

Armadillo Literary Gazette

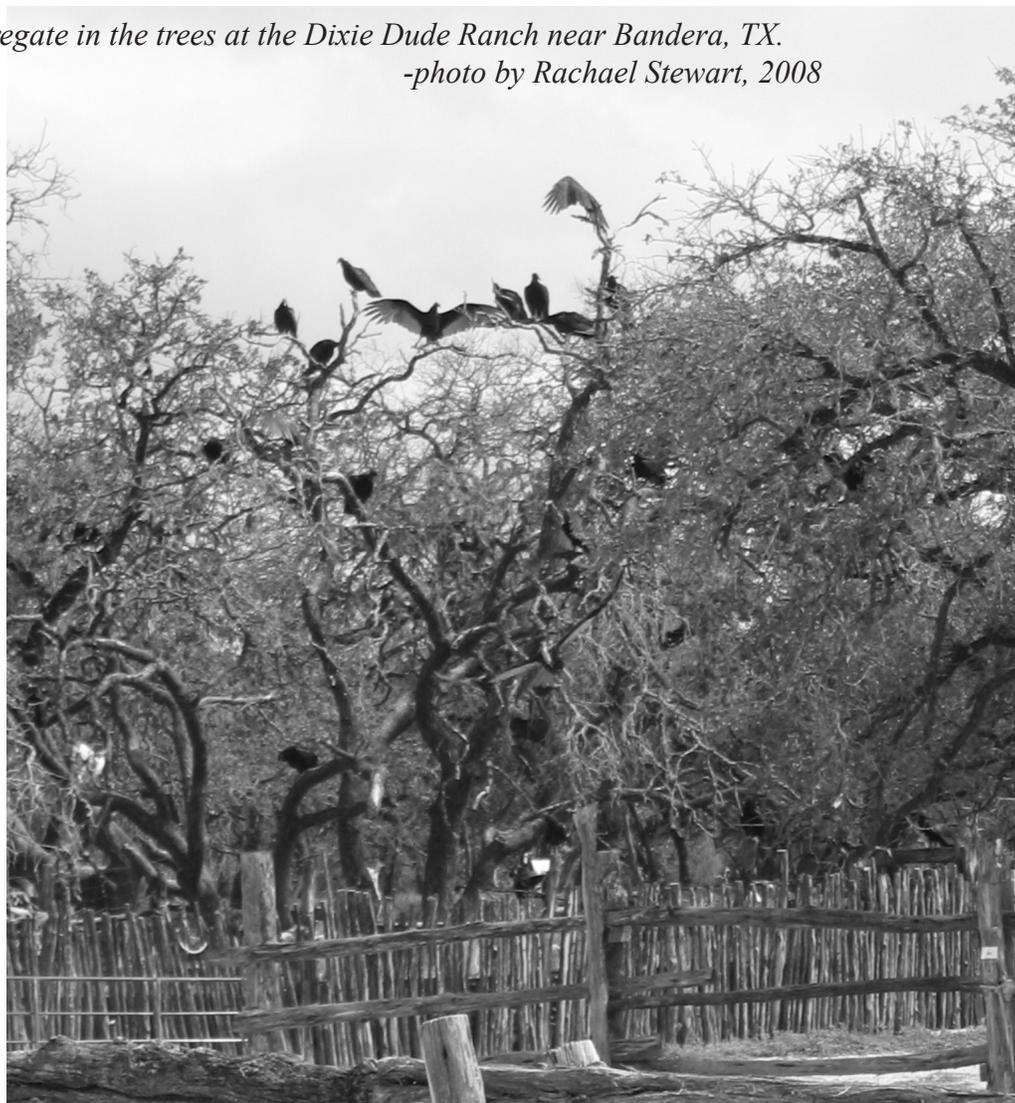
A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXV Number 12

December 2008

Buzzards congregate in the trees at the Dixie Dude Ranch near Bandera, TX.

-photo by Rachael Stewart, 2008



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Lonestar Mensa Officers

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

Executive Committee Members

President: Ron Edelstein

512-491-9881 aduana@mindspring.com

Vice President: Don Drumtra

512-291-0315 drumtra@aol.com

Treasurer: Patty Drumtra

512-291-0315 drumtrapa@aol.com

Members at Large:

John Neemidge

512-310-7863 neemidge@usa.net

Janet Kres

512-836-5773 jmkres@sbcglobal.net

Kathie Blair Lawler

512-267-1843 scubakathie@att.blackberry.net

Recruitment Chair: Vacant

Membership Officer: Vacant

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: Vacant

Testing Facilities Coordinator: Vacant

Awards Coordinator: Vacant

Nominations Committee Chair: Vacant

Communications Chair: Kathie Lawler (see M@L)

Newsletter Editor: Rachael Stewart

PO Box 349 Brownfield TX 79316

512-879-8024 bookbird@yahoo.com

Newsletter Circulation Manager: Vacant

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 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.)

