their findings were published in the scientific journal, Nature. He was also intimately involved in the U.S. Government's controversial Remote Viewing program, which continued until being made public in 1995.

This promises to be a fascinating and stimulating discussion. Don't miss it.

December ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Margaret Wofford, Vice President (2004)

December 13, 2004

Attending: Karen Werner, President; Margaret Wofford, Vice President; Janet Kres, Member at Large; Mark Kres, Member at Large; Helen Siders, Member at Large; John Neemidge, Membership Chair; and Kelly Wagner, Steve Harsch, and Brian Corcoran, Members.

Karen convened the meeting at 5:35pm.

Karen announced that Paul Anderson, chair of the nominating committee, has certified the election results. Officers for 2005 are: Karen Werner, President; Janet Kres, Vice President; Kathie Blair, Treasurer; Steve Harsch, Member at Large; Kelly Wagner, Member at Large; and Margaret Wofford, Member at Large.

Attendees discussed the September treasurer's report. Kathie has been unable to reconcile the 2004 RG revenues. The group's \$10,000 CD matures in December and will be allowed to roll over for a new one year term at 2.4%.

Janet announced that Danny South will proctor the January 8, 2005 test session and she will observe.

Kelly reported that the scholarship application deadline is January 15, 2005.

Karen plans to ask the incoming ExComm to review the bylaws, starting soon since revisions take months of work. Attendees discussed the lack of a provision for e-mail ballots.

Karen queried National regarding the appointment of the RG chair. Based on the response, the ExComm may consider amending the bylaws.

Karen has reserved meeting space at Old Quarry for the January and February meetings and has scheduled a representative of the Sierra Club to speak in January.

Helen reported that the post office will be closed December 24, and she will mail the newsletters on December 27.

Karen has tentatively scheduled ExComm meetings for Wednesday evenings.

Karen announced her 2005 committee appointments: Brian Corcoran, membership; Rachael Stewart, newsletter editor; Midge Kocen, circulation; Paul Pierce, testing; Charity Smith, gifted children; Paul Anderson, publicity; Kathleen Holiman, ombudsman and arbiter; Geri Neemidge, web master.

Karen adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

January ExCom Minutes

-submitted by Janet Kres, Vice President

January 12, 2005

The Ex Com met at 1801 S. MoPac, office of Karen Werner. Officers attending were Karen Werner, Janet Kres, Margaret Wofford, Steve Harsch, Kelly Wagner, Kathie Blair and member Mark Kres. Karen Werner called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. The December 13, 2004, minutes were read by Margaret Wofford, and approved as corrected.

Karen informed the group that the CD has been rolled over to a 5 month CD.

The group reviewed the budget information provided by Treasurer Kathie Blair. Wagner will audit the Lonestar Mensa financial records for 2004. Because Kelly was not an officer in 2004, there is no conflict of interest. Kelly and Kathie will set a mutually agreeable time and place for this audit. The group discussed the difference between what National Mensa officially reported as deposited to the account, and what actually was deposited. The actual deposit will be recorded, with notations of the erroneous Mensa National reports. Janet suggested that perhaps a revenue pie chart could also be provided like the expenses pie chart. For Lonestar Mensa parties, the host/hostess is reimbursed for documented expenses up to \$100. This category of expense will be renamed "Host Reimbursement". There will be an addition of Mensa telephone expenses for 2004.

Kelly stressed the importance of mailing hard copies of the scholarship essay contest information to high school counselors, since e-mail notices sent this year have resulted in a lower response rate. No scholarship was given in 2004.

Karen received a supply of checks, so that she can make reimbursements for expenses when Kathie cannot attend the meeting.

Potential members will be contacted by the testing coordinator. A second contact will be sent when National offers membership to the applicant. Karen will contact new members with an invitation to meetings and information. Some of these contacts may be on postcards. Kelly may be able to provide "Lonestar Mensa" refrigerator magnets for new members.

