

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 9
September 2006



New Logo drawn by Steven Skelton

La CARTE

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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.

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Scholarship Chair *

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

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

* -- Appointed position (non-voting)

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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.

From the President

-by Janet Kres, LSM President

Dear Fellow Mensans –

First – the wonderful news that Lonestar Mensa has a Gifted Children's Coordinator - Michelle Vaughan! Hooray! And in other good news -- August has been a very busy month - - the Chapter has tested 6 applicants – and we hope they all succeed in becoming Mensans! We got to meet new members at the party – and the Sewing Circle, Poker Night, and Games Night have provided lots of fun! Our August speaker, Mr. Bob Escobedo, was great! He provided a wealth of information about energy conservation – when you start saving \$60 here and \$50 there, it can really add up to significant savings. His information on safety around electricity was excellent – we all need a refresher course on that.

I hope to see you at the RG – this will be our eighth year of fun and festivities! A special note of thanks to our RG Chairman, Paul Pierce, for putting together a great RG!

See you at future events!

Janet

July 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

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:10.

Mensa testing. Mark will chair Mensa testing day. John volunteered to reserve the meeting room at the Round Rock Public Library. Testing session in August at Michael's office, or possibly at Janet's church. Happy News: Michael Tolbert has completed giving his second test and is fully qualified to be a proctor.

Other happy news: Games Night is set for second saturday, poker night for third -- and therefore will not compete.

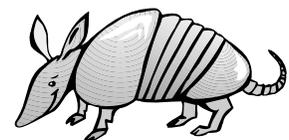
Review of Actions Still In Effect list (ASIE). Updated some ASIE rules. John suggested a change to the RG leftovers rule. We discussed receipt-less reimbursement rules; consensus was that amounts of \$25 or less did not require receipts.

Cont'd p4...

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET CRE8TIVE!

- Speakers on creativity in its many forms: Art, Gardening, Theatre, Photography, and more
- Costume Dance
- Games & Contests
- Ray's Famous Hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, chocolate fountain, margarita machine, and more
- And much more!

R U Cre8ive? Show your creative side at LonestarRG VIII, which will be held in Austin over Labor Day Weekend, September 1-4, 2006. Bring the whole family and get cre8ive!



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>.

Our RG hotel is the Howard Johnson Plaza, located at the intersection of IH-35 and US-183 in Austin. Our room rate is \$75/night S/D (+\$8 for third or fourth adult). The room rate includes a hot buffet breakfast. For reservations call 1-866-661-6611; our group code is LSM.

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- 2 George Palmer
- 3 Harold A Cromwell
- 5 Joel Ogden
- 7 Dan Allen Flanagan
- 8 Brian Orrick
- 9 Barbara Erskine Bartlett
- 11 Michael Martino
John Winkler
- 12 Susan E Dancy
Susanna Wilkinson English
August T Murray
Jason Hartfield
Joshua Sucsy
- 16 William Darrell Cheek
Harold V Morgan Jr
David Gilder
- 17 Dana Lynn Holland
- 18 Capt Howard A Konetchy
John David Lavendoski
- 21 Anita Earnest
- 23 John C Foster
Robert E Kiefer
- 24 Frederick Charles Bothwell III
Allen Vorwerk
- 25 Beth Elaine Benton
Colin M Walters
Katherine G Blair
- 26 Lynn Herrick
- 27 James Bryan Hill
- 28 Kim Brushaber
- 30 Shea Hillis
Melissa Vanessah Melton

Welcome New Members

- Matthew L. Bryce
- Kelly Long
- Nicole M. Moreau
- Jennifer D. Rider
- Troy R. Schneider

Welcome Back, Members

- Reid L. Allen
- Benjamin H. Ashmore Jr.
- Barbara Erskine Bartlett
- Joe Celko
- Leonard Joseph Doiron
- Cynthia Hays
- John A. Kulas II
- Sandra A. Meros
- Kenneth V. Mosher II
- David Howard Thomas
- Jason Wallace

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

- Richard Burns
- Michael G. Dennis
- Adam Deridder
- Frederick Goertz
- Stephen L. Jones
- Mary Frances Satterfield

July ExComm Cont'd...

Treasurer's report. Don presented the treasurer's report. Expenses were higher than normal in June, but CD interest offset it. Also part of June's expense was related to lapsed members, which will be partly reimbursed by National in July. Overall we are financially healthy.

Scholarships: Moved Margaret that we pay \$350 to our local winner, and that we pay for scholarship dinners to our invitees if they show up. Second John. Dinner costs will be paid from regular operations, not the scholarship fund. Passed 6-0.

We discussed uncommitted funds and how much we should keep in that area. No decisions, but we're keeping a watch on how much funds we accumulate and what we do with it.

Printer billing: the printer is having issues with billing us properly. Don is working with them to get it fixed.

Circulation: USPS needs a letter on our letterhead specifying Helen as the person in charge of our postal records, and others authorized to see the records (Janet, Don, and John).

We are going to purchase new software for the newsletter. John will handle the order.

