

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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Austin: 0

photo by Rachael Stewart, 17 January 2007

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If you are interested in helping with LSM activities in any of the vacant positions listed below, please contact Janet Kres, via email jmkres@sbcglobal.net, or phone 512-836-5773.

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Symposia Chair

Symposia Coordinator

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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.

From the President

-by Janet Kres, LSM President

Dear Fellow Mensans –

We have a wonderful piece of information in this newsletter -- it is the Lonestar Mensa budget, which has been reorganized by Programs: Recruitment, Communications, Symposia, Education, Subgroup, LonestarRG, and Operations. That means you can look at the budget report and see where your dues are going! It also provides an opportunity for additional officers (or chairmen) to get involved with Lonestar Mensa on a short or long term basis. You can try out newsletter advertising or new member coordinator or Waco area coordinator. Just send me an email or give me a call! A special thanks to our treasurer, Don Drumtra, for his hard work on this project!

Janet

February Monthly Meeting

Information on the City of Austin Hybrid Plug-in Car Project

Mr. Michael Osborn will provide information on the City of Austin plug-in hybrid car program. We first heard about it last January, and this is an update.

Mr. Blood is an environmental scientist with special expertise in hazardous materials. He has worked on and/or managed large multi-disciplinary environmental studies ranging from coal mines and synfuel plants to Superfund hazardous waste sites. He founded an environmental consulting company, which has provided services to private, public and industrial clients.

Austin Energy, a power utility owned by the City of Austin, currently employs Mr. Blood as the City of Austin's Sustainability Officer. He has responsibilities for some environmental issues City Wide. For the past 4 years he has been heavily involved with the Austin/Round Rock Early Action Compact, a local voluntary approach to the 8-hour ozone standard. His responsibilities currently include: initiatives to reduce ground-level ozone, high-performance building initiatives, resource conservation, and similar activities, most recently the Plug-in Hybrid Flexible Fuel Electric Vehicle initiative.

KIDS: Ready, Set, Play!

-by Michele Vaughan, Gifted Children's Coordinator



Mark your calendars; the next children's event is scheduled for Monday, February 26, at 10 AM. We will meet at Ready, Set, Play!, a new indoor inflatable play center in Round Rock. It is conveniently located off I-35 in the same shopping center as the Round Rock Antique Mall, Outback Steakhouse, and Kaleidoscope

Toys. It's in the northernmost strip mall in the shopping center. The cost is \$4.50 for children 2 and under, and \$7.50 for those 3 and up. Adults are FREE with their children and may jump and slide along with them. Try it; it's good exercise for the new year and fun, too! Be sure to bring socks, which are required at the facility. You may also bring your own snacks and drinks.

I "test-drove" this activity with my 19-month-old daughter, some family members, and friends with children twice in December. The kiddos really seemed to enjoy bouncing around and especially going down the lightning-fast inflatable slides. Grandma and Grandpa even jumped! For infants and pre-school children there are a couple of special sections for small children only, which are more protected and lower-key. But there's also plenty of fun to be had by the older kids there too.

I hope you'll join us and feel free to bring a friend or two! Parents/guardians must be present and sign a release form for kids to jump. If you'd like more information about Ready, Set, Play!, their web site is www.readysetplaytx.com. As always, you can stay up to date on our events and also participate in gifted children's issues' discussions on our Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestargiftedchildren/>.

One can succeed at almost anything for which he has enthusiasm. ~Charles Schwab

Welcome to Lonestar Mensa Monthly Program Chairman

Thank you, Todd Shaw, for accepting the position of Lonestar Mensa Monthly Meeting Program chairman. You will remember that last year Todd gave a very interesting program on hiking -- and then we got him as a Lonestar Mensa Member!

What are they thinking?

-by Region 6 Asst. RVC Ralph Rudolph

When AMC proposes a motion that will change the fundamental nature of our society, that motion should be put to a referendum of our members, not a simple vote of the AMC. When the motion itself violates many previous motions and policies of the AMC, this is especially true.

