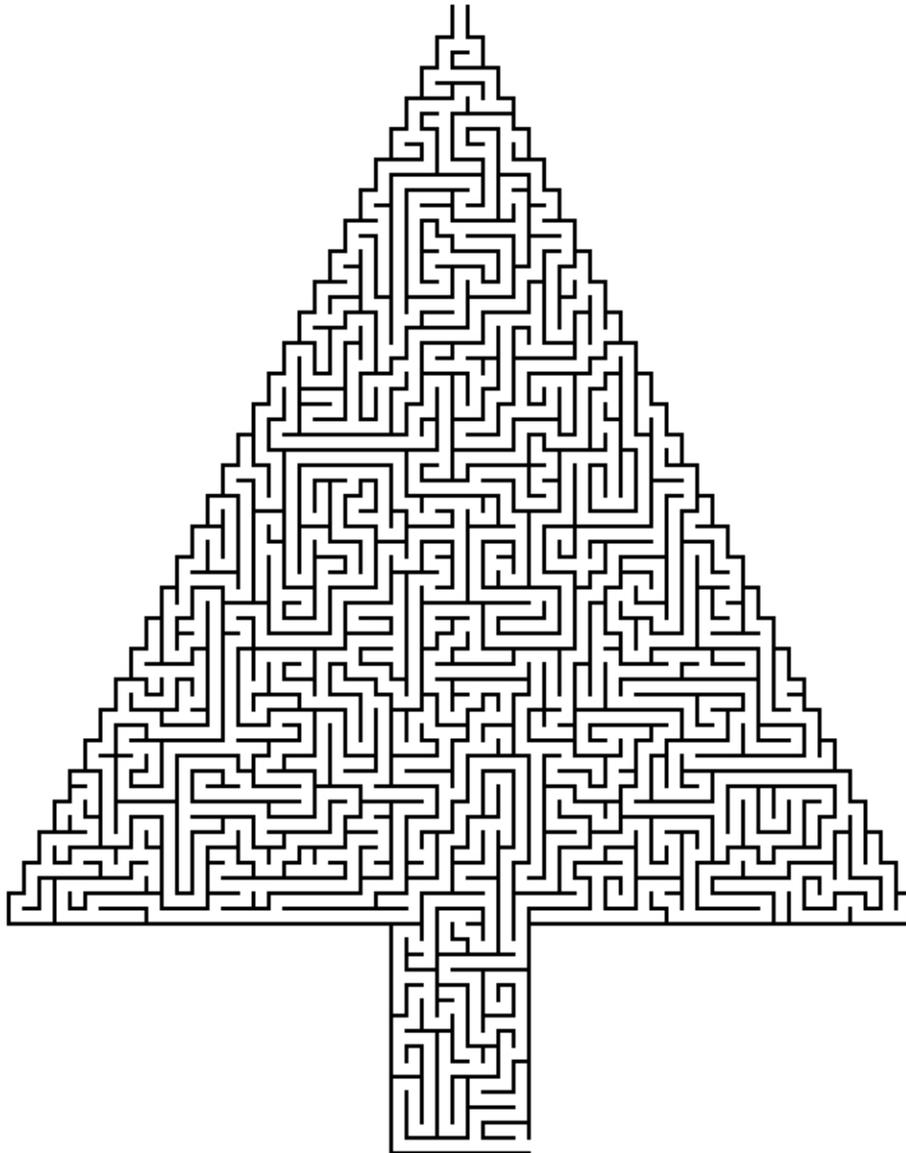


# Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIV Number 12

December 2007



<http://hereandabove.com/maze/mazetree.form.html>

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## La CARTE

<b>Page 3</b> <i>From the President</i> Welcome New Members LSM Holiday Party December Birthdays	Janet Kres, President	<b>Page 5</b> <i>RVC Ramblings</i> LSM Election Results	Ralph "Rudy" Rudolph
<b>Page 4</b> <i>LSM Programs - Summary</i> Reimbursement Requests due Dec. 15 Ideas & Volunteers Needed for Bylaws Comm.	Don Drumtra	<b>Page 6</b> November ExComm Meeting Minutes Scholarship Announcement	
		<b>Page 7-11</b> Previously Unpublished ExComm Minutes	
		<b>Page 11</b> Events Schedule	