Bryan-College Station Coordinator: Robbie Fraser

214-240-4439 tampabuc47@yahoo.com

Univ. of Texas Area Coord.: Vacant

Waco Area Coordinator: Vacant

SIGHT Coordinator: Steve Vaughan

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

LonestarRG Chair: Carla Young (see New Member)

RG Registrar: Jane K. Thompson

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

RG Hospitality Chair: Vacant

RG Programs Chair: Vacant

RG Facilities Chair: Vacant

RG Publicity Chair: Vacant

RG Treasurer: Don Drumtra (see V.P.)

RG Drawings, Prizes, & Awards Chair: Vacant

Arbiter: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gholiman@sbcglobal.net

Ombudsman: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gholiman@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.

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

Ralph Rudolph

RVC6@us.mensa.org

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President's Corner

Well, the holiday season is upon us, whichever religious faith you follow or even if none it is still a time of seasonal good cheer and fun. Lonestar Mensa will have its observance at 6:30 PM on Saturday, 13 December 2008 at the Coffee Deli, 11800 North Lamar Blvd in Austin.

Hope to see as many as possible at the party. We will also do a brief spot of business as this will count as December's general meeting and we have a couple of people that Lonestar Mensa would like to recognize for their special contributions in the past year in making the organization better and more fun for everyone. We will also be announcing the names of the elected officers for the coming year. Come, share and enjoy.

Season's Cheer to everyone,
Ron Edelstein
LSM LocSec



Welcome New Members

Pete Spurgeon
Robert B McDonald
Charlie Carsey
Jason M Schwarz
Zachary D Simecek
Rembrandt W Murphy
Amanda Maclennan
Natalie Jones
Brian Hogue

Welcome Back Members

David D Haun

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Scott W Davis

LSM Holiday Party

Come, eat, drink and have fun!

Lonestar Mensa will have its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, 13 December, beginning at 6:30 PM until around 9:00 PM. The location is at the Coffee Deli at 11800 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin. That's about a mile south of Parmer Lane on Lamar.

There is plenty of free parking. The venue is a coffee shop in an old residential house. We will have the place to ourselves. The food will be catered by the owner who does her own cooking and baking on the premises. Linda and I go there frequently during the week for coffee, sandwiches and desserts and their WONDERFUL hearty soups! Service will be buffet style with:

- hearty vegetable soup and a meat based soup
- sandwiches,
- fruit tray
- dessert tray
- potato salad
- brisket
- Soda, coffee and tea and LSM's own supply of wine and beer. Wine will be boxed rare vintage--usual Mensa quality.

If you want anything else, bring your own.

NO HARD LIQUOR!

We will have a gift exchange, nothing valued at over \$15.00 and good condition, clean used is fine.

The cost will be \$10 per person (adult). 15 and under half price, under 6 and under free.

Please RSVP to Ron Edelstein by not later than Friday, 5 December, so we can give the caterer an accurate headcount. We need this so she doesn't make too much food and waste it and so that LSM doesn't have to pay for people who didn't show up.

Best regards and hope to see you at the party,
Ron Edelstein
Lonestar Mensa LocSec
512-491-9881
aduana@mindspring.com

Region 6 Report

-by Ralph "Rudy" Rudolph, RVC Region 6

As many of you know, I was recently suspended from participation on AMC-lists where discussion of AMC-related items occurred prior to AMC meetings. I believe this was illegal. Some AMC members also wish to "punish" me through a vote of censure. The suspension was briefly lifted but has been reimposed. I'd like to personally thank both TJ Lundeen (LocSec, Central Oklahoma) and Leonard Nijssen (LocSec, Arkansas) for personally attending and showing strong support. I'd also like to thank all those members who wrote letters of support. I believe they helped a lot.

The function of the RVC is somewhat that of the elephant in a room of blind men. He is simultaneously the liaison between his local groups plus a full Board Member. Each RVC probably splits the two roles differently. To me, I do have a fiduciary duty to the Board, but I view my primary job as that of liaison, representing the local groups as well as reporting on AMC actions. It should be in AMC's interest to have each RVC doing the maximum good possible for his local groups; the effects are far more immediate to the membership than the many often limited policies AMC pursues in general.

The strategic planning session went as well as could be expected, generating new thoughts and ideas of how AMC could improve governance. The idea is to make AMC proactive rather than reactive, and to try to focus AMC on the "big picture" rather than minor administrivia. The basic problem I see with individual AMC members is that too many "analyze" problems and motions through personal anecdotes rather than through any type of thorough analysis. But I guess that's what happened when you elect a bunch of Mensa LocSecs to serve on a Board; these are primarily social folks, not analysts.



