

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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October 2008



'Horns' fans watch the game at LonestarRG X.

-photo by Mark Kres

La CARTE

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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: 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: Helen Siders (see Newsletter Circulation)

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: Kathie Lawler (see M@L)

Newsletter Editor: Rachael Stewart

PO Box 349 Brownfield TX 79316

512-879-8024 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 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

LonestaRG Chair: Carla Young (see New Member)

RG Registrar: Vacant

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:

Helen Siders (see Newsletter Circulation)

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

American Mensa, Ltd.

(8 17) 607-0060

AmericanMensa@us.mensa.org

www.us.mensa.org

1229 Corporate Drive West

Arlington, TX 76006-6103

LocSec's Corner

-by Ron Edelstein

Ah, election time! Seems appropriate that it coincides with the hurricane season, though unlike the weather it only comes around on the national scene every two years and for the top offices, every four. Have you ever considered that if we had kept the British parliamentary system of government, like so many countries of the world, we could have an election sprung on us anytime the government got out of favour or thought it needed a vote of confidence (which, being the contrary Americans that we are, would probably be every couple of weeks!)

Unlike the rest of the country, Mensa has an election, at least on the local level, every year, and it's that time again. So whilst you are considering the assets—or lack thereof—of Senators Obama, Biden, McCain and Governor Pauln, save a few little CPU cycles for Lonestar Mensa. Soon the election committee will send out a notice of who is running for what office. If you'd like to be one of those adventuresome souls, please make your wishes known so you can be on the list for the adulation and respect of all your fellow Mensans (and the person they can lay all the blame for anything that doesn't work the way they want it to in the local group).

Last year the current elected officers were elected by a total of 17 votes. There are approximately 590 or so members in Lonestar Mensa, so that means that approximately 3% of the members decided for all the rest who would be managing LSM this year. I have a personal saying about elections: "If you don't vote, don't complain!" (Actually, my real expression is a bit more pithy than that, but you get the point.) If LSM actually interests you and you'd like to see something happen, then you need to do one of three things:

- 1) Let the ExCom know what you'd like to see,
- 2) Vote in the elections (that preserves your right to complain), and
- 3) Run for an office.

If you like things just the way they are and don't want any changes, don't do any of the above, and you MIGHT get your wish—or you could get changes you had nothing to say about. Think about it, and let's see a bigger turn out in November...both at the national elections and for Lonestar Mensa.

Ron Edelstein
LocSec

1	David Floyd Melanie G Gover Robert Brian Holder	H	
2	George W Williams III	a	
3	Diane E Tominaga John David White Thomas M Spillman Jr	P	O
4	Joan C Dameron Karen M Werner	P	C
7	Lawrence Patrick Marlin Richard Ross	Y	T
8	James Froedge		
10	Nina Jo Saint Richard Letts Robert Allan Larson	B	O
11	Dusty Harshman	i	
15	Vicky Yvonne Spradling		
16	Carrie J Oviatt	r	B
20	Jody Farquhar Tlaloc Espinosa	t	E
23	Michael Bennett McCormick		
24	Roger W Waak	h	
25	Audrey L Patton		
26	Robert I May Robert W Rucker	d	A
28	Kimberly R Chapin W Andrew York	a	
29	David R Travis Mary Frances Satterfield	Y	

Welcome New Members

David Hansen
A Oriana Yates
Carolyn A Cox
Robert W Rucker

Welcome Back Members

Brandon Westerheim * Carrie J Oviatt
William D Ramsour * Stanley K Hill
Madhu Kalyanapuram * Rimas Remeza
Paul Pierce * John David White

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Shawn D Haren * Scott D Sharpe
Vanessa M Barr * Madison R Jones
Christina Hinton * Mark Whitworth
Jody Farquhar * Zylo Kyle-0 Corley
Lowell James Hicks

Engineer's Corner

-by Todd Stahlnecker

Personal Fuel Cells The modern American soldier is a marvel of electronic gadgets. A soldier might have night vision goggles, a cell phone, a radio, a laser range finder, a GPS device, a PDA, and any number of other items that require batteries. Some prototype weapons even have video cameras which project to an eye piece or a heads up display on the soldier's helmet.