Traditionally the RVCs have acted as the CEOs of their Regions. They are expected to be aware of what is taking place in their local groups and assist them as necessary, whether there is a problem, such as a lack of proctors or a need for an LDW to generate renewed enthusiasm, or perhaps an interesting project that needs a bit of extra funding to be successful. The RVC also often mediates minor disputes before they escalate into major ones. And, they are aware of whether smaller local groups are not in full compliance with the Minimum Standard Bylaws and what the reasons are.

Item 20 of the Agenda for the January 13th AMC meeting totally changes this. Seemingly innocuous, it simply states that Local Group Charter Agreements be presented to local groups.

Parts of this "Charter" are innocuous, merely reiterating existing policy on uses of logos and trademarks. Other parts are fundamental changes to RVC responsibilities and authority and to local group existence. I'll address a few of these:

1. All local group activities are "authorized" by AML; however, AML may send representatives to verify that local group activities and records meet undefined "standards". Are national office employees going to be winging around the country inspecting local groups?
2. All local groups must meet all requirements of the Minimum Standard Bylaws as determined by AML. Responsibility for this is stripped away from the RVCs who know the local groups best.
3. AML has the right to dissolve any local group that violates this charter and or withhold all local group funds until they come into compliance. Dissolving local groups had always been an RVC's last resort if he/she could not help resurrect a dying group.

Aside from this motion violating standing definitions of RVC powers and of local group's right to existence, there is a further overriding question: Who exactly is "AML"?

Previously, to the best of my knowledge, the governing body of AML that made all motions and decisions was AMC, not AML which is merely the corporate name. Anything done in the name of AML was done through AMC or its various appointees, committees or perhaps legal counsel appointed by AMC. The deliberate use of AML throughout this document infers that many of the items defined within this document could be turned over to the National Office.

Pardon me, but I want interaction between local groups and AMC to be conducted by our elected representatives, the RVCs, not by hired national office personnel. There's a concept involved called representative democracy, if nobody noticed.

This charter agreement should NOT be a motion. It should be put to a referendum of our members. It violates and changes numerous existing motions and procedures. It totally redefines the relationship between RVCs and local groups. It provides a "big stick" to wield over local groups.

It fails to define what AML is and destroys representative democracy.

This is a VERY BAD proposal.

I urge you contact anyone you know on AMC to urge a "No" vote. NOW!

Addendum from Ray O'Connor, RVC6:

Great news! This motion did not pass at the January AMC meeting. It will most likely be on the March 2007 AMC agenda. This gives us time to develop an alternative to meet the goal of defining the relationship of local groups to American Mensa Ltd. Please share with me your ideas.

LSM E-mail Lists

You can subscribe to the Lonestar Mensa chat list or the Lonestar Mensa announce list by visiting the following pages:

<http://www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/lsm>
<http://www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/lsm-announce>

Just fill in the small form.

Treasurer's Report for 2006

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Treasurer

We had an excellent fiscal year in 2006 thanks to the many members who gave their time and talent to support Lonestar Mensa Activities. Our financial results are shown in tables 1 and 2. Table 1 shows our financial results by program. As may be seen, each of our programs under spent the funds available for them except the communications and education programs. The communications program had an unexpected expense of \$481 to update our old software that no longer interfaced with our printer's software. The education program includes \$141 set aside for our 2007 scholarship. The net result of our operations was a contribution of \$336 toward next year's operations. Table 2 shows our end of year Balance Sheet. This Treasurer's report was approved by the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee on January 3, 2007. Mark Kres has agreed to provide an independent review of our finances and accounting practices. Look for his report in a future ALG. If you are interested in more detail about our finances please contact our Treasurer, Don Drumtra, drumtra@aol.com.