Karen discussed the Lonestar Mensa membership directory. All members will be contacted concerning their wishes for inclusion. Members who have chosen "No Printing" with National Mensa will have their wishes honored. Karen will

bring sample postcard notification for the directory to the February 2, 2005 Ex Com meeting, at the Northwest Recreational Center.

Kathie reported that the generic password to Lonestar Mensa web page is not working. Karen will inform Geri Neemidge, Webmaster, of this problem with the on-line newsletter.

Margaret suggested that an officer list of phone numbers and email be created and distributed to the new officers.

Karen reported that games night has returned to the 4th Saturday of each month.

Karen reported that National now has mini-grants for gifted children's programs of \$100, which must have in-kind contributions. Gifted Children Coordinator Charity Smith is planning a zoo trip the 4th Sunday of January. Gifted Children Coordinators must now undergo background check.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

Many events in American Mensa seem to be based around fun activities and food, with a second tier of intellectual activities offered "in the background". In March we have available to us an activity that is intended to present a challenge without the contest environment of CultureQuest®, a gathering without the party atmosphere of an AG or RG -- we have:

Colloquium 2005 - Earth in Mind - Fueling the Future

This will be a unique forum, Mensa-style, of stimulating intellectual inquiry and insights into the problems and

promise of renewable energy. The associated societal changes, economic impact and technological challenges will be explored. You will be able to 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.

If you've longed to see the more cerebral side of Mensa, if you are concerned about the world we live in (and are changing), if you are interested and able make arrangements now to be in Tuscon on March 4-6. It's not Yasgur's Farm, but this isn't 1969 either.

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!
Colloquium 2005 - Earth in Mind - Fueling the Future
<http://colloquium.us.mensa.org/>
Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites
Tucson, Arizona

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

News from the National Office

Colloquium 2005 Scholarships Available

Colloquium 2005: Earth in Mind will take place March 4-6 in Tucson. During this event, environmental experts will gather to discuss the problems and promise of renewable energy.

MSN Search, Microsoft's search engine, has signed on as a sponsor of this event. Because MSN recognizes the value of education and discussion on solar energy, wind power and hydrogen fuel cells, their sponsorship will include scholarships to pay the registration fee for up to 20 Mensa members. You will still be responsible for travel and lodging costs.

The Mensa Education and Research Foundation is also sponsoring free registration scholarships to 20 students or educators.

To apply for one of these scholarships, please contact foundation@americanmensa.org

More information about the Colloquium 2005 may be found at www.colloquium.us.mensa.org.



Status of AMC December Meeting Minutes

Just in case anyone is waiting breathlessly ...

The full Minutes of the AMC meeting of December 4, 2004, will not become official or be released or published on the web site until they are approved by the AMC at the next AMC meeting in March. It was brought to the Chair's attention that per New York law, when utilizing electronic balloting, the entire board has to vote in favor of a motion in order for it to pass. Since two AMC members were not in attendance at the meeting in Orlando, they have abstained from voting to approve the Minutes of that meeting; therefore the vote to approve will take place when the AMC meets in person in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Judy Vasiliauskas, Secretary AMC

Here is the ASIE regarding approval of the Minutes:

2000-139 02-Dec-2000

The correct and complete minutes of American Mensa, Ltd. Regarding American Mensa Committee meetings and Annual Business Meetings shall consist solely of the approved minutes. The "approved minutes" of a given meeting are those minutes that are approved by a vote of the body for the meeting in question. A synopsis of major points from an AMC meeting or an Annual Business Meeting may be circulated to the general membership of American Mensa before the next AMC meeting or Annual Business Meeting; however, full minutes of AMC meetings shall not be circulated outside the AMC or staff prior to the minutes being approved by the AMC. This policy applies retroactively to all previous AMC meetings and Annual Business meetings, as well as prospectively.

This action supersedes ASIE 1999-057.



