

# Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 12

December 2006



Halloween Costume Party Winners

photo by John Neemidge

Editor's Note: All photographs in this issue were taken by me, unless otherwise indicated. I do not remember the names of all (or even most) of the people featured.

## La CARTE

**Page 3** *From the President* Janet Kres, President  
A Note of Thanks  
Electronic Newsletter Available  
Welcome New Members

**Page 4** November ExComm Report

**Page 5** RVC Report  
December Birthdays

**Page 6** August Excomm Meeting Minutes

**Page 7** **Holiday Party Announcement**  
Events Schedule

## Lonestar Mensa Officers and Staff

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

### President †

Janet Kres  
(512) 836-5773      jmkres@sbcglobal.net

### Vice President †

John Neemidge  
(512) 310-7863      neemidge@usa.net

### Treasurer †

Don Drumtra  
(512) 291-0315      drumtra@aol.com

### Members at Large †

Helen Siders  
(512) 799-6985      hscw56@yahoo.com  
Michael Tolbert  
(512) 302-6052      soundmoney@yahoo.com  
Margaret Wofford  
(512) 266-8065      m\_wofford@yahoo.com

### Publicity \*

Paul Anderson  
(512) 259-7824      wrdslngr@swbell.net  
L.ESCRITOR@bigfoot.com

### Newsletter Circulation Manager \*

Helen Siders  
(512) 799-6985      hscw56@yahoo.com

### Testing Coordinator \*

Mark Kres  
(512) 836-5773      jmkres@sbcglobal.net

### Membership ‡

Mark Kres  
(512) 836-5773      jmkres@sbcglobal.net

### Bryan-College Station Area Coordinator

Position vacant; please contact Janet Kres for details if you would like to volunteer.

### Program Coordinator \*

Position vacant; please contact Janet Kres for details if you would like to volunteer.

### Gifted Children's Coordinator \*

Michele Vaughan  
(512) 388-5970      lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com

### Ombudsman/Arbiter \*

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

### SIGHT Coordinator \*

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

### Scholarship Chair \*

Claudia Harbert  
(512) 238-0205      ceharbert@gmail.com

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

\* -- Appointed position (non-voting)

### Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

Ray O'Connor  
(972) 478-3556 (w)  
(972) 396-9399 (h)  
RVC6@us.mensa.org

### American Mensa, Ltd.

(817) 607-0060  
AmericanMensa@us.mensa.org  
[www.us.mensa.org](http://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

## 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 506 Canion St, Austin, TX 78752. 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.

## **From the President**

*-by Janet Kres, LSM President*

Dear Fellow Mensans –

First, for those who voted for the ExComm members, Thank you! The report will be placed on the list serve, since the ballots are due on November 15, and we do the newsletter mail out on November 16. We will also run the results in the January edition.

The Halloween party was a lot of fun – and I think we need to add the game of “Clue” to our supply of games. It was a lot of fun partying with “Miss Scarlett in the kitchen with the rope”. I was in Pilgrim outfit (thank goodness for the cold front!), and also in attendance were “Miss Disco”, and the “Three Blind Mice”. Mensans are very creative about their costumes. Check out the Lonestar Mensa website if you don’t believe me!

I hope to see you at the Holiday party – or one of the other activities.

Looking forward to January, our monthly meeting topic will be on 2006 Income Taxes and retention of financial records – a thoughtful way to start the New Year!

The ExComm, Editor, and Chairmen wish you the happiest of holidays!

## **A Note of Thanks**

A special note of thanks to Linda and Ronald Edelman for hosting the November Open House and Games Night and the December Holiday Party. It was a great day for Lonestar Mensa when they moved to Austin!



## **Electronic Newsletter Available**

Would you like to receive this newsletter, The Armadillo Literary Gazette, by E-MAIL instead of paper? It just happens that this option is being offered beginning in 2007.

Now, why would anyone give up their paper version of the newsletter?

