

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXII Number 9
September 2005



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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.

LISTEN UP!

La CARTE

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Mary Thompson's Buttermilk Biscuits

-from Jane Thompson

2 cups flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp soda
3 tbs shortening
3/4 to 1 cup buttermilk

Sift dry ingredients.

Rub in shortening.

Add enough buttermilk to make a soft dough.

Knead dough five or so times on floured board.

Roll out dough and spread with shortening or margarine.

Fold over double. Cut with biscuit cutter. Melt a tablespoon of shortening in a biscuit pan. Grease top of biscuits by dipping in melted shortening. Cook, greased side up, for 12 to 15 minutes in 450 degree oven.

Our treasurer, Kathie Blair, recently resigned and was replaced by Midge Kocen. The Ex-Comm would like to thank Kathie for all of her efforts on behalf of Lonestar Mensa. We greatly appreciate the year and a half she spent as a member of the Executive Committee.

The biggest news for Lonestar Mensa is always our annual Regional Gathering, scheduled over Labor Day weekend. Have you registered for the RG yet? If not, what are you waiting for? The non-stop party starts on Friday, September 2, and ends on Labor Day, Monday, September 5. You've seen the ads; maybe you've heard or read the glowing recollections of our members and guests of gatherings past. If you haven't been to our RG, you're missing out. We always have abundant food, beverage, games, discussion, speakers, and the late hot tub and pool. Come and join us. Family and friends always welcome at all Lonestar Mensa events.

Also, Hospitality can never get enough volunteers. I always contribute to making salads. I would encourage others to call me or e-mail me if they'd like to do likewise. If you signed up as a volunteer on the registration form, you will be hearing from someone shortly. You can also contact either John Neemidge or Danny South, RG Co-Chairs, to find out where they still need help. Contact any of us via e-mail using our web site, www.lsm.us.mensa.org.

I'll see you at the RG.

BALLOT MEASURE REMINDER

Proposed Amended Bylaws for Lonestar Mensa were published in the July, 2005 edition of this newsletter. A ballot was included in the August, 2005 edition, with an October 15, 2005 deadline for postmarking and mailing or hand delivering your completed ballot to Janet Kres, Vice President of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee. This ballot only appears in the August issue. Please use that ballot to vote. If you have misplaced the ballot, the August newsletter edition is also published on our web site, www.lsm.us.mensa.org.

RVC ON REPORT **September 2005**

-by Ray O'Connor, RVC6

I very much would like to be able to communicate with you by email. I learned that Prior Evidence evaluations would be free for the month of August. By the time I learned about it, it was too late to get into your August newsletters. I sent 2,547 emails to region 6 members. Eight members directed me to remove their email addresses from my list. Thirty members emailed me to indicate it was OK for me to communicate with them via email. There were 2,509 abstentions. If you didn't get an email from me on August 4th and would like to receive email communications, go to the American Mensa web site, www.us.mensa.org, select Member Resources, and select My Membership. You can enter your email address online. If you have issues with the web page, email me and I'll send your email address to the National Office to be updated.

Would you like to observe the AMC in action? This September 16 and 17 the AMC will meet at the Arlington Hilton. All members are welcome to come to the AMC meeting and observe your representatives at work. You may want to come to the hotel to meet your AMC members Friday and/or Saturday evenings. We have a small hospitality room set aside for that purpose. The hotel is doing a cook out for us on Saturday evening at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$30 a person and you are welcome to come join us.

It's too soon to report to you the results of the August free evaluation of prior evidence. Look for a report in next month's newsletter. If this program is a success we may want to do it again. My local group held a meeting to evaluate what we are doing right and what we can improve. One of the items that came out of the meeting is an answer to the question "Why do we stay in Mensa?". Almost all in attendance gave the same reason – friends. Many of us joined Mensa because of the encouragement of a friend. Do you have a special someone with whom you would like to share Mensa? Encourage them to take the test or submit prior evidence.

Gatherings Calendar:

Lonestar Mensa, Austin, TX September 2-5, registration \$60, www.registrar@lsm.us.mensa.org; North Texas Mensa, Dallas November 24- 27 registration \$40 until 10/31 and \$55 thereafter, Contact registrar: Colin Wedgwood, cwedgwood@aol.com. I'm hospitality chair at each of these gatherings. In addition to three meals a day, I'll be serving chocolate fountains at each of these events. If you've never

been to a Mensa gathering, I strongly advise you to try one of them. Most of us indicate that we joined Mensa to talk with smart people. What better way to meet smart people than to spend a weekend at a hotel with 70 to 150 Mensans and their guests? One thing I can assure you is plentiful hospitality.