Recruitment, Membership, and Testing

-submitted by Don Drumtra

As you can see from the ExComm minutes, Ron has accepted the resignation of Mark Kres who has served us faithfully for years in three key positions on our Recruitment committee. We are seeking volunteers for Chairman of the Committee, for Testing Coordinator, and for Membership Officer. If you want more information on the positions or are interested in serving please ask the Ron or me the next time we meet or send either of us or both an email.

Urgent Need

Lonestar Mensa urgently needs someone to volunteer to take on the job of distribution of the monthly newsletter. The previous distributor has resigned due to pressing need to use the time for other commitments. Requires once a month picking up the newsletter from the printer and bringing it to the Central Market for a friendly social time whilst other volunteers fold, sticker and label the copies. Then the labeled copies must be taken to the post office for mailing. Some paperwork required to comply with U.S. Postal Regulations.

The need is now! Please contact Ron Edelstein at: aduanya@mindspring.com or by phone at 512-491-9881 if you are interested in knowing more.

General Membership Meetings

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

As many of you know, the Northwest Village Branch Library closed at the beginning of December and will open in a new location sometime next year. That fits our December planning perfectly because our December general membership meeting will be our Christmas Party Saturday (see "Holiday Party" on pg 3 for more information on the party).

The closing, however, sent us scrambling for a new location for 2009. We were not able to find a location that had all second Tuesday's free but we did find one that had all first Tuesday's free except in January. So we grabbed it before someone else did.

Our new location for 2009 will be the Old Quarry Branch Library, located at 7051 Village Center Drive. That is just south of Far West Blvd. three streets west of Mopac, or 71 N by 35 W on the Austin City grid. Meetings are planned for 7-8:30 PM First Tuesdays, February through December 2009. It can hold 50 folks so you can bring your significant others and children. Pets will have to stay home. Watch the calendar in the January issue of the ALG or on the Web for more information.

We have a place, now we need good programs. We are looking for someone to become our programs officer for 2009. It is a chance to seek out programs available in Austin and bring them to your fellow Lonestar Mensans. If you are want more information about this position or are interested in serving, please shoot an email to Ron (aduanya@mindspring.com) or me (drumtra@aol.com).



*Austin Firefighter Eli Santiago presented a talk on Fire Safety at November's Monthly Meeting.
photo by Paul Anderson*

Make Your Home "Fire Safe"

Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home. If people sleep with doors closed, install smoke alarms inside sleeping areas, too. Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries once a year. Vacuum away cobwebs and dust from your smoke alarms monthly. Smoke alarms become less sensitive over time. Replace your smoke alarms every ten years. Consider having one or more working fire extinguishers in your home. Get training from the fire department in how to use them. Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home.

Plan Your Escape Routes

Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home. Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the window. Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

Escape Safely

Once you are out, stay out! Call the fire department from a neighbor's home. If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit. If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out. If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.



Free Smoke Alarm:

The City of Austin Fire Department will provide a free smoke alarm to city residents who meet the following requirements:

- Must live in a single family dwelling (house or mobile home).
- Must be 60 years old or older
- Must have a household income of \$42,000 per year or less

The smoke alarm will be provided free and installed by an Austin Fire officer in your home. It has one unique feature, a remote control "snooze" that allows you to turn off the alarm for 15 minutes if it goes off due to a non-threatening smoke situation, such as burning food in the kitchen. This gives time for a fan or ventilation to clear the smoke without having to climb up to pull batteries or disengage the alarm.

For information you may call the Smoke Alarm Hotline at: (512) 974-0299.



Engineer's Corner

-by Todd Stahlnecker

Identity Theft

What do Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg, and Warren Buffett have in common? Their identities were all stolen by a 32-yr old Brooklyn busboy named Abraham Abdallah. Abdallah didn't use any sophisticated means to get the identities of the rich and famous people he stole millions of dollars from. He was able to gain their Social Security numbers, birth dates, and other credit card information from the internet, credit bureaus, and forged letterheads of several investment banks.

In the US, total losses from identity theft rose from \$48 billion in 2003 to \$56.6 billion in 2005. The internet is the favorite place to use stolen credit cards and identities. 0.25% of all internet transactions involve stolen identities and credit cards verses only 0.08% of off-line transactions. Such theft is made possible because most credit card transactions don't require you to prove your identity. If you purchase something, the cashier is supposed to check your signature with the signature on the card. When's the last time that happened? How skilled is the typical cashier at handwriting recognition anyway? Passwords and PINs don't prove your identity — only that you have that information. Thieves can scoop information about you off the internet or by snatching your garbage. Internet transactions don't even have that level of checking. What can be done?

