

Armaddillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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Lonestar Mensa Officers

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

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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: Helen Siders (see Newsletter Circulation)

Leadership Roster Coordinator: Vacant

Testing Coordinator: Mark Kres

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Awards Coordinator: Vacant

Nominations Committee Chair: Vacant

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Symposia Coordinator: Vacant

Symposia Publicity Coord.: Paul Anderson (see Publicity)

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

Bylaws Comm. Chair: Don Drumtra (see V.P.)

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214-240-4439 tampabuc47@yahoo.com

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Waco Area Coordinator: Vacant

SIGHT Coordinator: Steve Vaughan

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

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elukasik@sbcglobal.net

RG Registrar: Jane K. Thompson

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

RG Hospitality Chair: Anne So

phil_anne_so@yahoo.ca

RG Programs Chair: Ellen Lukasik (see RG Chair)

RG Facilities Chair: Ellen Lukasik (see RG Chair)

RG Publicity Chair: John Neemidge (see M. @ L.)

RG Treasurer: Don Drumtra

512-291-0315 drumtra@aol.com

RG Drawings, Prizes, & Awards Chair: Helen Siders (see Newsletter Circulation)

Arbiter: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirnan@sbcglobal.net

Ombudsman: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirnan@sbcglobal.net

If you are interested in helping with LSM activities in any of the vacant positions listed above, please contact Ron Edelstein: aduana@mindspring.com or 512-491-9881.

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*It's Not Too Late -
Come On Down!*

LonestarRG Decadence: A 10th Anniversary Celebration



- Planned speakers and workshops on massage, exotic dance for women, chocolate, wine, genealogy, gemstones, literature, aromatherapy, energy, and more
- Dance & Casino Night
- Decadent Dessert Contest
- Champagne Toast'n'Roast
- Kids' Program including wildlife rescue, karate, Game Camp, chess, more
- Tastings including chocolate & cheese
- Games & Contests
- Prizes
- And much more!

Celebrate 10 years of LonestarRG in decadent style with us! LonestarRG X will be held in Austin over Labor Day Weekend, Aug 29-31, Sep 1, 2008. Bring the whole family!

Walk-in registration is \$75 for the weekend, or \$20 Friday, \$40 Saturday, \$40 Sunday, and \$10 Monday. Children 9-17 are half price, 8 and under are free. Send registrations to Jane K. Thompson, Registrar, LonestarRG X, 2305 Monaco Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78613 (jane12125@austin.rr.com). To register online via PayPal or a printable registration form, and for hotel information, 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 St Michael Plaza (new name, same hotel), located at the intersection of IH-35 and US-183 in Austin. Our room rate is \$77/night S/D (+\$8 for third or fourth adult). The room rate includes a hot buffet breakfast. For reservations call 1-866-661-6611.

Bylaws Committee Monthly Report

-by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chairman

*** * * * ***

Welcome New Member

Todd Genovese

Welcome Back Members

Floyd L Anderson Jr

Patrick Dean Ohrt

V O Speights Jr

Dr John Edison Rockwell

Thomas D Harrison

Michael L Rylie

Anthony V Depaul

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Nat Owens

Clayton S Pendergrass

Chad Greene

*** * * * ***

The Bylaws Committee met for the seventh time 7:15-8:20pm, July 10, with TGIT at Central Market. We approved last month's minutes and other prior work, discussed questions and answers from the Bylaws Workshop at the 2008 Annual Gathering, continued work on the ideas and questions that we need to answer. The agenda is posted at lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/archives/index20080710.html.

More specifically the committee approved officer titles of LocSec, Vice-President, and standing committee chair titles – Communications Chair, Education Chair, Recruitment Chair, and Symposia Chair. It also approved the four standing committee titles with the same names (Communications Committee, etc). More detail is provided in the minutes at lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/minutes.html.

At our next meeting we plan to take up election methods and what officers we want to identify in the Bylaws and ASIE. Come to the Bylaws Committee meeting and stay for the rest of TGIT. Our next meeting is 6-7pm, Thursday, August 7, and TGIT will meet 6-8. Bylaws Committee meetings are open and all may attend.