Because of the life or death nature of these electronic devices, the US military usually uses lithium-ion batteries. After all, when our batteries go dead in our gadgets, it's an irritation but usually won't get us killed. A soldier relies on these batteries to keep him and his associates alive. During a typical 72 hour mission, a soldier might go through about \$1,000 worth of lithium-ion batteries. That's expensive for one thing, adds weight for another, and can be disastrous if he has to change them during a critical moment. What to do?

Enter the fuel cell. A fuel cell is an electrochemical device that combines hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity. The by-products of this reaction are water and heat. As long as the fuel cell has fuel, it continues to produce electricity. Since the process is not via combustion, the fuel cell is two to three times as efficient as burning the fuel would be. They produce no emissions, are silent, are light weight, and are easily maintained and refueled.

Several personal fuel cells are being developed by various companies which will allow soldiers to carry a single fuel cell to power all of their electronic gear. With an energy density about 30 times that of throw away lithium-ion batteries and a cost of only about \$800, they show much potential for weight and cost savings.

One product by the Millennium Cell company uses sodium borohydride as a fuel source to produce 30 watts of continuous power from a 4 kg device. The German SFC Smart Fuel Cell company developed two 20 watt fuel cells that used methanol as fuel. One of the problems with fuel cells is that they provide good continuous energy but cannot produce a burst of power like batteries can. It's speculated that the final version of these prototypes will be a hybrid device which has a rechargeable battery for bursts and a fuel cell to recharge the battery. It's hoped that this final version will also have dry chemical hydride fuel cartridges that a soldier will add water to in the field to further drop the weight.

Once these military versions become tried and true, it'll just be a matter of time before we see consumer versions of similar devices.



Hugh Brown leads a discussion at the RG.

-photo by Mark (or Janet) Kres

Lonestar Mensa Webmaster Needed

-submitted by Kathie Blair Lawler, Comm. Chair

The Lonestar Mensa Webmaster occupies an important position in the local group. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining the Lonestar Mensa Website providing real-time information for Mensa members including the local calendar of events, news and photos of local activities, information on the scholarship program, information on the regional gathering, and administrative and other information of interest to local group members. The Website also provides a view of Lonestar Mensa to the general public who may wish to explore what we are about, what we do, and how individuals may become Mensa members. The Webmaster is a member of the Communication Committee working with the newsletter editor, the publicity officer, and other committee members helping other Lonestar Mensa communicate with each other and share information on their activities.

After many years service as Webmaster for Lonestar Mensa, Geri Neemidge has decided to retire and let some other member experience the pleasure of creating the words and images that Mensa members and the general public see in our organization. She advises that this has been a rewarding position and that the time she has enjoyed helping other members share their plans and what they have been doing for the local group. She also advises that she will help her replacement learn how to do the things that Geri does so well

If you are interested in learning more about the Webmaster position, please contact Geri at <mailto:gneemidge@usa.net> gneemidge@usa.net, or the Communications Chair, Kathy Lawler at <mailto:scubakathie@att.blackberry.net> scubakathie@att.blackberry.net. And if you are interested becoming Webmaster please let either of them know.

Lone Star Mensa Celebrates Gifted Children

-by Michele Vaughan, Gifted Children's Coordinator

This October LSM puts gifted children in the spotlight with our monthly meeting topic, additional newsletter coverage, and through child-friendly events. I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on your own educational experiences and those of today's gifted children. What things worked and what would benefit from change? Join us for a discussion on current hot topics in gifted education at our monthly meeting on October 14. Consider offering your time as a mentor in your area of expertise. Find out more about how you can advocate for an appropriate education for talented and gifted children in Texas. If you're a parent, go the extra step this month to help your child connect with other gifted children.