Simple portable technology exists that can match a person's verified palm print, finger print, or iris texture to verify identity. Since 2004, the Bank of Tokyo has been issuing Visa cards which have a chip on them. The chip is burned with an electronic map of the blood vessels in the palm of the real owner of the card. ATMs have a palm scanner attached to verify that the person using the card is actually the person it was issued to. However, since few merchants have palm scanners at their points of sales, customers still use signed receipts or PINs for purchases.

A couple of vendors are offering biometric scanners for merchants. Generally, you set up a credit card account at the store you regularly make purchases at. The mer-

chant then installs finger print scanners at the check out lanes. To pay, you just give them the finger, the computer system verifies the print, then calls up the credit card information to record the purchase. You don't even have to carry the card with you. What, though, can be done about the faceless internet credit card theft?

One emerging technology actually manages to put a finger print scanner onto the card. The card will not ante up its' information unless the correct thumb or finger activates it for that transaction. For secured internet transactions, you would have to have a computer with a finger print scanner.

It seems like we are constantly hearing about corporate data breaches or computer hard drives being lost or stolen that have thousands of personal ID files on them. Of course, every utility and school demands to have your social security number as do employers, doctors, banks, and any source of credit you apply for. Uncle Sam is doing some things to help us out by capping credit card theft liability to \$50 and establishing an ID theft task

force to implement methods of limiting this crime. Refer to www.idtheft.gov for more information.

You! said the Caterpillar contemptuously. **Who are YOU?**

-The Caterpillar, *Alice In Wonderland*



Bylaws Committee October Monthly Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chair

The tenth meeting of the Bylaws Committee convened at 6:00 PM, October 9, 2008, at Central Market, Austin, Texas. The chairman announced the absence of a quorum and waited for an additional member. Seeing no quorum by 6:50 PM, and being unable to conduct business without a quorum, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned. The minutes and other details of our work are posted our Website, <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/>.

Bylaws Comm. November Monthly Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chair

The eleventh meeting of the Bylaws Committee convened 6:00-7:05 PM, November 13, with TGIT, at Central Market. We approved last month's minutes and all other prior work, the date for determining membership numbers for determining the numbers of elected officers, at least one membership meeting per quarter, an annual membership business meeting, special membership business meetings, notification procedures, and the bylaws basic format. We also reaffirmed indirect elections. The minutes and other details of our work are posted our Website, <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/>

At our next meeting we plan to consider draft wording for the bylaws. You may follow its development on the Website. Come to the Bylaws Committee meeting and stay for the rest of TGIT. Our next meeting is scheduled for 6-7 PM, Thursday, December 11, and TGIT will meet 6-8 PM. Bylaws Committee meetings are open and all may attend.

Newsletter Distribution Mgr says Farewell!

-by Helen Siders

Although I've had lots of fun dealing with newsletter distribution, I'm moving on to school related activities.

I am most pleased with the implementation of electronic newsletters during my approx 5 years on the job. The Armadillo Literary Gazette is currently 79% paper and 21% electronic. Wow! Thank you!

As always, go to www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate to update your email address. Mensans change emails oftener than anybody else!



Lonestar Mensa Regional Gathering 2008

Final Financial Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Treasurer, '08 LonestaRG

LonestaRG 2008 was a financial success. Feedback from some participants indicated that it was a success in other ways as well. Folks liked the variety of programs and the kids track was popular. One person said it was the best small RG they had attended. From a financial point of view, hospitality and the cheese tasting were particularly successful. The table summarizes the financial results of the RG.

Revenue: As may be seen in the table, registration revenue was \$4,260 exceeding our estimate of \$4,200 by \$60 or one percent. The average registration was \$46.81. If we add the revenue from the tastings, and from the sale and transfer of leftover beverages, revenue increases to \$4,733 or 13 percent above our estimate. We appreciated the higher than expected attendance of 91 total, with 21 walk-ins boosting our revenue by \$1100. This compares with 86 total and 18 walk-ins for LonestaRG 2007.

Expenses: Expenses were \$3,830 or 4 percent below budget. Ann So is to be complemented for holding the hospitality food expense to \$922 well under her budget. Various individual expenses are broken out in the table. Of particular note was \$285 for spent for tastings: the chocolate and cheese tasting made money, while the liquor tasting lost. The cheese tasting was most attended, liquor the least. Free registrations are useful as publicity for the RG to attract additional attendees who would not otherwise have come to the RG. However, to preserve their purpose, recommend that free registrations be non-transferable and restricted to attendees who have not previously registered.

Disbursements. The prudent use of funds allowed us to disburse \$902, well above the estimate of \$200. Per LSM standing rules, \$90 was distributed to support the Scholarship Program, \$406 to support the RG fund, and \$406 to support other LSM activities.