# **Lonestar Mensa Officers**

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

## **Executive Committee Members**

**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:**

Ron Edelstein

512-491-9881 aduana@mindspring.com

Michael Tolbert

512-302-6052 soundmoney@yahoo.com

Steve Skelton

512-902-5023 steve\_skelton2000@yahoo.com

**Recruitment Chair:** Mark Kres (see Membership)

**Membership Officer:** Mark Kres

512-836-5773 jmkres@sbcglobal.net

**Current Member Coordinator:** Vacant

**New Member Coordinator:** Carla Young

512-586-7524 carla.x.young@gmail.com

**Lapsed Member Coordinator:** Vacant

**Leadership Roster Coordinator:** Vacant

**Testing Coordinator:** Mark Kres

512-836-5773 jmkres@sbcglobal.net

**Testing Facilities Coordinator:** Vacant

**Awards Coordinator:** Vacant

**Nominations Committee Chair:** Vacant

**Communications Chair:** Vacant

**Newsletter Editor:** Rachael Stewart

506 Canion St, Austin TX 78752

512-407-9753 bookbird@yahoo.com

**Newsletter Circulation Manager:** Helen Siders

512-799-6985 xlartemis@gmail.com

**Newsletter Advertising Coordinator:** Vacant

**Webmaster:** Geri Neemidge

512-310-7863 gneemidge@usa.net

**Publicity Officer:** Paul Anderson

512-259-7824 wrdslngr@swbell.net,

**Elist Coordinator:** John Neemidge

512-310-7863 neemidge@usa.net

**Record Manager:** Vacant

**Symposia Chair:** Vacant

**Programs Officer (Meeting Coord.):** Todd Shaw

512-423-1252 txpioneer@hotmail.com

**Symposia Coordinator:** Vacant

**Symposia Publicity Coordinator:** Vacant

**Education Chair:** Vacant

**Education Funding Coordinator:** Vacant

**Scholarship Chair:** Claudia Harbert

512-238-0205 mensascholarships@gmail.com

**Education Publicity Coordinator:** Vacant

**Gifted Children's Coordinator:** Michele Vaughan

512-388-5970 lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com

**Subgroups Program Chair:** Vacant

**Bryan-College Station Coordinator:** Robbie Fraser

214-240-4439 tampabuc47@yahoo.com

**Univ. of Texas Student Coord.:** Vignesh Prakash

512-740-2592 vignesh@mail.utexas.edu

**Waco Coordinator:** Vacant

**SIGHT Coordinator:** Steve Vaughan

512-388-5970 svaughan@austin.rr.com

**LonestaRG Chair:** Ellen Lukasik

elukasik@sbcglobal.net

**RG Registrar:** Jane K. Thompson

512-335-4196 jane12125@austin.rr.com

**RG Hospitality Chair:** Anne So

**RG Programs Chair:**

**RG Facilities Chair:** Ellen Lukasik (see RG Chair)

**RG Publicity Chair:** John Neemidge (see V.P.)

**RG Drawings, Prizes, and Awards Chair:** Vacant

**RG Treasurer:** Don Drumtra

512-291-0315 drumtra@aol.com

**RG Raffles:** Helen Siders (see Newsletter Coord.)

**Arbiter:** Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirman@sbcglobal.net

**Ombudsman:** Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirman@sbcglobal.net

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

**Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)**

Ralph Rudolph

[RVC6@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC6@us.mensa.org)

**American Mensa, Ltd.**

(817) 607-0060

[ArnericanMensa@us.mensa.org](mailto:ArnericanMensa@us.mensa.org)

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1229 Corporate Drive West

Arlington, TX 76006-6103

## From the President

Dear Fellow Mensans –

Aloha!! That is a wonderful Hawaiian word that means both “hello” and “good-by”. After two years as your Loc Sec, it is time for me to say, “good-by”. I am very proud that my tenure included the following:

- \* Demonstration of our strong commitment to scholarship in the endowment of a scholarship fund to be used to support our scholarship award. And a special note of thanks to our Scholarship Chairman, Claudia Harbert!
- \* The Gifted Children activities, as led by Michele Vaughan. Making those parrot toys last year was really a fun event.
- \* Wonderful Regional Gatherings!
- \* A Camping trip!
- \* The start of a Bridge group.
- \* A strong schedule of offering the Mensa testing session, including sessions in Buda, Temple, and College Station – and participation in Mensa Testing Day.
- \* Reactivation of the Mensa student group at U T Austin.

I hope that members have enjoyed their membership in the Lonestar Mensa chapter – and – Aloha! I look forward to seeing you at future events!

Janet



### ***Welcome New Members***

Keith T. Joji  
James M. Brenham  
Tracy D. Neitsch  
Brad L. Stevens  
Lorna Schwimmer  
Gun Ho Kim  
Natalie Root  
Phillip B. McWilliams

### ***Welcome Back, Members***

Grayson Abbott  
Ian Ball  
John Paliwoda

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

Megan Mclean Harris  
Kenneth J. Mueller  
Cody A. Melcher  
Aaron Rabushka  
Troy R. Caperton  
Derek A. Williams

## Lonestar Mensa Holiday Party

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2007 6:00-9:00pm

Site: Casa Chapala

3010 West Anderson Lane, Suite D

(at the intersection of Anderson and Shoal Creek)

Be sure to join us for the Lonestar Mensa Holiday Party! There will be door prizes, the White Elephant Gift Exchange (find out who really wants your gift!), and the free book exchange. Lonestar Mensa will have its own room at the restaurant. You may order as you wish from the menu.