Thank you to those who were part of the first Kids' Track at September's LSM Regional Gathering. Ellen Lukasik did a beautiful job orchestrating the event so children always had a place to learn, explore, and enjoy being around other bright kids. Like Ellen, I hope that "if we build it, they will come." Please keep that enthusiasm throughout the year and continue to attend LSM children's events. I am always looking for fresh ideas and planning help; let me know what you would like so that we may "build it!" I would also appreciate your input on the children's activities at the RG and hope to be able to offer our second annual Kids' Track next year.

There are two children's events this month. The first is for parents, young children, and home schoolers. We will be meeting at Jungle Java on Old Settlers Blvd. in Round Rock, www.junglejavaplay.com at 10 AM on Wednesday, October 15. This is a great place for parents to relax and enjoy a coffee or frozen drink while the kids expend their energy exploring and playing. Please email me at the below address if you plan to come; the event may be canceled if there's a lack of interest. Hope you'll join me!

Please also plan to join us for a spooky adventure Sunday, October 19, at 2 PM at the IMAX Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. We will be getting in the Halloween mood with the Haunted Castle 3D movie. Tickets are available for advance purchase online at www.thestoryoftexas.com. Plan to meet us at 1:30 indoors at the benches on the ground floor between the terrazzo medallion floor and the theaters. Who could resist a movie rated "PG for some fright-

ening sensations and horror images"? Adults without children are also encouraged to attend. An email RSVP is appreciated so I know to be watching out for you, but it's not required.

lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com
(512) 699-0689 (cell phone contact # during children's events)

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Letters to the Editor

To the editor,

Over the years I've noticed that the majority of our members (I being one of them) do not attend functions, judging from the reports and photos in the newsletter. As a suggestion, would starting a 'Letters to the Editor' page help in getting the feel of the moods of our members as regards to Mensa in addition to sparking more interest? Granted, some will tend to write regularly and some will go on and on and others will take unusual stands for/against any issue, but as editor you can control/edit the submissions.

Just a thought.

Gerard Brohman

Jerry,

It's a good question. I'm certainly happy to try it.

I don't actively solicit content on a regular basis. It's a failing of mine; nagging, begging, and cold-calling are in the top 10 list of "Things that Will Give Rachael an Ulcer". When I do solicit, it's generally either from people I know or reflects some sort of theme.

The results I get from calls for thematic content are spotty. There was a valentines issue a few years ago that did very well. On the other hand, I haven't gotten any response to the word-play item in last month's issue. (Before anyone objects that they did SO respond, I got a few entries via the lsm-announce email in August. Those responses, however, I can count on the fingers of one hand.)

All in all, I'd be delighted to receive letters. I will answer them, even if I don't post them in the newsletter. Whether or not the answer has any value..... heh.

Rachael

SCHOOL IS NOT REAL LIFE

Same-Aged Classrooms

-by Deborah L. Ruf, PhD; reprinted with permission

Everyone knows that the reason we put children in school by age for their instruction is that there are centuries of excellent research that proves this is the most effective way for children to learn, right? Well, no, actually, there is no such research at all. I think it had something to do with following the Henry Ford factory efficiency model and no one ever seemed to think of questioning its validity for the schooling of generations of children around the world.

In the “olden days” of mass public education, we had the one room schoolhouse. It worked quite well. Students proceeded through the curriculum at their own pace and worked with anyone else, of any age, who was ready for the same material and production. My goal is not to give a history lesson here but to point out that we no longer do this in schools. Whether you are ready for more or not, it is not allowed because the student will get ahead and, “What will we do with her next year?”

Here is a little IQ lesson, though. Whether or not you approve of the concept of IQs or IQ testing, the research shows that IQ results correlate with all kinds of real-life outcomes. The average IQ in the US is 100 and regular standardized tests that most people take in school (or when they enter the military) all start as low as around 50 IQ and as high as about 150 IQ. Yes, there are some other kinds of tests that have different scales, but that’s not what I’m talking about now.

The average IQ difference between people who choose to marry each other is 12 points. Basically, they get each other’s jokes. That old magic feeling of someone thinking we’re amusing! The genetic mingling of the parents genes gives them children who will usually be within 15 points higher or lower to their parental average. Same with siblings—only 15 points between them on average. Most people know that there is a bell curve shape for most human qualities, and IQ is no exception. There are more average people than there are very low or very high IQ people.