Scholarship. Raising money for scholarships is one of the primary goals of LSM RGs. This year the Scholarship Program received \$178 including \$53 from the raffle, \$35 from the auction and \$90 from disbursements. The budget for prizes for the 2008 scholarship raffle was \$50. This was significantly below the \$355 estimated for 2007, but still enough that the raffle received only \$3 more than its cost to the RG. Raffle proceeds

might be improved in the future with more, advertising, display, and integration with other RG activities before and during and after the RG. Recommend that scholarship fundraising be carefully integrated into the programs of future RGs to allow sufficient advertising and display.

Receipt management. During times that registration was open, money was managed well. However, there were several cases where money was left on the registration table or given to RG committee members without any documentation. All receipts should be documented as all payments are. Money collection should be restricted to registration hours, which should be specified ahead of time and temporary badges provided for random guest arrivals at other times. Most attendees and volunteers were respectful of the process of keeping LSM, 2008 RG, and 2009 RG paperwork separate. In a couple of cases, however, RG expenses money were credited to LSM accounts or a single check was written to LSM for 2008 RG for 2008 and 2009 RG payments. Recommend after hours receipt of funds and comingling of funds be discontinued.

Payment management. LSM has one checking account and one active checkbook. The ASIE suggests that checks and signature authority be considered for the RG treasurer. At this RG, the RG treasurer and the LSM treasurer worked as though the RG treasurer did not have check writing authority and that no cash was available for payment. Not only did the payment process work well, but the additional review of vouchers caught a couple of mistakes before the checks were written. In addition, the LSM treasurer writing checks reduced the risk of overdrawing the checking account and paying unapproved vouchers; and eliminating cash payments reduced the risk of making duplicate payments. The downside was that the LSM Treasurer (or an authorized ExComm member with the checkbook) had to be available to review vouchers and sign checks. Recommend that the LSM treasurer or other authorized ExComm member be available at the RG for check writing and that all payments be done by check and documented by approved vouchers.

Liability. Although Mensa carries liability insurance, the RG handbook suggests that RG committees develop a plan for medical and other emergencies. Such a plan would have been useful for the one unfortunate problem we had. A sergeant-at-arms type committee position might also be useful to reduce the liability of

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>Actual Revenue and Expenses</u>	<u>Percent of Budget</u>
LonestaRG			
RG Revenue			
RG Fund Raising		\$ -	
RG Registrations		4,260.00	101%
RG Other Revenue		473.27	
Total Revenue	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,733.27	113%
RG Expenses			
RG Registration (copies, PayPal)		157.51	
RG Facilities--hotel meeting rooms		1,163.00	
RG Honoraria--chess presenter		110.00	
RG Hospitality		1,276.86	
RG Publicity (printing)--free registration for Houston		75.00	
RG Supplies		466.11	
RG Rentals (and related)--Margritas		532.40	
RG Other Expenses		50.00	
Total Expenses	4,000.00	3,830.88	96%
RG Revenue Less Expenses	200.00	\$ 902.39	
RG Disbursements			
Scholarship at 10 percent	20.00	90.24	
Reserve for Next Year at 45 percent	90.00	406.10	
Undistributed at 45 percent	90.00	406.08	
As directed by the ExComm	-	-	
Total Disbursements	200.00	902.43	
Total LonestaRG	\$ -	\$ -	

LonestaRG 2008 Financial Results

Notes:

There were 91 Mensans and guests at the RG with an average registrations of \$46.81.

There were 21 walk ins with average registrations of \$52.38.

Last year there were 86 total registrations with 18 walk ins.

The scholarship escrow received \$35.00 from the auction, \$53.00 from the raffle, and \$90.24 from the RG distribution totaling \$178.24

Other revenue included \$320 for tastings and \$153.27 for left over beverages

Registration included \$66.75 for PayPal \$178.24

Honoraria included chess presenter fee of \$110.

Hospitality included \$922.26 for food, \$324.60 for beverages, and \$30 for free registration

Publicity included free registration for Houston of \$75.

Supplies included \$82.69 for kids supplies, \$286.46 for tastings, and \$122.87 for Champaign

Rental included the Margarita machines and associated supplies of \$532.40.

Other included the raffle prizes. No voucher or estimate was received for this expense so a guess of \$50 was used.

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Profit</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
Liquor tasting	\$110.00	\$131.43	\$ (21.43)	11
Chocolate	85.00	65.48	19.52	17
Cheese	125.00	89.59	35.41	25
Total	\$320.00	\$286.50	\$ 33.50	

gross misbehavior of individuals. The plan should address what to do if a key person (like hospitality chair) unexpectedly becomes ill or is not otherwise available for the RG. It should be clear that animals (except service dogs) are not allowed at RG events except if part of approved programs. Recommend future RG committees develop a plan for emergencies.