See you there!



Happy Birthday

- 1 Dr John L Fike  
Miles Grant
- 2 Josh Thomas
- 4 Carleton L Smith
- 5 Arne Hartikka
- 6 Walter R Barksdale Jr
- 8 Carla Young  
Michelle Barnett  
Thomas D Harrison
- 9 Maggie Weaver
- 10 Mary Jane Lockhart
- 11 Sheldon Benjamin Kohan  
Timm M Wrase
- 13 Heather Hall
- 14 Margaret Patricia Wofford  
John Paliwoda  
Christopher Rodie
- 15 Erik C Bentz
- 16 Justin Blount
- 17 Dr Caryl Neman
- 18 James Richard Boland  
Gwendolyn Taylor
- 19 Sue Ricket Caldwell  
Scott Jacobsmeyer
- 22 Robert E Pitts
- 23 Fred G Deats III
- 26 Michael Clinton Moyer
- 28 Sonya L Palmer  
Austin G Meyer
- 29 Jack Vincent Musgrove
- 30 Merlin D Darling  
Mary L Hoan



## **Lonestar Mensa Programs— Summary**

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Treasurer

*Note: This is the tenth and concluding article in a series of explaining the new Lonestar Mensa Budget Structure and the many new positions and opportunities available for you.*

The previous nine articles have provided an overview of each of the six established programs of Lonestar Mensa—the Recruitment, Communications, Symposia, LonestarRG, Education, and Subgroups programs—as well as some of the miscellaneous activities we have. These overviews were not intended to be prescriptive or fixed in concrete, rather they were provided as examples of what activities the programs might include and how program chairs might structure their programs. Program chairs and the officers of each program are encouraged to try new things to interest LSM members and to increase the value of our membership. If the overall structure does not serve us well, we can add new programs and we can abolish existing ones. The ExComm can also establish independent committees to do special things. The possibilities are almost endless.

Program chairs may need money to enhance their program activities and to do good things. Each of the previous program overviews listed the program's budget for 2007. At the end of each year when the budget is developed for the following year, Program Chairs and the Executive Committee members estimate, revenue, and budgets funds for each program. If it appears that funds will be left over after the budget is completed (not usually the case), the ExComm will allocate them during the year for special projects or to help programs with special activities. Then after the RG results are in, ExComm members and Program Chairs look at each program's expenditures and adjustments if needed to better support our programs. Programs however are not limited to the budgets from the LSM treasury. Program Chairs and officers are encouraged to have fundraising activities to provide more funds for their other activities.

This has been an interesting series to write and, although this is the last article of this series, there is no reason why you—chairs, coordinators, and other volunteers—cannot begin a new series or just write a single article letting us all know the great things you are doing. If you have had a special event or other activity of particular interest Rachael would be more than happy to publish

your summary and photographs in a special section of the printed Armadillo Literary Gazette or, if you like, she can provide a special online version with extended coverage and color pictures—she will even help you write it and lay it out if you are nice to her.



## **Reimbursement Requests due by December 15**

According to ASIE 2006-10-3, “All requests for reimbursement are due to the LSM Treasurer by December 15 in order to be paid out of current year funds.” Late requests will require ExComm consideration and may be denied. Requests for reimbursement may be given to the Treasurer at the Christmas party on December 8 or sent to him via ordinary mail or email. A form, available on the Lonestar Mensa Website or at <http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~drumtra/website/documents/ReimbReq.doc>, may be completed and submitted or the information may be submitted in an email to meet the deadline. Receipts (or copies) may be attached or submitted later. The addresses are: Don Drumtra, 3206 Twilight Trl, Austin, TX 78748 and [drumta@aol.com](mailto:drumta@aol.com)



## **Ideas and Volunteers Needed for Bylaws Committee**

*-Submitted by Don Drumtra, Chair, Bylaws Committee*

Changes the American Mensa Committee has made to the Minimum Standard Bylaws Requirements and Model Bylaws, guiding all subordinate local group bylaws, suggest that portions of our Lonestar Mensa Bylaws should be revised to comply. In addition, member ideas, such as a recent idea suggesting electronic alternatives to our election process, suggest that we should simplify some of our processes. Consequently, the ExComm has established a Bylaws Committee to draft revisions to the Lonestar Mensa Bylaws considering ideas from the membership, the latest American Mensa Bylaws guidance, and Robert's Rules of Order. The revisions are to be submitted for approval of the American Mensa Committee and the LSM membership. If you have ideas on how we could improve Lonestar Mensa processes or if you would like to volunteer to work on the Bylaws Committee please email your thoughts to Janet Kres, [jmkres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmkres@sbcglobal.net)

## **RVC Ramblings**

— from *Ralph Rudolph, RVC Region 6*

I've been a newsletter editor more years than I can recall. Maybe ten times. I'm still an editor and I'm likely to stay so for some time. It's not a job that others are clamoring for, unfortunately. I'd gladly pass it off to someone more talented and interested. Especially the publisher part, which I do myself, but even fewer folks want to do that; it's pure drudge work sticking on the labels, sealing the newsletters, filling out the forms and taking it to the post office on time. But it is satisfying in an odd way.