American school classrooms are set up by age. Kindergarten screening tells the schools which children are most ahead and most behind others their age. The principal stacks the kids by ability and then considers gender, behavior, ethnicity, and socio-economic background, and then deals the kids out to the four different

kindergarten classrooms so that every class has the same number of each kind of kid. This means that the four most advanced children will all be in different classrooms. No one will get their jokes except maybe the teacher! The typical IQ range in such a classroom is 70 to 80 IQ points, but we are generally comfortable with and drawn to people who are within about 12 points of us. Then we tell the kids that they need to learn to get along with their “peers.” But peers might not be age-mates unless they—by some stroke of luck—are fairly close to us in intellect and get our jokes, get us.

School is not a very happy time or place for many, many bright children.



Win a Scholarship!

-by Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chair

The application forms for this year’s Mensa Foundation Scholarships Contest are available! Enter to win, or tell your family and friends who are in an educational program beyond high school. Contestants write an essay about their educational dreams and plans.

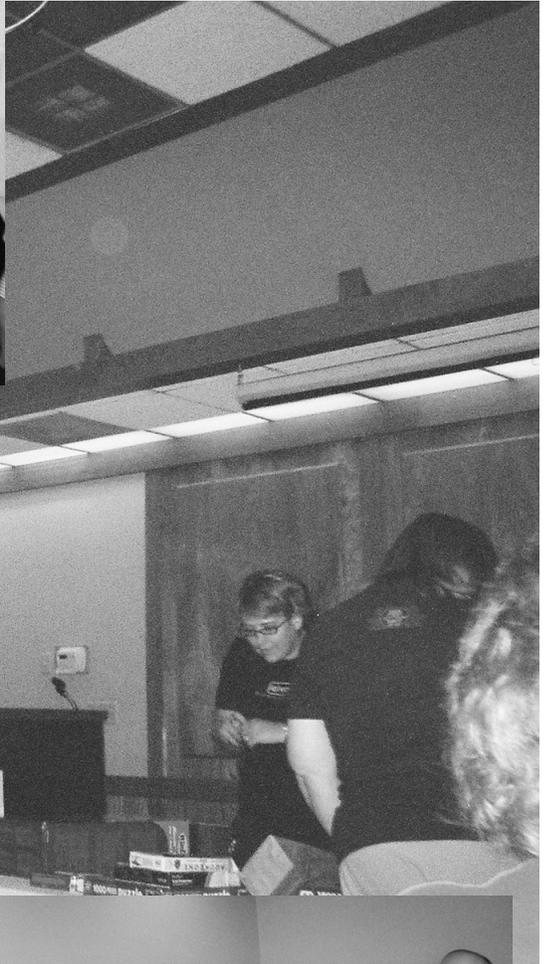
Go to www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships to download the applications. Also, the applications are available for download at the Lonestar Mensa website (www.lsm.us.mensa.org – click on “Scholarship Information”). Mensa members can file an application to compete for the many regular scholarships and also a separate application for a scholarship that is for members only. So, go to the website, put in your zip code, and be sure to download both the “Scholarship Program Application Form” AND the one linked below it for Mensa members.

If you can’t download, ask for an application by sending an email message to mensascholarships@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 6054
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 Scholarship Chair, Claudia Harbert: mensascholarships@gmail.com. Judging the essays will be in late January or early February. If you would like to be notified when the judging begins, please email.

Photos on this page are courtesy Mark and Janet Kres.



Top to Bottom:
- Janet, Michael, and Mark at Test Session
- The Hospitality Suite
- Ray O'Connor and Friday's 1st Speaker
- Ron, Ray, Ellen, and unidentified guest enjoy a drink
- Ellen Lukasik, Kathie Lawler, and another unidentified guest at the Cheese Tasting

September RVC Report

-by Ralph "Rudy" Rudolph, RVC Region 6

AMC has a closed forum called AMC-lists on which any items of interest to AMC such as upcoming agenda items are discussed. It is said that this allows AMC members to be open and frank with each other without the membership seeing our disagreements. The list is "confidential", and anyone who discloses what other AMC members have said is subject to censure. However, there are no ASIEs, Bylaws or procedures that codify this confidentiality. It exists by fiat. Whose fiat, I don't know.