Transition to 2009. 2009 financial information and

funds have been transitioned to the 2009 RG treasurer. As of the date of this report there were 29 registrations for 2009 for total revenue of \$1,085.

This report was submitted to the President, ExComm, and future RG committees, per paragraph 8 of ASIE 2007-10-1. The ExComm adopted this report on 2008 November 5.

**Lonestar Mensa
Cumulative Program Activity**

2008 January 1 - September 30

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>	75%
Recruitment Program			
Total Revenue	\$ 900.00	\$ 508.00	56%
Total Expenses	900.00	251.48	28%
Communications Program			
Total Revenue	3,600.00	2,738.35	76%
Total Expenses	3,600.00	2,486.19	69%
Symposia Program			
Total Revenue	900.00	675.00	75%
Total Expenses	900.00	175.08	19%
Education Program			
Total Revenue	480.00	360.00	75%
Total Expenses	480.00	63.91	13%
Subgroup Program			
Total Revenue	300.00	225.00	75%
Total Expenses	300.00	-	0%
Common Activities			
Total Revenue	150.00	112.50	75%
Total Expenses	150.00	63.75	43%
All Programs			
Total Revenue	6,330.00	4,618.85	73%
Total Expenses	<u>6,330.00</u>	<u>3,040.41</u>	48%
Total Programs	-	1,578.44	
LonestaRG			
Total Revenue	4,200.00	4,733.27	113%
Total Expenses	4,000.00	3,830.88	96%
Total Disbursements	200.00		248%
Undistributed Rev and Exp			
Total Revenue	760.40	286.64	91%
Total Expenses	-	-	
Total Contributions	<u>\$ 760.40</u>	<u>\$2,767.47</u>	

Report of RG Scholarship Funds Received

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Treasurer, LonestaRG 2008

We are pleased to report that the RG Scholarship Program Received \$178.24 for scholarships. This included \$35.00 from the auction, \$53.00 from the raffle, and \$ 90.24 from ten percent of the RG disbursements. Recommend the scholarship awards for 2009 and 2010 be increased to \$400.

This report was submitted to the President, ExComm, and future RG committees, per paragraph 8 of ASIE 2007-10-1. The ExComm adopted this report on November 5, 2008.

Financial Report
Third Quarter 2008

-submitted by Patty Drumtra, Treasurer

With the end of the third quarter of the year, Lonestar Mensa was in sound financial condition. As may be seen from the top of the of the Cumulative Program Activity table, we should have accumulated 75 percent of our expected revenue and spent 75 percent of our budget. We are close on the revenue side at 73 percent. However, we have spent less than half of our budget. This leaves room for more activities in the last quarter. Looking at the Balance Sheet table, one may see that most of our money is in CDs, actually balanced between CD 1 and CD 2. This balance has allowed LSM to lock in 4.18 percent interest for 12 months on CD 2 up from 2.72 for the last 5 months. Most of our interest supports the Education Program. We have a higher cash

balance than normal that will be used to pay the bills from our 2007 RG. The \$1845 in the escrow account is mostly pre-registrations for LonestarRG 2009 that we hold until the RG actually happens. October disbursements and other results of the RG are in other reports in this issue. The Lonestar Executive Committee approved this report on November 5, 2008.

Lonestar Mensa
Balance Sheet
 2008 September 30

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash	\$ -
Checking Account	4,429.63
Certificates of Deposit	18,228.85
Less Funds and Obligations	(15,000.00)
Accounts Receivable	14.03
Interest Receivable (Allocated)	105.09
Prepaid Expenses	<u>410.04</u>
Total Current Assets	\$ 8,187.64
Long Term Assets	
Funds	15,000.00
Equipment	276.24
Other Long Term Assets	<u>-</u>
Long Term Assets	<u>15,276.24</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>23,463.88</u>
Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	
Liabilities and Appropriations	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,694.69
Escrow Accounts	1,215.42
RG Reserve	365.17
Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation	176.25
Other Liabilities and Appropriations	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities and Appropriations	\$ 3,451.53
Net Assets	<u>20,012.35</u>
Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	\$ <u>23,463.88</u>

November ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened on November 5, 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; and Members-at-Large Janet Kres, Kathie Lawler, and John Neemidge. The ExComm approved without debate the August 6 and September 3, ExComm minutes as published in the July Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), pages 9 and 2 respectively.