Scholarship Contest Entry Wins Top Prize

This year, local Mensa Foundation scholarship contest entrant Audra K. Roach won one of 7 Margo Seitelman Memorial scholarships of \$1000! Read her essay below. This ends the series of 2007-2008 winning essays. Watch the Lonestar Mensa website for the beginning of the 2008-2009 contest so that you can enter!

“Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.”

– Rumi

When my former students knock at the classroom door and ask to share their PowerPoint about global warming, I smile and welcome them in. Since graduating from my multi-age 2nd/3rd grade class last year, their faces have gotten slimmer and more defined, and their legs a mile long, but their passion for social action remains the same. Having just seen An Inconvenient Truth, they are incensed. They’ve written a public service announcement, a PowerPoint presentation, and a flyer to help educate our school about global warming. They’ve also organized a student letter-writing campaign to lobby the President and local officials. I am so proud of these powerful young citizens, who in their writing and actions carry on our class theme, “The Power of One.” As their teacher, this is what I hoped for my students – that they would learn not only to carefully and critically read their worlds, but also to write their worlds, using literacy as a powerful tool for making a difference.

Since earning my Master’s degree in education, I have spent the past 6 years teaching in a public elementary school. I emerge from this amazing experience with a finely honed craft and a full heart. I’ve grown into the kind of teacher I dreamed that I would be – reaching each child, laughing, crying, and celebrating in a caring community of learners. We learned to work cooperatively. We celebrated our growth. We became readers and writers. We made a habit of thinking far beyond what was expected, inquiring into the unknown, and making discoveries about ourselves and the world that took our breath away.

It is in this spirit of inquiry that I return to graduate school to work toward my Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Drawing on 5 years of experience mentoring apprentice teachers, and my continuing field work in teacher preparation, I aim to create new teachers who will make a difference in the lives of children and com-

munities. Specializing in “Language and Literacy,” I will teach methods of writing instruction that consider writing as not merely a set of isolated skills, but instead a powerful tool for communication and change. In my doctoral studies, I also hope to examine approaches to teaching struggling readers and writers; work toward closing the achievement gap between students from different socioeconomic backgrounds; advocate for sound educational policies nationally and internationally; and explore how research on the human brain and learning can inform instructional practice. Most of all, I hope to be an active participant in an intellectual community that values literacy as a tool for creating a better world. This is the “Power of One” that my students continue to attest to in their action projects – the power to raise awareness, to find your voice, to write the world. This is my purpose.

As a teacher of young writers, and now a teacher of writing teachers, there are hundreds of ways I could write my future from here. I choose to enter a doctoral program, to let teaching and learning about writing, this beauty I love, be what I do for a lifetime. I kneel at the classroom door. Please help welcome me in.



President’s Corner

-by Ron Edelstein, LocSec

About the time this issue hits the mailbox, many of Lonestar Mensa members will be enjoying themselves at the 10th annual Regional Gathering in Austin. For those of you who were not able to make it, please plan on joining us next year, same weekend, for the 11th RG. The theme for this year is Decadence. We are still working on what to call the RG XI, but it will be announced at the RG, when registration is opened for the next year.

Most people come to RG’s, either the LSM or others and have a great time and don’t think too much about what goes on to make it happen. It really does take a year’s planning and a lot of work by a lot of people to make these things come off the way they do. One way you can have even more pleasure from the event is to volunteer to help out. It doesn’t have to be anything elaborate, every little bit helps. Remember, the RG’s and all Mensa activities at the local level are done by volunteers. But the satisfaction of seeing a lot of your Mensa friends having a great time is most of the reward for the work.

So, for those who were able to make it, welcome to RG X. For those who couldn’t, we hope we will see you here next year.

RVC-6 Report

-by Ralph Rudolph, RVC Region 6

I'm pleased to announce that Rhonda McLean of Central Oklahoma has volunteered to be our Regional Scholarship Coordinator, so Region 6 will be taking part in our scholarship programs. It's a bit sad that not all groups are participating in this program as it helps some aspiring folks and makes for a good PR opportunity to get your group's name in the newspapers. In my group, we treat the scholarship winners to dinner and do press releases on this.

Again in my own group, I've taken over as testing coordinator and am boosting our own testing to about every other month with more test locations as we have built up a backlog of about 50 prospective members. We are boosting our number of proctors to six to be able to do this. I merely did a search (through the National Office) of members with degrees in psychology as they can easily become proctors (with a bit of sweet talk). I'm pleased to see that other groups are also giving an increased emphasis on testing.