Once, a long time ago, I wrote a piece published nationally within Mensa that was called "heretical". I do that from time to time as I am a bit of a devil's advocate. In that article, I said that the most important person in any group was often the Editor, not the LocSec. I stick by that thought. Why? The newsletter is what the local group members see; it defines the group and its perceived attitude. It can shape the future of the group and actually determine who the group's future leaders will be. This can be just helpful or Machiavellian, depending on your viewpoint. The "tone" the newsletter sets will either attract new members to participate or just plain bore them. It's your choice.

To me, there's a couple of rules to follow as an editor. One of the first rules is to mention members' names often and to put them into bold print whenever you mention them. This shows recognition for what members are doing and encourages them to keep doing. We're all human and like a pat on the back. The second rule is not to harangue the members; people don't like to feel bad or be criticized. Use a positive approach, even if you have to lie a bit. In describing a dinner meeting which perhaps few attended, you can say that "all in attendance had a great time and loudly applauded the speaker" or some such rot. Spin, baby, spin. Be the cheerleader. That's your job. Say the attendance was lousy and all you'll do is discourage people from attending. Fourth, continually ask yourself, "Why should anyone be interested in reading this article I wish to publish?" What's the "hook?" Print stuff of limited interest and you'll just bore folks. That's not good although it may fill space. Fifth, learn to use what I call the "long arm approach." Get to know your members and their interests. As a for-instance, I learned that a member was (on the side) an experienced geologist and got her to write an article on her various finds. It was fascinating. Don't just ask for articles. You will seldom get them that way.

Don't bore folks. It doesn't help Mensa. And keep a sense of humor. We're all funny and fallible. Mensa is what we make it. Make it something interesting.

The AMC meeting on December 1st should prove interesting. I may vote against some items including the new proposed alcohol policy that requires minors to be identified with an armband or such. Does anyone in his right mind think that Mensa youngsters won't find a way around this? Another is to rename the position of LocSec as Chief Executive Officer as some groups use the name "president" or "chairman" or such. Well, using other names is already allowed and all this will do is waste a lot of good stationery. I may also vote against our new "Vision Statement" as I consider such statements as feel-good nonsense. Instead, I propose: "When all is said and done, more is said than done". It more accurately describes AMC.

Enjoy this holiday season if you can, or good luck hiding from it if you are so inclined (many are).



## **LSM Election Results**

— submitted by *Kathie Blair*

The ballots have officially been tallied. The collective voice has been heard. There was a record turnout for this year's annual Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee election. 17 ballots received, and who says you can't herd cats?

There were write-in candidates for three positions: President, Treasurer, and Member at Large post 3.

Ron Edelstein was the write-in candidate for President and won with an astounding 17 of 17 votes. Other unanimously voted positions include Vice President elect; Don Drumtra with 17 of 17 votes. Member at Large post 1, John Neemidge obtained 16 of 16 votes, and Member at Large post 2; Janet Kres collected 17 of 17 votes. The new Treasurer for 2008 will be Patty Drumtra who received a whopping 16 votes to beat out the nearest write-in candidate, Linda Edelstein. There were a total of 11 votes and 6 candidates for Member at Large post 3. Kathie Blair Lawler will serve at the 2008 Member at Large post 3 having received 4 votes. Linda Edelstein and Ellen Lucasu both acquired 2 votes each. Other notables with votes were Patty Drumtra, Ron Edelstein and Walter Stewart.

This is certainly the largest voter turnout I have seen in my several years in Lonestar Mensa, but it is also the largest amount of people willing to be involved with the direction of our organization. I thank you all for

## November ExComm Meeting Minutes

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Ron Edelstein, Member At Large; Helen Siders, Circulation Manager; Patty Drumtra, LSM Member

Janet called to order at 6:05.

Don presented the bank statements. Janet reviewed the latest bank statement and approved them.

Janet discussed the holiday party. John will bring paper tickets for door prizes.

RG Update. Don presented updated RG financial information. The RG raised \$167.40 general revenue, \$100 towards the LSM video projector, and \$165 in earmarked scholarship fund revenue. Don moved and Ron seconded a motion to approve rates for the 2008 RG. After discussion, Don moved Ron seconded to table the motion in deference to the RG Chair and Committee to determine the rates.