Ron reported that he had accepted three resignations, Geri Neemidge as Webmaster; Helen Siders as Newsletter Circulation Manager and Lapsed Member Coordinator; and Mark Kres as Recruitment Chair, Membership Officer, and Testing Coordinator. After the meeting he reviewed the original checking account statement for August 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 September and October and the account balances as of September 30 and October 31. LSM continues to be financially sound with expenses below budgeted levels. She also reported the third quarter results. The ExComm adopted the three reports without debate. Quarterly financial reports are published in the ALG and monthly reports are available to members by request. The ExComm approved, without debate, three reimbursement vouchers over \$100 from John, Don, and Claudia Harbert. To help prepare ExComm members for the 2009 budget debate in December, Don led a discussion on estimated LSM revenue for 2008 comparing projections as of January 1 with updated projections as of October 31.

Janet reported for the Recruitment Committee that six tests were administered at the RG and ten tests were administered on Mensa National Testing Day, October 18. No testing events have been scheduled for November or December. She also reported that Mark's confidential testing material has been returned to the National Office and accountable take home tests transferred to Ron.

Kathie, Communications Committee Chair, reported that she is looking for volunteers to fill the recently va-

cated Webmaster and Newsletter Circulation Manager positions and briefly discussed other communications program agenda items. ExComm members agreed to help with proofreading and review of articles if Rachael Stewart would send a proof copy to ExComm members before sending it to the printer. The ExComm tabled, without debate, for lack of time, other agenda items dealing with newsletter publication, calendar coordination, article coordination, alias status, style of articles, distribution of copies for the monthly meeting, and the TGIT Location Committee status report.

Ron reported for the Symposia Committee that the Christmas party planning was nearing completion. The ExComm approved with debate up to \$250 to support the event. The ExComm approved without debate the purchase of 36 Mensa cups and pencils for symposia honoraria and commending John and Geri Neemidge for hosting a great Halloween party at their home.

Don reported for the Education Committee that the Gifted Children's program event at the LonestarRG was a great success. He also reported that the Gifted Children's Month programs were also a great success with accolades the Jungle Java, the Haunted Castle, and the monthly meeting program on gifted children education. The ExComm approved without debate commending Michele Vaughn for successfully putting all these programs together and hosting them.

Don, Bylaws Committee Chair, reported that the monthly Bylaws Committee Report for September 9 was as published in the September ALG, page 10 and on the committee Webpage and that a quorum was not met for the October meeting. The next Bylaws Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 11 at Central Market, all are welcome.

Don, LonestarRG 2008 Treasurer, reported for the LonestarRG 2008 Committee that the chair had decided not to submit a final report to the ExComm. Instead she passed the information she considered pertinent to LonestarRG 2009 Chair. Since there was no committee report the Treasurer provided the required RG Financial Report. The ExComm, without debate, adopted the report and its five recommendations, approved closing the RG financial books as of October 31, and dismissed the LonestarRG 2008 Committee as of November 5. The ExComm approved, with debate, extending to November 15 the date that vouchers would be accepted for expenses for LonestarRG 2008 and earlier RGs; after that date no further claims will be accepted and the

Treasurer will transfer all remaining budgeted funds to the scholarship fund, education fund, or general treasury. Considering that the LonestaRG chairs for the past three years have declined to submit final reports, the ExComm approved with debate reconsideration of the requirement for a final RG report and asked the Secretary to review RG Standing Rules, ASIE (2007-10-01) and propose an amendment to include the recommendations in the LonestaRG 2008 report, reconsideration of reporting requirements, and consideration of other suggestions from RG 2008 committee members, the RG 2009 committee, and LSM officers. Don also presented the Report of LonestaRG 2008 Scholarship Funds Received which announced that LSM Scholarships received \$178.24 from the RG. The ExComm adopted without debate the report with its recommendation to increase scholarship funding for 2009 and 2010 to \$400.

Carla Young, LonestaRG 2009 Chair, reported through the Secretary that she had appointed Jane K. Thompson LonestaRG 2009 Registrar, had been working on hotel negotiations, and planed to hold a committee meeting to discuss hospitality, rates, and other issues when she receives a hotel contract.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.



Cryptograms

For your entertainment, we now present a series of quotes about the holiday season and winter. The last line of each is the name of the person to whom the quote is attributed.

Vlsujcoej uj e cuoa mlaw hupj cabb Jewce mlec clai
mewc ewp epybcj dei gxs uc. Paguvucj esa mlaw
epybcj cabb cla txfaswoawc mlec clai mewc ewp bac
Claus hupj dei gxs uc.
Suvlesp Beoo

Soecdu ow cmd cold hpu bplhpuc, hpu yppi hppi kei
skulcm, hpu cmd cpxbm ph k huodeitf mkei kei hpu k
cktv jdwoid cmd houd: oc ow cmd cold hpu mpld.
Diocm Wocsdt

De iua wmp poby, di coy ewi kommap iua Uwmdpob
Yaoywe; iua Kuldyidoey kommap di 'Kuldyiqoy'
oep caei iw kutlku; iua Facy kommap di 'Uoetvvou'
oep caei iw ybeojwja; iua oiuaryy caei iw holiday
oep ploev. Hawhma hoyydej aoku wiual we iua yilaa
cwtmp yob 'Qallb Kuldyiqoy!' wl 'Uohhb Uoetvvou!'
wl (iw iua oiuaryy) 'Mwwv wti swl iua comm!'
Pona Rollb

Aeuwtm soft hpau wp pbm ypft put ueiyw.
Cbetwzd gempbtwweui eu pu
xezjtm-d-wpth xzegtmx pv xupa.
Ouh at, at atmt syezhmtu pust oioeu
Kezz Fpmiou, Lm.