Maybe you are a highly skilled computer user, who gets most of their information on-line. Or you want to save trees. Or your newsletter sits in a stack of paper for weeks or months after being read one time, and one time only.

To make this choice, go to the Profile Update page located at [www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate](http://www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate). The phrasing on the profile page will be “electronic publications, if available.” You can also do this at your next renewal.



## **Welcome New Members**

Kristi L. Hobbs  
Lindsey Skrobarcek  
Danijela Levacic  
Charles Wilson  
James Stallings

## **Welcome Back, Members**

Payal Patel  
Elaine K. Tyree  
Garry Morgan Watkins

## **Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa**

David Benjamin Flinton  
Joan C. Dameron  
Jonathan L. Hochman  
Jackie Hughes

## November ExComm Meeting Minutes

*-submitted by John Neemidge*

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Helen Siders, Michael Tolbert, Margaret Wofford, Members At Large

National Testing Day: We had 16 people test on NTD, many more than expected. The Round Rock Public Library worked out well as a test site.

Holiday Party: Linda Edelstein will host the Holiday Party.

Testing: We're looking into a testing session in December.

Financial: We continue to be healthy financially. We have closed out the books for the 2006 RG. Any additional expenses will require ExComm approval and payment from the 2007 RG funds. October showed a \$3.45 surplus for overall operations. Our successful testing and recruitment program has resulted in 27 new and returning member and thus higher subsidies from American Mensa. In addition we were finally reimbursed for our spring mail outs to lapsed members. This was offset by part of the costs of new newsletter software.

Scholarship: Moved Don, second MW: Approve a \$350 scholarship award for 2007. Increase scholarship payable to \$350 for 2007 with payments of \$50 per month and reduce the scholarship fund an equal amount. Discussion of the ExComm clarified that the \$50/month refers to how we move money from the scholarship fund to payables -- the recipient will receive a single \$350 check. Passed 6-0.

VP report: Successful picnic, successful Halloween party.

Circulation: Helen presented information from the printer about newsletter charges. We pay \$0.062 per sheet per side, or \$0.248 for each 8-page (2-sheet) newsletter. We pay \$57 for stapling regardless of order size.

Electronic Newsletters: National is creating a new electronic subscriber category. They will support local groups adding an electronic (no paper mail) newsletter option. We had discussions of how this impacts our filings with the USPS. John offered to assist with the email portion of newsletter distribution. John proposed

that we send January both ways and February start pulling labels. We can't start with December because the first report on which people could opt out will be the November 30th report, which is used to prepare labels for January. John also suggested publicizing the change via the LSM-Announce list in mid-November so that we have a reasonable body of electronic subscribers for the January mailing. Margaret suggested printing an reference to the electronic distribution notice in the newsletter on a colorful sticker to be attached to each December newsletter; John offered to purchase and print the stickers. We also discussed impact to local group funding. At this point there seems to be none (i.e. we will receive the same reimbursement regardless of whether someone is an electronic subscriber or not), which means net revenue improvement to the local group for each electronic subscriber. This could change in the future, but the sense of the ExComm was to plan based on current information.

Moved Don, second Janet, passed 6-0, to increase reimbursement for the month of October to cover both the picnic and Halloween party. Moved Don, second Janet, that members receiving funds (cash or check) on behalf of LSM must forward these receipts to the treasurer as soon as possible but no later than the month following the receipt. Passed 6-0.

Discussed ExComm meetings for next year. Everyone agreed to continue holding them first Wednesdays at 6pm.

Danny South is interested in resuming the Gen-X group. Janet is working with him to get things started.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:10.



## Pet Peeves!

-by Ray O'Connor, RVC Region 6

"A ..... member who wishes to remain anonymous brought this to me." I recently received an email containing the above. It is one of my pet peeves that we get anonymous complaints/concerns. How can the issues be addressed when the folks expressing the concerns are secret? One can not defend oneself from secret concerns. One can not address the issues and explain the full details of the situation if the accuser refuses to face the accused. In my experience the anonymous concern generates far more imaginary issues and misconceptions while preventing the real issues from being addressed.