Don presented the Treasurer's Report. Our financial results for the year so far are strong. At the end of October we had 556 members compared with 519 at the end of October 2006. This represents a healthy growth of over 7 percent. With this increase and the increased support per member beginning this spring, our revenue has exceeded estimates in every program except the RG. Our Recruitment Program, which has been below estimates in previous months, benefited from the 15 potential applicants taking the qualifying test in September. Our expenses for all programs are significantly below budget but we expect some increases in expenditures as our officers request final reimbursement for their expenses. As a result our net worth continues to grow. A reminder, vouchers for 2007 must be received by December 15 to be paid from 2007 funds.

Moved Don, second Ron, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Passed 3-0. Moved Don, second Ron, to approve Mark Kres as reviewer of financial records for 2007. Passed 3-0. Moved Don, second Ron, to approve badge reimbursement. Passed 3-0. Moved Don, second Ron, to approve Halloween party and Sam's Club membership renewal reimbursement. Passed 3-0.

We discussed program ideas for the monthly meeting in 2008.

Janet will bring blank envelopes, voting forms, and a membership list at the monthly meeting so that people can vote at the monthly meeting.

Helen presented a proposed bylaws amendment about

electronic voting for local group elections. There was extensive discussion of whether this was possible and if so what needs to happen to get the bylaws amended. Consensus was that National's Minimum Standard Bylaws allow for electronic voting and we are very interested in amending the bylaws, both to add that and to make other changes. The intent is that the new ExComm will form a bylaw revision committee in January and operate such that a revision can be complete before the 2008 elections.

We discussed TGIT and the lack of a regular host. The sense of the ExComm was that TGIT should be removed from the calendar except for Fold & Sticker, but that we should actively seek a TGIT host so that the event can return to becoming a regular standing event.

Helen presented the Circulation Manager report. She discussed PAVE -- a required report that the post office requires for automated mailing. National cannot currently print a PAVE report but may be able to acquire software to prepare such a report in the future. John presented some Postal Service documents that may help us avoid the PAVE issue.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:15.



### Win a Scholarship!

The application forms for this year's scholarships contest are available online! Go to [www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships) to download the applications. Also, the applications are available for download at the Lonestar Mensa website ([www.lsm.us.mensa.org](http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org) – click on "Scholarship Information"). Mensa members can file an application for the regular scholarships and also a separate application (same essay or not; your choice) for a scholarship that is for members only. Be sure to download the application for the local/regional/national awards AND the one for Mensa members. The web page gives you the two links.

If you can't download, ask for an application by sending an email message to [mentascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:mentascholarships@gmail.com) to receive a pdf file via email, or send a self-addressed, stamped, business (#10) envelope to:

Mensa Foundation Scholarships  
P.O. Box 5744  
Round Rock , TX 78683

Not going to school these days? If you'd like to help judge the essays, please send an email to our local chair, Claudia Harbert: [mentascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:mentascholarships@gmail.com). Judging the essays will be in late January – early February. If you would like to be notified when the judging begins, please email.

Armadillo Literary Gazette -- December 2007

## *Missing Minutes --- an ExComm Excavation*

### February ExComm Meeting Minutes

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

Janet called to order at 6:05

Janet handed out new name badges for the ExComm.

Moved Don, 2nd Michael, to thank Mark Kres for doing the financial review. Passed 6-0

We will put ASIEs & financial report on the website. We discussed ASIE numbering. ASIEs will be numbered year-month-number to preserve association of ExComm meeting & motion number. Reviewed ASIEs to this point.

Testing session to be held in Buda on March 21. Planning to go back to Round Rock library in October for National Testing Day.

We now have officially approved bylaws. Dan Burg sent a confirmation that our bylaws are now confirmed.

Motion Michael, 2nd Don: LSM president shall only vote in ExComm votes if there is a tie & a tie-breaking vote is required. Passed 6-0. ASIE 2006-02-01

Treasurer's report: The net financial results for January showed a slight loss of \$42.76 in our programs and operations due to annual start up costs of a supply of coffee cups for our monthly speakers and contribution to the scholarship fund. Our balance sheet shows funds from 27 registrants for the LonestaRG next August.

Motion Don, 2nd Vignesh, approve reimbursement for Janet's expenses of \$154.90 for symposia and operational expenses. Passed 5-0. Moved Don, 2nd Vignesh, to approve the Treasurer's report. Passed 5-0.

Circulation report: Seven people requested electronic newsletters. Five of them got them -- Helen sent confirmation emails and 2 did not reply, so they got a paper copy. Selected for MERLIN processing for flats. No mistakes found at all. Some glitches with newsletters this month -- no staples, and other glitches. Helen would like to try to move the newsletter processing so that they can be printed by Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday afternoon.

Helen resigned as Member At Large effective at the end of this meeting due to her time commitments between two jobs and school.