Electronic Newsletter Distribution: Helen talked to USPS about electronic distribution. Need to mail 50% plus 1 of the newsletters they produce. Otherwise we will not get penalized by sending newsletters by email.

RG update: Bought easels and easel pads and trays at a garage sale.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:20.

August ExComm Meeting Minutes

-Submitted by Helen Siders

Aug 02, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Loc-Sec Janet Kres at 6:05pm. Janet Kres, Don Drumtra, Margaret Wofford, Michael Tolbert and Helen Siders were in attendance.

John Neemidge was out of town.

Janet reported that Claudia Harbert will continue as scholarship chair for 2007. Michelle Vaughn will be the gifted children's co-ordinator. Kathie Blair will serve on the membership committee, which finds candidates and conducts an election each fall for the Lonestar Mensa board members. Michelle will also be a test proctor.

By November, LSM will have new software for use by Editor Rachael Stewart to create our newsletter. The ExCom had budgeted \$1,200 for this expense. John Neemidge has located and will purchase the software for about \$400.

Our planned RG for the Labor Day weekend has a count of 65 pre-registrations. We expect about 100 people.

Janet reported that the LSM monthly meeting will be held on first Mondays (second Monday in Sept) at the North Village Library through July 2007. The earlier news had been that we were ejected because the Austin City Manager had co-opted us for a city meeting. Then Membership chair Mark Kres made a personal visit to the Library staff and, lo and behold, our meeting space was restored. We will be meeting on Mondays instead of Tuesdays.

Nice work, Mark.

Treasurer, Don Drumtra reported that higher than normal ALG printing costs, lower than normal membership support, and our annual scholarship award resulted in an operating loss of \$242.16. Also RG Funds increased to \$5485 with early registrations and RG Registrations Liability increased proportionately. Accounts Payable and Receivable are normal.

Don also serves on a AML committee titled "Local Group Funding Committee", which is looking at revising current procedures for returning part of the Mensan membership fees to local groups, and also to the RVC's. It seems hopeful that AML will not be cutting funding to local groups who decide to offer their members the option of receiving their newsletter via e-mail. Save the trees.

Since our spring picnic was so successful and everybody had such a good time, Helen suggested another picnic in the fall. We selected the date of Sunday October 15. Helen will

try and get a reservation at Northwest Park. We will need a picnic co-ordinator.

Thinking ahead to the Christmas party, Helen also agreed to contact Zilker Park and see if any early December Saturday afternoons are available.

Michael Tolbert plans to proctor a Mensan test in his business office on August 12.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.



Notice of Lonestar Mensa Elections

It is time for Lonestar Mensa Elections for the Executive Committee in 2007, as described in our bylaws. The ballot will be printed in the November newsletter. The mailed ballots must be returned to the Chair of the Elections Committee and received not later than November 15 or the date of the November LSM general membership meeting (November 13), whichever is later.

The Nominating Committee and Elections Committee are:

Chairman:

Kathie Blair Lawler (512) 502-9083

Kathie.Blair@dshs.state.tx.us

KathieBlair@yahoo.com

6486 Hart Lane, Austin, TX 78731-3162

Paul Anderson (512)259-7824

wrdslngr@swbell.net

Mark Kres (512)836-5773

JMKres@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to place your name on the ballot for an Executive Committee office, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee before October 15, 2006 (deadline for newsletter publication). There will be a space provided on the ballot for write-in candidates

Current members who will be on the ballot for 2007 membership on the Executive Committee are:

President	Janet Kres
Vice President	John Neemidge
Treasurer	Don Drumtra
Member at Large	Helen Siders
	Michael Tolbert
	Vignesh Prakash

Mensa Scholarships

-from Claudia Herbert, Scholarships Chair

Does it help you to forget about the summer heat when you consider that the school year is beginning? If you're the kind of person who is attuned to the school year, then you may feel that education is very important and one of the greatest aspects of our society. If you feel that education is wonderful, then you probably agree that our Mensa Foundation Scholarships program is one of Mensa's best offerings. Would you like to be a part of the scholarship program by volunteering to help at the local level this year?

Ways to help:

During October, we send scholarship announcements to as many high schools and colleges in our area as we can. We have some of these addresses already listed and ready for printing onto envelopes, but there are schools we haven't yet contacted. We could use help gathering new school addresses and sending announcements. To send announcements, you would print out/copy the announcements and mail them. You would be reimbursed for postage.

During January and February, we need judges to read the scholarship entries and rate them on a number of qualities. We plan to have a judging party at the home of Janet and Mark Kres this winter. You might want to come to the party or you could judge the entries from home. The party will be listed in the newsletter, but you can be added to a list to receive a special email reminder.

Other ideas for ways to promote our scholarship program are welcome!

If you are interested, please contact Claudia Harbert at 512-238-0205 (in Round Rock) or at ceharbert@gmail.com.