Lonestar Mensa Summary Program Operations Statement 2006 January 1 - December 31

Program Results		
Recruitment Program		
(Incl. new member recruiting and testing and lapsed member contact)		
Total Revenue	\$822.00	
Total Expenses	<u>318.17</u>	
Total Recruitment Program		\$503.83
Communications Program		
(Includes newsletter, Website, and email lists)		
Total Revenue	3,581.64	
Total Expenses, includes software update	<u>3,744.41</u>	
Total Communications Program		(162.77)
Symposia Program		
(Includes monthly meetings, speakers, and local social gatherings)		
Total Revenue	796.39	
Total Expenses	<u>212.05</u>	
Total Symposia Program		584.34
Education Program		
(Includes scholarships and gifted children activities)		
Total Revenue	529.67	
Total Expenses	<u>625.04</u>	
Total Education Program		(95.37)
LonestarRG Program		
Total Revenue	4,226.76	
Total Expenses	<u>4,165.00</u>	
(Expenses includes contributions to scholarship and 2007 RG)		
Total LonestarRG Program (Contribution to operations)		61.76
Operations		
(Includes day to day supplies, postage, copying, and bank fees)		
Total Expenses	<u>121.79</u>	
Total Operations Expenses		(121.79)
Correction for 2005		<u>(434.35)</u>
(Change from cash to accrual accounting)		
Total Result of Operations		\$335.65

Lonestar Mensa Balance Sheet 2006 December 31

Assets	
Liquid Assets	
Cash \$-	
Checking Account	
GB Checking Balance	\$2,086.57
GB Pending Deposits	-
GB Uncleared Checks	<u>0.00</u>
Total Checking Accounts	\$2,086.57
Certificates of Deposit, Uncommitted Funds	
CD 1, 5.15 %, 9 mo, 2007 May 21	6,496.05
CD 2, 5.15 %, 9 mo, 2007 Aug 17	<u>3,018.91</u>
Total CDs Uncommitted Funds	9,514.96
Certificates of Deposit, Committed Funds	
Regional gathering fund	3,919.27
Scholarship fund	<u>791.73</u>
Total CDs Committed Funds	<u>4,711.00</u>
Total Liquid Assets	\$16,312.53
Short Term and Other Assets	
Accounts Receivable \$-	
Prepaid Expenses	
Prepaid Postage	\$132.75
Prepaid RG 2006	-
Prepaid RG 2007 (Pay Pal)	3.96
Prepaid Take Home Tests	97.50
Other Prepaid Expenses	<u>-</u>
Total Prepaid Expenses	\$234.21
Other Assets	
Total ST and Other Assets	
	<u>\$234.21</u>
Total Assets	\$16,546.74
Liability and Equity	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	450.29
Scholarships Payable	141.73
2006 RG Revenue	0.00
2007 RG Revenue 27 registrations	919.27
Other Liabilities	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	\$1,511.29
Total Net Worth	<u>15,035.45</u>
Total Liability and Net Worth	\$16,546.74

Welcome New Members

Christopher Mullett
Jonathan Spindel
Rudy Marsh
Jasmina Marsh
Daniel J. Kebort
Trent Newberry

Welcome Back, Members

Ron w. Murray
Richard Workman
Phillipe David Dube

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Vicki Adair
Daniel L. Buda
Stuart R. Singer

January ExComm Minutes

Date: 3 January 2007

Attending the meeting were Janet Kres, Don Drumtra, Michael Tolbert, Helen Siders, and Patty Drumtra. Newly elected member Vignish Prakash was unable to attend because he was in India. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Janet reported that Vignish had successfully reactivated the Mensa student group at the University of Texas. Janet provided a partial membership report from Mark Kres, concerning the number of testing sessions held, applicants tested, applicants offered membership, and those who paid their dues. The report will be finalized after information is received from National concerning the December 18, 2006 session results.

Janet reported that Todd Shaw had agreed to serve as program chairman. A list of programs confirmed to date was distributed.

Don gave the treasurer's report, which showed that the December revenue was higher than normal due to our quarterly interest and our increased membership allotment. The net worth at the end of the month was \$15,035.

Don moved to affirm email approval of \$133.31 (exceeding \$100) to Michele Vaughn for gifted children's supplies for 2006. Michael seconded. Motion approved.

Don moved to charge \$15.84 to FY 2006 accounts (charge had exceeded the 2006 time limit) to Janet Kres for Recruitment and Training copying and postage. Michael seconded. Motion approved.

Don reviewed in detail the 2006 operations statement spreadsheet. He reviewed the 2007 proposed budget. The budget was revised to reflect program areas: recruitment, communications, symposia, education, LonestaRG, and operations. This format provided clear information on the activities of Lonestar Mensa. Don moved to revise the budget format to the program format. Helen seconded. Motion approved

Don moved that we adopt the budget as for FY 2007 as a balanced budget with the following assumptions: we will be reimbursed for the newsletter software we bought in 2006, we will make a couple of hundred dollars or more from the RG, and we will have a testing program that is at least as good as in 2006. The budget is subject to ExComm revision as the year progresses.