October 22 is National Testing Day. Consider offering your time to help your local Proctor team to have a successful testing day. Contact me at rvc6@us.mensa.org to volunteer or for more information.



SCHOLARSHIP VOLUNTEER **OPPORTUNITY**

What could be better than an opportunity to help the local Mensa group, get involved, promote higher education, and help some high-school students further their education? Please, don't answer that question! But please do consider volunteering to be a SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM JUDGE!! As Lonestar Mensa's new scholarship chairperson, I am beginning the preparations for this year's contest. I am looking for an assistant to help get the program going in our local high schools in September and then more judges to meet in January/February to read the submitted 550-word essays. Now you know almost as much about the scholarship program as I do! With a new scholarship chairperson starting, this is an opportunity for any interested Mensan. Have you judged in the past? Please consider helping again! Minimally, we need to address some envelopes and read some essays. However, to improve the program, your ideas are welcome! Please contact Claudia Harbert at 238-0205 or ceharbert@gmail.com.

**For the Love of
Finance...**



Balance Sheet
As of 6/30/05



Accounts	6/30/05 Balance
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Certificate of Deposit	10,439.84
Checking - Guaranty Bank	3,664.27
	<hr/>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	14,104.11
Other Assets	
Prepaid Postage	326.13
	<hr/>
Total Other Assets	326.13
	<hr/>
Total Assets	14,430.24
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Other Liabilities	
2005 RG Registrations	595.00
Scholarship Fund	350.00
	<hr/>
Total Other Liabilities	945.00
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	945.00
Equity	13,485.24
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities & Equity	14,430.24



Income Statement

1/1/05 through 6/30/05

Category	1/1/05- 6/30/05
Income/Expenses	
Income	
National Subsidy:	
Additional family	18.50
Dues paying members	1,937.06
New Members	24.00
Newsletters	58.50
Reinstating Members	34.00
Testing	225.00
	<hr/>
Total National Subsidy	2,297.06
	<hr/>
Total Income	2,297.06
Expenses	
Bank Fees	6.00
Host Reimbursement:	
Mensa Parties	150.00
	<hr/>
Total Host Reimbursement	150.00
Miscellaneous Exp	47.49
Newsletter:	
Other	39.44
Postage	356.13
Printing	1,108.12
	<hr/>
Total Newsletter	1,503.69
Recruitment:	
Postage	55.37
Printing	3.29
	<hr/>
Total Recruitment	58.66
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	1,765.84
	<hr/>
Total Income/Expenses	531.22

Yield To Temptation - There's Still Time!

- Speakers on the Seven Deadly Sins in their many forms
- Find Lust at the Fire & Brimstone Ball
- Take Pride in the Games & Contests
- Enjoy some Sloth at the late-night pool & hot tub
- Satisfy your Gluttony in Hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and even a sinful chocolate fountain
- Indulge your Greed with our prizes
- And much more!

Be the Envy of your friends!

It's a weekend of sinful fun over Labor Day!

Bring the whole family - you won't leave Angry!

Registration is only \$60 at the door, or \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday, \$30 for Sunday, or \$10 for Monday. (children 7-14 half price, 6 and under are free). For detailed program information and times, hotel directions, pictures from last year's RG, and more, see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>.



The RG will be held at the Holiday Inn Northwest in Austin. The Holiday Inn Northwest is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of US183 and Mopac (Loop 1). The hotel's phone number is 512-343-0888 and their website is <http://www.hotelaustin.com>.



SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

September's Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the North Village Library, 2139 W. Anderson Lane in Austin.

September's speaker will be Mark Loewe, Ph.D. His speech is titled, "Are Texas' TAKS math and science scores trustworthy?" Several questions from Texas' TAKS math and science tests will be presented that raise questions about the trustworthiness of the TAKS scores reported by the Texas Education Agency. Additional questions are raised about the trustworthiness of the Texas Education Agency.

Dr. Loewe has a Ph.D. in Physics, as well as a B.S. in Physics and a B.S. in Chemistry. He is coauthor, with Arno Bohm, of a quantum mechanics textbook that has been used throughout the world, including for graduate level physics courses at schools in the University of California and University of Texas systems and in the Ivy League. Their 1986 edition was translated by the Soviets into Russian. Unauthorized copies were printed in Red China and South

Korea.