On the AMC level, I have a concern with secret meetings. I understand there may be instances where potential legal liability could be incurred by what is stated in an executive session. At least that is what I was told is the justification for executive sessions. However, if someone is to be attacked don't they have the right to know who made those statements? In my personal opinion (probably a minority of 1 on the AMC) secret meetings facilitate bad impressions of what was discussed. We are a social organization. Our AMC members represent the membership and administer the business of AML. Nothing should be secret from the membership. The more open and complete communications, the fewer issues we will have – in my opinion.

SynRG 007 - A BONDing Experience! May 25, 2007 to May 28, 2007

From Houston With Love - Join Gulf Coast Mensa on Memorial Day Weekend for an RG filled with intrigue and excitement! Fascinating speakers, games, hospitality, dancing, and our very own Casino Royale await you and all of the Spies Who Love You!

Registration Fee(s): Registration \$55 until 12/31/06, \$60 until 3/31/07, \$65 thereafter. (Kids 9-17 half price, kids 8 & under free) Single day rates: Fri. \$20; Sat. \$25; Sun. \$25; Mon. \$5

Crowne Plaza Brookhollow, 12801 Northwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77040

1-877-2CROWNE Hotel Rates: \$69 Single, Doubles, Triple, Quad

Hotel Reservation Code: Gulf Coast Mensa

## December Birthdays

- 1 Dr John L Fike
- 2 Josh Thomas
- 3 Erich Paul Adolph  
Scott E Uhrig
- 5 Aarne Hartikka
- 6 Walter R Barksdale Jr
- 8 Hugo Dax Gonzalez
- 9 Maggie Weaver
- 10 Mary Jane Lockhart
- 13 Heather Hal 1
- 14 Margaret Patricia Wofford
- 15 David Howard Thomas  
Erik C Bentz
- 16 Shannon D Moody  
Justin Blount
- 17 Dr Caryl Neman
- 18 James Richard Boland
- 19 Sue Ricket Caldwell  
Paul R Lillich  
Vignesh Prakash
- 23 Fred G Deats III
- 26 Michael Clinton Moyer
- 27 Kristi L Hobbs
- 28 Sonya L Palmer  
Austin G Meyer
- 29 Jack Vincent Musgrove  
Chris Heidel
- 30 Merlin D Darling  
Mary L Hoane



## August ExComm meeting Minutes

*-submitted by John Neemidge*

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Helen Siders, Michael Tolbert, Members At Large; Patty Drumtra, member

Reports: Janet's happy news report: Michelle Vaughn is certified as a proctor. Everyone had a great time at the RG. Janet encouraged speaker Tracy Shaw to take an at-home test. We will give a culture-fair test on the 16th. January meeting will be a CPA speaking on taxes. We will have a parrot in a cage at the November meeting. Ray O'Connor will pay for new newsletter software.

Treasurer's Report: August revenue was positive. Re-invested CD at 5.15% for 9 months. RG registrations totaled over \$4100. RG expenses are yet to be determined. In general net worth has continued to rise since the first of the year. Motions by Don: Moved to approve Ray's RG reimbursement. Moved to approve Paul's RG reimbursement. Moved to approve John's RG reimbursement. All motions seconded Helen or Michael, passed 5-0. We will fully refund Diane Huth's \$60 for her sons who did not stay at the RG very long.

Circulation Manager: Time to do the annual report for the USPS.

Helen checked on Zilker Clubhouse for Holiday Party. It is not available on a day that we can use. John to check on American Legion hall for Holiday Party. Decided to hold a picnic on Saturday October 14th at Northwest Park (cancelling Games Night) and to pay PARD \$60 to reserve picnic tables.

Don discussed local group funding issues to get feedback for national local group funding committee.

Discussed online credit card system via National. Apparently there is an online system as well as a paper-based. Discussed whether we would reimburse for hotel ATM machine charges; there was no consensus.