Gifted Children

-from Michelle Vaughn, Gifted Children's Chair



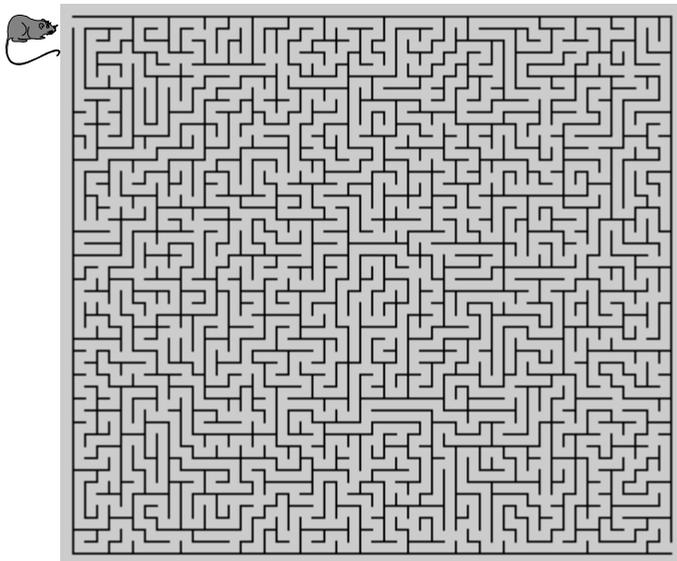
Squeak, squeak, squeak. What's that sound? Oh, that's me, squeaky clean with an American Mensa background check to prove it! I'm Michele Vaughn, and I've just been approved as the new Gifted Children's Coordinator. I'm happy to take on this position again and hope that we can grow an active children's program for

the Lonestar Mensa kids, both child members and members' children.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I've been married to Steve for 9 years, and we have a fifteen-month-old daughter, Lyrienne Tempest. Steve and I grew up in Round Rock & Austin and met at a summer program for gifted children. My degrees are in Sociology, Spanish, and Gifted Education. I'm a teacher by trade, initially teaching secondary Spanish and then switching to elementary talented and gifted. Working with gifted children and their families is truly my passion! I am currently staying home with my daughter, so taking up the GCC position is a wonderful way to keep my feet wet in the wacky world of gifted kids.

As I thought about how to best serve Lonestar Mensa and the needs of gifted children, I wondered what events people wanted and were most likely to attend. I wondered how we could build a community within Lonestar Mensa to help connect those with specific interest in gifted children's activities and issues. Why not have an online message forum so we can first get to know one another from the comfort of our homes? Alas, the Lonestar Gifted Children's Yahoo Group was born. You can find it at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestargiftedchildren/>. If it's of interest, please go to the site and sign up. You can elect to read all messages at the site (and not receive emails) or just receive announcement emails from me, so you won't be overrun with email messages!

So, go ahead. Take just a minute and sign up for our Yahoo Group. Then let me know what kinds of activities you would be interested in attending. Please keep your eyes on the Armadillo Gazette for future events. We're already working on a fun November meeting for kids on Monday, November 13, so be sure to save the date! I hope to hear from you soon.



Lonestar Mensa Monthly Meeting Place and Date

Lonestar Mensa returns to the Austin Public Library, North Village Branch, 2139 West Anderson Lane, Austin, in September. The meeting day changes to the second Monday – September 11th, at 7:00 p.m.



September Monthly Meeting

What is ToastMasters? The Toastmasters Mission states:

Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality. Through its member clubs, Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening, and thinking - vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind. It is basic to this mission that Toastmaster international continually expand its worldwide network of clubs thereby offering ever-greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from its programs.

Our speaker, Kenneth Estes, will let us know “What is ToastMasters” from a member’s point of view. Kenneth Estes is a Distinguished ToastMaster (DTM) and has been in the Toastmasters International organization for 7 1/2 years. Kenneth is a member of the Armadillo Avenue Toastmasters and is the club Treasurer. Kenneth is also a District Officer and holds the title of Division Governor. He is currently employed as a Senior Programmer/Analyst at the State Comptroller's Office. Kenneth has a business degree in Computer Information Systems from Texas State University and an MBA from St. Edward's University.

The best part of Toastmasters, Kenneth says, is the friendship and fellowship you establish along the way.



Lonestar Mensa Sewing Circle

The Lonestar Mensa sewing circle will meet on Saturday, September 16, 2006, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the home of Jeanne Stewart, 13106 Bidwell Drive, Austin (965-4409). Bring your current handwork project – we enjoy showing off our handwork and sharing information!

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.

Lonestar Mensa RG

Friday, September 1 - Monday, September 4

Howard Johnson Plaza

Hwy 183 & HwyI-35, Austin

See page 3 for details.

ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, September 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.

Games Night

Saturday, September 9 7:00-10:00pm

Janet and Mark Kres' House

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

Bring munchies and/or your favorite game. We have the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, fourth edition! BYOB. Come at 6:00 for “Beginners Bridge” – we are all learning that game!

Monthly Meeting

Monday, September 11 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 West Anderson Lane, Austin

Date & Location change

Please see the announcement in the column to the left for details.

Lonestar Mensa Sewing Circle

Saturday, September 16 1:00-4:00pm

13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin (512) 965-4409

Bring your handiwork for an afternoon of sewing, sharing of ideas, and conversation. Light snacks will be served.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, September 28 6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

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

2006