Moved Don, second John, to accept Helen's resignation, thank her profusely for her service, and express our gratitude that she's continuing as Circulation Manager. Amended Janet that we also give Helen a Lonestar Mensa mug. Passed 5-0.

Michael's officer report. He will be holding a testing session tomorrow.

Vignesh discussed steps towards holding a test at the UT Student Union. Proposed a testing session on a Friday night, early April.

Janet adjourned the ExComm meeting at 7:1

### March ExComm Meeting Minutes

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Michael Tolbert, Vignesh Prakash, Ron Edelstein, Members At Large

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:05

Happy News: Rachael Stewart has a new job. Rachael's father may join Mensa. Jane Thompson will be hosting a dinner group in Georgetown.

Program: Monday's program will need a video projector. Discussed renting one. Vignesh may be able to check one out from UT. We will be looking to buy one for the group in the next few months, with a rough budget of \$700.

Discussed UT on-campus testing session. Planning testing session in April. Vignesh will arrange room with the Mensa student organization.

New member party in June. Third Saturday in June? Ron volunteered their house as a possibility for venue; Janet will check with Linda Edelstein.

Treasurer's report: The net financial result for the first two months of 2007 was a loss with expenses slightly exceeding revenues by \$38.66. All programs are under budget except education, which had expenses from last year. Operations expenses continue to exceed our original budget. The Subgroup and LonestarRG programs had no financial activity so far this year.

>

## *Missing Minutes --- an ExComm Excavation*

Discussed moving officer-related expenses (name badges, etc) from operations to recruitment. Consensus of ExComm was in favor. Discussed increased national funding. Consensus was to shift allocation rates towards symposia as newsletter is doing fine as is -- new ratio 75% communication/25% symposia.

Moved Ron, second Vignesh, to approve treasurer's report. Passed 5-0. Moved Don, second Vignesh, to reimburse Claudia Harbert for scholarship expenses from 2006. Passed 5-0. Moved Don, second Vignesh, to reassign officer recruitment and related expenses from operations to recruitment. Passed 5-0.

Moved Don, second Michael, to add ASIE 2007-3-1 which allocates revenue as follows: - Recruitment Program-AML new and reinstated member incentives, AML testing and other recruiting reimbursements, and fund raising.

- Communications Program-75 percent of the AML full membership allotment, corporate subscription reimbursement, ALG ad revenue, and fund raising.

- Symposia program-25 percent of the AML full membership allotment, family membership allotment, interest on CD 2, and fund raising.

- Education program-Interest on CD 1, RG distribution, and fundraising.

- Subgroup program-Fundraising.

- LonestarRG-Working capital allocation, prior years' RG distribution, registration fees, and fundraising.

- Operations-RG allocation, prior years' reimbursements, unspent program funds.

Passed 5-0.

Motion to amend ASIE 2007-1-1 as follows: change name of Leadership Roster Coordinator to Leadership Coordinator. Motion Don, 2nd Michael. Passed 5-0.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 6:58.

### May ExComm Meeting Minutes

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Michael Tolbert, Member At Large; Helen Sidors, Circulation Manager; Patty Drumtra, LSM Member

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:05.

Vignesh Prakash has resigned as Member At Large due

to other commitments. Moved Don, 2nd John, to thank Vignesh for his service. Passed 3-0. We all wish Vignesh well and hope to see him soon as LSM events.

John will send out email notices to lapsed members in the next week.

Testing update: We were unable to hold a testing session at UT. Janet will try to hold a test later in May. We do have one person for the culture-fair test.

The new member party will be held on Saturday the 5th -- Janet promises a good time for all. We participated in CultureQuest on Sunday and had fun.

RG update: John Neemidge and Ellen Lukasik will meet with the hotel in the near future and get started on the contract. We have several speakers and presenters already lined up.

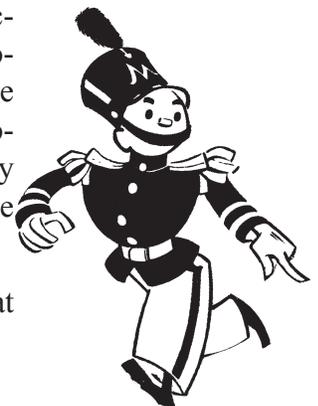
Treasurer's Report: We are 1/3 through the year and should be seeing 33 percent of our annual revenue and expenses. Revenue is above expectations except for the Education Program and RG which depend on the RG revenue and on operations which is waiting for a reimbursement from the RVC. Expenses are below budget except for the Education Program which is 5 percent over budget due to a unbudgeted 2006 reimbursement paid in 2007. Overall we are almost \$350 below our budget. Our balance sheet shows net assets of almost \$17,000 and net worth slightly over \$15,400.

Moved Don, second Michael, to approve the financial report. Passed 3-0.

Helen is working on getting the Zilker Clubhouse for the holiday party.