Some groups are doing interesting things. For instances, TJ Lundeen of Central Oklahoma is trying to put together a weekend near Ft. Smith (on the Oklahoma side), inviting members from Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma and East Texas. It will be a low-key weekend with camping, cabins and RV sites, making it very affordable, most probably over the Halloween weekend. A Mensa test session may also be held, with testees invited to a pot-luck dinner. Way to go! And it will be kids friendly.

Within Louisiana, with the agreement of both LocSecs, certain zip codes of Baton Rouge Mensa are being transferred to New Orleans Mensa. Several members of the zip codes have already preferenced into New Orleans.

By now, I hope all of you have contacted your lapsed members and asked them to consider re-upping. From my own personal experience, such contact causes quite a few to renew. It's also a good opportunity to send them a survey. NOTE: Today, I just got a notice from the National Office. In Region 6 only 5 local groups contacted lapsed members. Eleven groups did not! What part of "serving your local group" don't you understand???? What does it take to write a nice letter and slap labels on them?

On the AMC level, we have a closed forum called AMC-lists where we discuss items of interest (?) before proposing them for the agenda at our meetings. This saves meeting time as items with little support don't have to be argued in person and poorly worded items can be edited.

Given that we are having a November planning meeting to develop action plans for our future (strategic vision) you'd think that we'd be discussing this a lot.

Not so. Administrivia rules.

The November AMC meeting is some time away. But boy am I busy writing agenda items about things that disturb me. There's a lot, lately.

* * * * *

1 Alan K Christensen
1 Kenneth J Heldenfels
3 Cindy Lou Palko
3 Harold A Cromwell
7 Dan Allen Flanagan
7 Denise Hicks
9 Barbara Erskine Bartlett
9 Gary W Greif
10 D Wayne Dyer
14 Ross A Williams
16 David Gilder
16 Harold V Morgan Jr
16 William Darrell Cheek
17 Dana Lynn Holland
17 Mary E Dougherty
18 Capt Howard A Konetchy
18 John David Lavendoski
22 Clinton J Wostal
22 Mike Chen
22 Todd Genovese
22 Tracy D Neitsch
23 John C Foster
23 Linda Edelstein
23 Robert E Kiefer
24 Allen Vorwerk
24 Frederick Charles Bothwell III
25 Beth Elaine Benton
25 Katherine G Blair
26 Kathleen Holiman
26 Lynn Herrick
26 Rory A Boatright
27 William Richard Jones CCP
28 Juli Eivens
28 Vaughn E Akins
30 Laura Shankland
30 Melissa Vanessah Melton
30 Scott T McAfee
30 Shea Hillis

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August ExComm Monthly Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened on August 6, 2008, at 6:05 PM, at Northwest Community Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX. Attending were: President Ron Edelstein as Chairman; Vice-President Don Drumtra as Secretary; Treasurer Patty Drumtra; Members-at-Large Janet Kres, Kathie, and John Neemidge; and guest Carla Young. The ExComm approved without debate the July 9 ExComm minutes as published in the July Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), page 6.

Ron reported that reported that in general July LSM events were successful providing more detail in his Symposia report below. After the meeting he reviewed the original checking account statement for July 2008, compared all checks written against the supporting documentation in the Treasurer's books, and determined that there were no discrepancies or errors in supporting documentation.

Patty reported the revenue and expenses for July and the account balances as of July 31. LSM continues financially sound with expenses below expected levels. After a more detailed review of one account, the ExComm adopted the report. Quarterly financial reports are published in the ALG and monthly reports are available to members by request.

Janet reported for the Recruitment Committee that future tests were scheduled for 9 AM on August 30 at the Lonestar Regional Gathering (LonestarRG) and October 18 both in Austin.

Kathie, as Communications Chair, thanked all ALG submitters for submitting articles and calendar items by mid July. She also led a discussion on ad formats and costs in the ALG. It was the sense of the ExComm that additional information about advertising should be included in the ALG Publication Notices when they are rewritten.