RG report: 99 attendees. Feedback has been very positive. The hotel was well received. Hotel has not yet billed us. Rough guess of \$300 loss based on guesstimate of \$2300 hotel bill (\$1125 Hospitality rooms, \$600 meeting rooms, \$75 storage, \$250 dance floor, plus taxes) against roughly \$2000 RG revenue not yet spent. Planning already underway towards expense structure for

next year. Moved Don, second John, to appoint Paul as RG chair for next year. Approved 5-0.

Planning to begin negotiations with the hotel soon (within the next couple weeks) towards 2007 contract. Hopefully we'll get the same terms. New things for the hotel contract include a negotiated rate for non hotel guest breakfasts. Attempt to put together a planning meeting sometime between now and January depending on people's schedules. Margarita machines were very popular and seem well worth the cost. Motion: Create an optional position of Hotel Liaison who has authority to negotiate and sign cancellable hotel contracts subject to the supervision of the RG chair and post-contract approval of the ExComm. Second Don. Approved 5-0. Second motion: remove the authority of the Registrar to sign hotel contracts. Second Don. Approved 5-0.

Discussed having a quilt raffle for the 2007 RG.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:25.



## Holiday Party

Date: Saturday, December 9, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Location: Ron and Linda Edelstein's

Ample refreshments and nonalcoholic beverages will be served. BYOB if you want something stronger. Smoking outdoors only. Allergy alert: We have two cats.

There will be a White Elephant gift exchange.

Voluntary contributions: If you have a favorite holiday cookie you would like to bring to share, feel free to do so, but it is not necessary. You may also bring a can of food for contribution to food pantry for needy.

### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

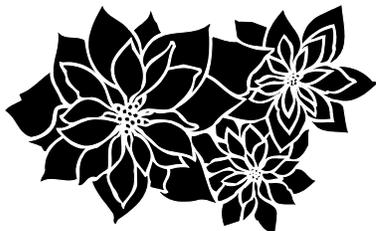
1439 Dapplegrey Lane  
Austin, TX 78727  
Phone if you get lost: (512) 491-9881

From I35 headed South exit PARMER and turn right (west), go 7/10 mile. Turn right onto SCOFIELD FARMS (second light). Turn right at first corner onto Dapplegrey. Our house is 4th from corner on right. We are at middle of "T" with Pony Street.

-----  
From I35 headed North, you need to exit at YAGER, go left to Lamar, turn right on LAMAR (north). At Lamar turn left on PARMER and follow above directions.

-----  
From Mo-Pac, headed south, take Parmer exit and turn left (east), go about amile to first stoplight past Metric Blvd. Turn left onto SCOFIELD FARMS. Turn right at first corner onto Dapplegrey. Our house is 4th from corner on right. We are at middle of "T" with Pony Street.

-----  
From Mo-Pac, headed north, take Parmer exit and turn right, follow above directions.



# What's Happening in December?

## **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 38<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> 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, December 6 6:00pm**

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Contact Janet Kres at (512) 836-5773 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

## **Holiday Party**

**Saturday, December 9 6:00-10:00pm**

Ron and Linda Edelstein's Houst

1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin (512) 491-9881

Please see opposite column for details and directions.

## **Sunday Afternoon Bridge**

**Sunday, December 10 1:30-4:30pm**

Janet and Mark Kres' House

11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin (512) 836-5773

Please RSVP so we will know how many bridge players we will have. Instruction will be provided.

## **Fold & Sticker**

**Thursday, December 21 6:00pm**

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!



POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to:  
**ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE**  
 c/o American Mensa, Ltd.  
 1229 Corporate Dr West  
 Arlington, TX 76006-6103

**PERIODICAL**  
 Postage Paid  
 at **AUSTIN, TX**  
 Permit #554-650

**December**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 ExComm	7  TGIT	8	9 Holiday Party
10 Sunday Bridge <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	11	12	13	14  TGIT	15	16
17	18	19	20	21  <i>Fold &amp; Sticker</i>	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28  TGIT	29	30
31						<b>2006</b>