Helen reported on some mailing issues. She is encouraging National to require anyone to validate their email address when switching to electronic subscriptions. Janet proposed running an article in the newsletter to both remind people about electronic delivery and encourage them to update their email addresses.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.



## *Missing Minutes --- an ExComm Excavation*

### June ExComm Meeting

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Michael Tolbert, Steve Skelton, Ron Edelstein, Members At Large; Helen Siders, Circulation Manager; Patty Drumtra, LSM Member

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:00.

We welcomed Steve Skelton as a new member-at-large.

Lapsed member contact: Janet will email John the contents of the new disk as soon as she gets it. John will do email contacts, Janet will work on papermail contacts.

RG Update: John and Ellen Lukasic met with the hotel. They are eager to have us back and, with some changes to meeting space (but no changes in pricing, except a likely decrease in total hospitality space costs) we have a tentative contract agreement.

Holiday Party update: Helen has been working with the Zilker Clubhouse. Our dates were not available and it is very expensive (\$750 -- previous times we have met there have been \$300). Steve and John both proposed the American Legion facility as an alternative. John mentioned Geri Neemidge's idea of Spaghetti Warehouse; Steve Skelton proposed Scholtz's. John also proposed charging \$5 a person, both to help defray the cost and to have people commit to attending.

John mentioned a video projector (Epson Powerlite S4) on sale at Best Buy for \$500. ExComm discussed the projector's specs and reviews. Don discussed budget impact of the projector. Janet offered to produce a second quilt at the RG. Motion John to purchase the projector for \$500; if RG operational funds, quilt revenue, etc, do not produce sufficient money to cover the expense then the scholarship will be reduced to \$300. Second Ron, passed 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: We are 5/12 through the year and should be seeing 42 percent of our annual revenue and expenses. Our membership dropped from 568 to 453 because of members who did not renew. The negative impact on our revenue was partially offset by the higher per member allotment from American Mensa so our Communications and Symposia program revenue is

still above projections. Recruitment Program revenues are below expectations due to a lack of testing activity in April. The Education Program and operations are below expectations but these programs depend on RG revenue and operations which is waiting for a reimbursement from our RVC. Expenses are below budget for all programs. Overall we are over 550 below our budget not counting the RG. Our balance sheet shows net assets of over \$17,000 and net worth slightly below \$15,500

Moved Don, second Ron, to approve the report. Passed 5-0.

Circulation Manager's Report: Helen again discussed issues with the circulation report from National. One of the reports she asked for was added but still has bugs.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:10

### August ExComm Meeting

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Michael Tolbert, Steve Skelton, Ron Edelstein, Members At Large; Helen Siders, Circulation Manager

Prior to the meeting Janet reviewed the most recent financial report.

Janet called the meeting to order at 6.

Testing schedule update: Next test in Temple, then testing at the RG. Also in September there will be a test in Bryan/College Station on Sep 22.

We discussed a change in the ExComm meeting time and location. We decided not to move the meeting.

RG update: John discussed various publicity actions, and also reported about speakers and other information. Janet reported on quilts to be raffled off at the RG. One of them will go towards the debt on the projector. Helen reported on raffle ticket prizes for the RG.

Treasurer's report. Overall program revenues are close to projections and expenses are significantly below budget. We need to do more to promote our programs. Through the wonderful help of Ralph Rudolph, our new RVC and Robin Crawford AML Communications Officer, we have received reimbursement for the newsletter software Ray O'Connor, the former RVC, agreed

## *Missing Minutes --- an ExComm Excavation*

to support. Please thank these gentle people when you see them next. Expenses continue to be low for a Mensa organization of our size.

Moved Don, second Steve, to approve the treasurer's report. Passed 5-0. Moved Don, second John, to thank all involved for reimbursing us for the newsletter software. Passed 5-0.

Moved Don, second Ron, that we capitalize and account for durable equipment and software items over \$250 and three years life expectancy as capital assets, maintain equipment records, as required by the AML Treasurer's handbook, and pay for them over time as determined by the ExComm. We will pay for other items out of program budgets. ASIE 2007-08-01. Passed 5-0.

Moved Don, second John, to establish a Communications Program Fund to pay for future newsletter software upgrades and other communications program durable items. Charge the Communications Program \$10 per month to pay into the fund. ASIE 2007-08-02 replacing ASIE 2007-07-2. Passed 5-0.

Moved Don, second Ron, to establish a Symposia Program Fund to pay for a new projector and other symposia-related durable items in the future. Charge the Symposia Program \$10 per month to pay for the current projector (\$8.25 per month) and to pay into the fund for future purposes (\$1.75 per month now and \$10 per month after the current projector is fully expensed or otherwise reimbursed). ASIE 2007-08-03 replacing ASIE 2007-07-1. Passed 5-0.