Culture Quest

This year's CultureQuest(r) will take place Sunday April 10. Set your calendars and register your teams now. CQ rules and application are available under Event Registration in the Member Resources area of our Web site (<https://secure.us.mensa.org/members/eventreg.php>). For more information on CultureQuest(r) , contact CQ Chair Mick Richmond at CultureQuest@us.mensa.org.



Membership Renewals

Membership renewal season is here!

All members whose memberships will expire on March 31, 2005 should have received a renewal notice in January.

The N.O. encourages these members to renew on the AML Web site, as this method saves valuable staff time and allows for quick renewal processing. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and check debit options are available.

What's Happening in February?

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

Wednesday, February 2 6:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

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

GenX Pub Crawl

Saturday, February 5 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 Lovejoy's 6th and Neches
11:30 Casino el Camino 517 E 6th

Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 7 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, Old Quarry Branch

7051 Village Center Dr., Austin

Please see page 3 for details.

Poker Night

Saturday, February 12 7:00pm

Ted Alexander's House

4007 Granada Drive, Georgetown 78626 (512) 864-9566

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, February 16 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, February 16 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, February 24 (at TGIT)

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, February 26 6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

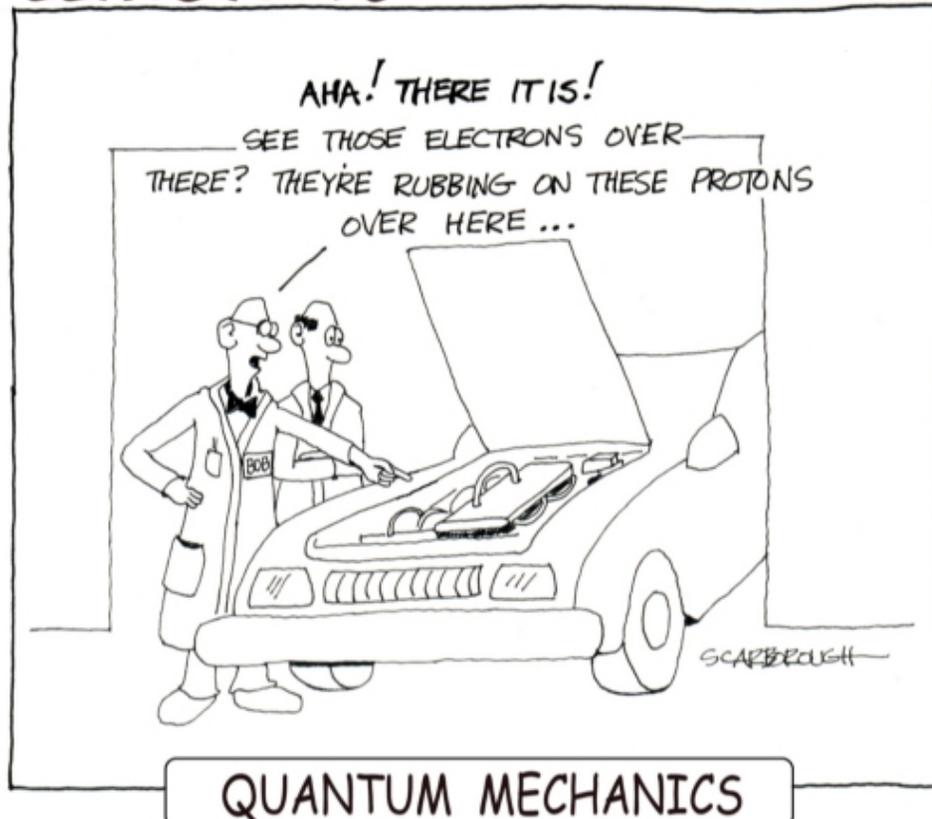
Theme: African-American or African food, in honor of Black History Month. Please make the dishes low-sodium if possible. Salt shakers will be available. Please call and let us know what you're bringing! Thanks.

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.

LEMON 13

BY LARRY SCARBOROUGH



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February

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

2005