When not pursuing research in theoretical physics and chemistry, Dr. Loewe works to improve our education system. He proposed and gave invited testimony on Texas House Bill 689 (Garnet Coleman and Kent Grusendorf, 2003 Session), which would allow children to permanently keep low-cost math and science textbooks. Dr. Loewe also proposed a progressive variant of school vouchers under which all children would benefit from part of the tens-of-billions of additional private dollars that would be attracted into our education system.

Dr. Loewe is a member of the Atheist Community of Austin.



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.

ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, September 7 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.

LonestaRG VII: Seven Deadly Sins

Friday, September 2 - Tuesday, September 5

Holiday Inn NW, Austin

Please see page 6 for details.

GenX Pub Crawl

Friday, September 9

Host: Danny South (512) 371-3894
dsouth@stewart.com

7:00-7:45	Molotov Lounge	719 W 6th
8:00-8:45	Little Woodrow's	520 W 6th
9:00-9:45	Ginger Man	304 W 4th
10:00-10:45	Lavaca St Bar	405 Lavaca
11:00-?	Lovejoy's	604 Neches

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 13 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see page 6 for details.

Poker Night

Saturday, September 17 7:00pm

Karen Werner's House

9110 Curlew Drive, Austin (512) 291-4677

Penny ante poker; fun times guaranteed. Please RSVP to Bob at dietrich@sbcglobal.net by Friday evening. Bring munchies; BYOB.

Hump Day Happy Hour

Wednesday, September 21 6:00pm

Draught House Pub and Brewery

4112 Medical Parkway, Austin

Host Karen Werner: karen_lsmmensa@yahoo.com, (512) 291-4677.

Games Night

Saturday, September 24 7:00pm

Claudia Harbert's House

4 Forest Mesa, Round Rock (512) 238-0205

Bring munchies and/or your favorite games. BYOB.

Directions:

From Hwy 79 in Round Rock, go east on 79 past the Dell Diamond. At the next intersection with a 4-way traffic light, go right onto CR 122. Go over the bridge and take the first street on the left. It is CR 123. Go about a mile and take the first right into Oak Bluff Estates – the street is Twin Ridge Parkway. Pass 2 stop signs and then go right into the 2nd street - Ridge Run. At the end, go left onto Forest Mesa. #4 has a long driveway and trees in front of the house.

From Gattis School Road in Round Rock, turn onto 122 from Gattis School Road. The intersection has a traffic light with a Walgreens on one corner, a gas station on another, and a shopping center with a gas station and Albertson's on another. Turn onto 122 in between the 2 gas stations. At the next traffic light, go right into Forest Creek – it is Forest Creek Drive. Follow the road through twists and turns about 2 miles to where it ends, and take the forced left turn onto Twin Ridge Parkway. Take the next left onto Ridge Run. At the end, go left onto Forest Mesa. #4 is in the cul-de-sac, with a long driveway and big trees in front.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, September 22 (at TGIT)

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



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(Happy)

1 Alan K Christensen

2 George Palmer

3 Harold A Cromwell

4 Michael Barker

5 Joel Ogden

7 Dan Allen Flanagan

8 Brian Orrick

9 Barbara Erskine Bartlett

11 Mr Michael Martino

John Winkler

12 Susan E Dancy

Christopher Kastensmidt

Jason Hartfield

16 William Darrell Cheek

Harold V Morgan Jr

David Gilder

17 Ms Dana Lynn Holland

18 Capt Howard A Konetchy

Mr John David Lavendoski

21 Judy Stewart

Anita Earnest

23 John C Foster

Robert E Kiefer

24 Frederick Charles Bothwell III

Allen Vorwerk

Tanya Corman

25 Beth Elaine Benton

Katherine G Blair

26 Ms Lynn Herrick

27 James Bryan Hill

28 Kim Brushaber

30 Melissa Melton

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(Birthday)

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September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  TGIT	2 	3 
4 	5 	6	7 ExComm	8  TGIT	9 	10
11	12	13  Monthly Meeting	14	15  'Dillo Deadline	16	17  Poker Night
18	19	20	21	22  Fold & Sticker	23	24  Games Night
25	26	27	28	29  TGIT	30	

2005