Moved Don, second Ron, to establish online bank account access through individual profiles, rather than direct account access, to allow individuals who have access to the account to be freely changed. The Treasurer will set up and cancel profile access to the account. Upon change of Treasurer, the current Treasurer will activate the new Treasurer's access. The new Treasurer will activate any additional officer access to the account and deactivate the previous officer access as appropriate including the previous Treasurer. ASIE 2007-08-04.

Circulation Manager's report. Postal Service form 3541 has changed from a 3-page to an 8-page form. It includes a new rate change. Discussed whether we need to change how we mail the newsletter to use other mailing rates. At this time no change will be made, but we

will continue to monitor Postal Service changes.

We discussed the holiday party.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

### September Monthly Meeting

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Ron Edelstein, Member At Large; Helen Siders, Circulation Manager; Patty Drumtra, LSM Member

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:05

The Nominating and Elections Committees will be composed of Kathie Blair-Lawlor, Mark Kres, and Paul Anderson.

RG report: We had a wonderful time, made some money, and generated lots of positive feelings. Ellen Lukasik has agreed to chair next year's RG. Motion John, second Ron, to approve Ellen Lukasik as chair with the theme as she has proposed it (Decadence: A Celebration Of Ten Years). Passed 3-0.

Mensa Testing Day: John has reserved a meeting room at the Round Rock Public Library for 10/20/07 from 11:30am to 2:30pm.

We are having trouble getting speaker for October meeting. Helen proposed soapbox night. If we are unable to find a speaker we will have soapbox night; if not, we will plan a soapbox night in the near future.

We will update and finalize the RG ASIE at October's meeting.

Ron reported that he enjoyed the RG and his presentation, and that he may be moving back to Dallas. He expects to know in a week.

Treasurers report: Overall program revenues remain close to but slightly ahead of expectations and expenses continue to be below budget. On preliminary analysis, the RG appears to have been a success financially. Members who require reimbursement of any RG expenses should contact the Treasurer in the next couple of weeks for reimbursement.

Moved Don second John to approve the treasurer's report. Passed 3-0. Moved Don, second John to distribute funds from the RG on 2007 Sep 30 as required by

## *Missing Minutes --- an ExComm Excavation*

the RG draft ASIE (funds as finalized on 2007 Sep 30). Passed 3-0.

Lonestar Mensan Clay Kruse, caption of our Culture-Quest team, passed away on 9/4/2007. The ExComm is very saddened by his passing and expresses our condolences to his family.

Helen requested an electronic version of the eDistribution list. Janet gets the electronic version on disk. Janet will email to John who will massage the data into a format that matches what Helen wants. Helen also presented detailed information as to how the post office rate increase hit us. Don suggested switching the newsletter to color for email subscribers. We will follow up with Rachael about adding color.

We discussed ballot requirements for the upcoming election.

Holiday party: Discussed Casa Chapala as a location, discussed possible dates and the length of the party. Moved Don, second John, to hold the party on the second Saturday of Dec (Dec 9, 2007) at Casa Chapala, and book for three hours. Passed 3-0.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.



### **Volunteers Wanted!**

Lonestar Mensa needs a volunteer(s) to host a get-together at an area restaurant. We have been having these get-togethers at Central Market on Thursday, and need to be sure that a Chapter member is present during that time. If you would like to host this event at Central Market – or would like to have the get-together at another place or day, please contact any member of the Ex Comm.



## What's Happening in December?



### **1st Saturday Bridge Night**

**Saturday, December 1** **7:00-10:00pm**

Duncan and Jeanne Stewart's house  
13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin (512) 335-4409  
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.

### **ExComm Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 5** **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 8** **6:00-9:00pm**

Casa Chapala Restaurant  
3010 West Anderson Lane, Suite D --- at the intersection of Anderson and Shoal Creek.

Join your fellow Lonestar Mensans for the Holiday Party! There will be door prizes, the While Elephant Gift Exchange and the free book exchange. Lonestar Mensa will have its own room at the restaurant. You may order as you wish from the menu.

### **3rd Saturday Poker Night**

**Saturday, December 15** **7:00pm-???**

Laura Shankland's house  
11300 Bunting Dr., Austin (512) 297-8344

[lolas@laurashankland.com](mailto:lolas@laurashankland.com)

Please RSVP so we know how many to expect. Nickle ante; dealer's choice. Please BYOB.

### **Fold & Sticker**

**Thursday, December 27** **6:00pm**

Central Market Cafe, Austin  
4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020  
Meet us at the Café' after work to help assemble the newsletter. 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's is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We usually meet upstairs.

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<b>December</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>1st Saturday Bridge</b>
2	3	4	5 <b>ExComm</b>	6	7	8 <b>Holiday Party</b>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 <b>3rd Saturday Poker 'Dillo Deadline</b>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 	26	27 	28	29
30	31			<i>Fold &amp; Sticker</i>		<b>2007</b>