Wjwae snow nu mhp nb hnbmwa.
Ywpayw Iwacwam

Jot asw Mhpoqs, bpas spy Mhpoqs-cwwa pqw quiet
po asw youb, yauut diggepom jot diggepom, sub quiet
pa xw yu? Pa qjfw bpassua hpxxuoy. Pa qjfw bpassua
ajmy. Pa qjfw bpassua djqvjmwy, xukwy uh xjmy. Jot
sw diggewt jot diggewt apee spy diggewh bgy yuhw.
Aswo asw Mhpoqs asuimsa uc yufwaspom sw sjto'a
xwcuhw. Bsja pc Qshpyafjy, sw asuimsa, tuwoyo'a
qufw chuf j yauhw. Bsja pc Qshpyafjy, dwhsjdy, fwjoy
j epaew xpa fuhw.
Th. Ywiyy

Alphabet Logic

[Reprinted from “SMOG”, newsletter of Savannah-area Mensa of Georgia, August 1997; Cedric Stratton, Editor]

Here is an Alphabet Logic puzzle, designed for the veteran puzzler. A numeric value was assigned to each letter of the alphabet. A randomly-selected list of words was chosen, with the sum of the individual letter-values printed after each word. Your task, should you choose to accept it, is to determine the values of each letter through addition, subtraction, and substitution.

This is not for the faint of heart. Mensans should expect to spend about one-two hours, on average, to solve it. The values are consistent throughout the list, and can be determined through the judicious use of logic. All puzzles have been tested to verify that they do, indeed, have solutions.

APPOLO 64	MOUSE 84
EXPERT 74	POPEYE 88
JEWEL 80	STONE 73
PAPER 45	ZEUS 54
SHAWM 74	CHAIR 54
WOTAN 79	GUITAR 93
AUTO 70	NICKEL 59
FLING 72	QUIRK 77
LAMB 40	TIME 73
PENCIL 61	EAGLE 71
SOFA 59	HARMONICA 109
YELLOW 97	PAN 26
BROWN 60	RABBIT 66
FRIEND 100	VIOLET 92



LSM Members Janet Kres (center front), Duncan Stewart (right rear, hat) and their families (amongst others) ride the DAR float in Austin's Veteran's Day parade.

-photo by Mark Kres

What's Happening in December?

Bridge -- Date TBD

If you are interested in playing party bridge (not duplicate bridge), please contact Janet Kres at 512-836-5773, or JMKres@sbcglobal.net.

ExComm Meeting

1st Wednesday

Wednesday, December 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.

1st Saturday Poker

Saturday, December 6 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.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

2nd & Last Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, December 11

Monday, December 29 6:00-8:00pm

Because of Christmas, the regular last Thursday TGIT has been moved to Monday. But it is still TGIT!

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

2nd Thursday

Thursday, December 11 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.

Christmas Party

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, December 13

6:30-10:00pm

Coffee A Deli

(512) 833-6000

11800 North Lamar Blvd., Austin

See map and reviews: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/the-coffee-a-deli-austin>

See President's Corner for details.

Fold & Sticker

Monday, December 29

6:00-8:00pm

Christmas comes but once a year. You probably would rather be with your family and friends celebrating than folding newsletters. So we are moving TGIT to the Monday between Christmas and New Years to give you something to do.

Central Market Cafe, Austin

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

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

Season's
Greetings
To All

Alphabet Logic Answers:
A = 12 B = 5 C = 1 D = 24 E = 19 F = 21 G = 14 H =
15 I = 20 J = 13 K = 2 L = 7 M = 16 N = 10 O = 17 P =
Edith Sitwell
15 I = 20 J = 13 K = 2 L = 7 M = 16 N = 10 O = 17 P =
Dave Barry
X = 8 Y = 25 Z = 3
Bill Morgan, Jr.
George Herbert
Dr. Seuss

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c/o American Mensa, Ltd. 1229 Corporate Dr West

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MONTHLY

PUBL OFFICE: 2430 Cromwell Cr #1701 Austin TX 78741

PUBLICATION NOTICES

The *Amadillo Literary Gazette* is the official publication of Lonestar Mensa.

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.

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.

December

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

2008