Ron reported for the Symposia Committee that the picnic was a success with a good mix of age groups participating. He also reported that the general games night was suspended due to lack of interest but that the two more specific games nights are alive and well. Ethnic Eats seems to have more interest than attendance. Don, on behalf of Helen Siders, moved that a special (ad hoc) committee be created to explore other locations in Aus-

tin for TGIT. The ExComm tabled the motion to the next ExComm meeting when Helen could be present.

There was no report from the Education Committee.

Don reported for the LonestarRG Committee that registration forms were handed out at the Annual Gathering, that they are available on the LSM Website, and that there were 56 registrations for the LonestarRG at the end of July more than double the 23 registrations at the end of May. Per our RG ASIE, he also reported the recommendations for the 2009 LonestarRG:

- that the LonestarRG be scheduled for September 4-7
- that rates be initially set at: \$35 through October 31, 2008 (with \$5 discount through September 1); \$45 through January 31, 2009; \$55 through April 30; \$65 through July 31; \$75 through the RG (with \$5 discount for registering before the RG, September 3);
- that the name be "LonestarRG XI – Up to Eleven";
- that the theme be "Up to Eleven" or "These Goto Eleven"
- that the ExComm confirm Karen Werner and Carla Young as Co Chairs.

After much debate the ExComm adopted the recommended dates and rates, and confirmed Carla Young as Chair with the understanding that she could, subject to the limitations of the RG ASIE, appoint any one she wanted as LonestarRG committee members and set rates for the RG. The ExComm asked the 2009 LonestarRG committee to review the rates and propose a name and theme to the ExComm members by email prior to the 2008 LonestarRG.

Don, Bylaws Committee Chair, reported that the monthly Bylaws Committee Report was as published in the June ALG, page 4. The next Bylaws Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 7 at Central Market, all are welcome.

The next regular monthly ExComm meeting was scheduled for 6-7 PM September 3 at the Northwest Community Center. ExComm meetings are open and all may attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.



What's Happening in September?

LonestaRG X: Day of Decadence

Friday, August 29 - Monday, September 1

Join us at the LonestaRG. See <http://www.lonestar.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm> for details.

ExComm Meeting

1st Wednesdays

Wednesday, September 3 6:00-7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Contact the ExComm Secretary, Don Drumtra, at drumtra@aol.com, 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda. Officers are encouraged to attend and all LSM members are welcome.

Dionysium

Wednesday, September 3 7:00pm

Alamo Drafthouse, S. Lamar, Austin

Contact Ellen Lukasik for details. elukasik@sbcglobal.net

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

1st & Last Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, Sept. 4 & Sept. 25 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Café

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020

Meet us at the Café after work for fun, conversation, and 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's is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

Bylaws Committee Meeting

1st Thursday

Thursday, September 4 6:00-7:00pm

Central Market Café

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020

The Bylaws Committee meeting is open to all LSM members. See the Bylaws Committee Report for more information on our progress. See TGIT above for directions.

2nd Saturday Bridge Night

Saturday, September 13 7:00-10:00pm

Home of Karen McMackin

7211 Lakewood Dr. #123, Austin (512) 497-7211

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.

3rd Saturday Poker

Saturday, September 20 7:00pm

Home of Laura Shankland & McCartney Taylor
11300 Bunting Dr, Austin

Dealer's choice, nickel ante. BYOB. Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect. RSVP to lolas@laurashankland.com or call 297-8344.

Eclectic Eats

Wednesday, September 17 7:00pm

Host: Ron & Linda Edelstein (512) 491-9881

Location: Buca Di Beppo, 3612 Tudor Blvd.

Please r.s.v.p. by September 15 to Linda Edelstein (ledelstein@mindspring.com) or 491-9881. R.S.V.P.'s essential to plan for seating at this restaurant.

Fold & Sticker

Last Thursday

Thursday, September 25 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Café, Austin

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020

Help fold and label the newsletter. Prospective members welcome. See TGIT for directions.



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Mensans who are not members of Lonestar Mensa may subscribe for \$10.00 per year. Send subscription requests to the publ. office.

Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text/.txt format preferred) 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 restricted 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.

<i>August</i>						
<i>sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 RG X	2	3 ExComm Dionysium	4  TGIT Bylaws Comm.	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Bridge
14	15 <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17 Eclectic Eats	18	19	20 Poker
21	22	23	24	25  TGIT Fold & Sticker	26	27
28	29	30				

2008