Budget Program

\$ 800 Recruitment Program (Includes new member recruiting and testing and lapsed member contact.)

\$3,600 Communications Program (Includes newsletter, Website, and email lists.)

\$ 800 Symposia Program (Includes monthly meetings, speakers, and local social gatherings.)

\$ 260 Scholarship Award (Includes our annual scholarship award of \$350.)

\$ 500 Education Program (Includes scholarships and gifted children activities.)

\$ 200 Subgroup Program (Includes Waco, College Station, and UT subgroups, and SIGHT.)

\$ 120 General Operations (Includes day to day supplies, postage, copying, and bank fees.)

\$6,280 Total Budget

Michael seconded. Motion approved.

Don presented a draft Action Still In Effect for 2007 that would create a program structure and responsibilities, which would reflect the budget areas. The group reviewed in detail the ASIE 2007-1, Program Structure and Responsibilities. This revision would provide for a large number of non-voting officer positions and thus opportunities for members to participate in Lonestar Mensa activities, on a short or long-term basis. Don moved the adoptions of ASIE 2007-1, Program Structure and Responsibilities. Helen seconded. Motion approved.

Helen gave an update on the electronic newsletter. Four members have signed up for electronic distribution.

Michael reported that his office is moving to a temporary location, and he does not yet know if testing facilities will be available at this location. There will be a new permanent office site available in May in the south part of the city. Janet reported that she is able to use facilities at her church for testing sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Section of the National Ornamental Metal Museum's front gate. photo: Rachael Stewart 2006

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 7 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.

Sunday Afternoon Bridge

Sunday, February 11 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. Beginners welcome. This is "party bridge", not duplicate bridge.

Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 12 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch
2139 West Anderson Lane, Austin
See page 3 for details.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, February 22 6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.
Help us assemble the newsletter!

Lonestar Mensa Kids' Event

Monday, February 26 10:00am

Ready, Set, Play!
1401 S. IH-35, Ste 130, Round Rock 78664
Coordinator: Michele Vaughan (512) 388-5970
See page 3 for details.

Come on, You will like your E-Mail Newsletter!

-Submitted by Helen Siders

How about receiving this newsletter, The Armadillo Literary Gazette, by E-MAIL instead of paper? Save some trees.

If you are willing to change, go to the Profile Update page located at www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate. The phrasing on the profile page will be "electronic publications, if available." There is a one to two month lag before your paper newsletters stop being snail-mailed and you start receiving e-newsletters.

ASIE 2007-1

Program Structure and Responsibilities
Approved, 2007 January 3

This ASIE provides the structure of programs and responsibilities for Lonestar Mensa.

LSM programs are structured to provide a way for participation of interested LSM members in the activities of the organization, to ease coordination among the various activities, and to provide visibility of financial resources supporting these activities. The specific activity in each program depends on the members who want to participate. Some programs will have more activity in some years and less in other years depending on the interest of the participants.

Responsibilities for leading LSM activities are assigned to volunteers through the LSM Bylaws and ASIEs. Volunteers have standard titles for to indicate their assumed responsibilities such as coordinator or chair and all volunteers with responsibilities assigned in the Bylaws and this ASIE are considered non-voting officers of LSM. However, volunteers may suggest their own titles if they like. In general, coordinators bring together LSM activities in particular program areas such as Gifted Children or Newsletter Advertising. Chairs are responsible for committees of volunteers that coordinate related activities. Volunteers holding multiple titles are not uncommon. Coordinators may assume several related titles if they desire and chairs assume the coordinator responsibilities for portions of their overall program that do not have coordinators.

Each of the officers listed below are assigned responsibility for the programs listed to the left of the list and all subordinate programs indented under the general program.

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February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				 1 TGIT	2	3
4	5	6	7 ExComm	 8 TGIT	9	10
 1 Sunday Bridge	12 Monthly Meeting	13	14 	15  TGIT <i>Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22  <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	23	24
25	26 Kids' Outing Ready, Set, Play!	27	28			

2007