AMC can (and has) set up alternate AMC-lists where a particular AMC member can be excluded from the discussion, usually because it is that AMC member who is being discussed (and usually not in a nice way). This prohibits that AMC member from being able to say anything in his own defense or to know what others are saying about him.

I have entered motions for the November AMC meeting agenda to prevent the "alternate" AMC-list as an abomination to justice and to establish an AMC-list where members can read some of our debates in the spirit of openness. I do not believe I have any seconds to my motions, so they will never appear.

I also introduced a motion to allow new AMC members, upon election, to be able to browse the "old" AMC-lists to have an idea what was ongoing. Again, I have no seconds. New AMC members are not allowed access to what the prior AMC has discussed.

I have several other motions on the agenda that I arrived at after studying how this AMC has operated over the past year. Some may have minor support. It is the discussion on these items which will be important IF the discussion is mentioned in the minutes.

Enough of my hyperbole on AMC opacity. Bob Bevard of South Texas Mensa is doing something interesting: as his group is larger than the state of Georgia, they are video recording their ExComm meetings and are making those recordings available to their far flung members. Congrats on a great idea of improving your communications! An article on this should appear in Interloc.

Leonard Nijssen, LocSec of Western Arkansas Mensa, has been an extreme dynamo, continually searching for methods to improve group participation, testing and

activities. Besides becoming a proctor himself to help with testing, he has increased his group's on-line forum to almost 100% participation and is now starting some very advanced discussion groups to lend an intellectual interest for his group.

I just attended the Austin RG and wish to thank the people there for a great time. While there, I presented Ray O'Connor and John and Geri Neemidge plaques in recognition for all they have done for Region 6. Their efforts are truly appreciated.

* * * * *

Member News

NEW TRANSCRIPTION BY MENSA COMPOSER!

Arpa/Walkin' Fire Music
c/o Rabushka
P. O. Box 160361
Austin, TX 78716-0361

more information at 512/280-2807
arabushk@cowtown.net

Remember to tell all of your band-directing friends about the new band transcription from MMB Music (www.mmbmusic.com) by LoneStar Mensa composer Aaron Rabushka, a publication that brings the subject of a centuries-old musical whodunit to life in the colors of the modern wind ensemble! Unico Willem Graf van Wasenaer's Concertino #2 is a feast of tonal and melodic beauty that comes from a series of richly scored string-orchestra works whose authorship was in doubt for over 200 years and which were often attributed to Handel or Pergolesi. This publication joins another Rabushka entry in the MMB catalog, his transcription of the overture to Joseph Haydn's opera L'Incontro Improvviso. For more information contact MMB Music (Concert Music Division) at 800-543-3771 or through their website.

In addition to these publications from MMB, Rabushka's music shows up on seven CD's from Vienna Modern Masters (<http://www.xs4all.nl/~gdv/vmm/>), and he is the subject of several chapters of the recent book Cathy Berberian and Music's Muses, written by the British aesthician Jennifer Paull and available from Amoris Imprints (www.amoris.com).

* * * * *

September ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened on September 3, 2008, at 6:10 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 Kathie Lawler and John Neemidge, and Circulation Manager Helen Siders. The ExComm approved without debate the August 6 ExComm minutes as published in the September Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), page 6.

President: Ron had made no appoints since the last ExComm meeting.

V-P: Don reported the nominees the AMC Nominations Committee proposed for 2009-2010.

Treasurer: Patty reported the revenue and expenses for August and the account balances as of August 31. LSM continues financially sound with expenses below expected levels. The ExComm adopted the report without debate. Quarterly financial reports are published in the ALG and monthly reports are available to members by request.

Recruitment: Don reported for the committee that seven candidates tested at the Lonestar Regional Gathering (RG) and that testing is next scheduled for October 18 in Austin. Patty reported that she received payment for the lapsed member mailing. The ExComm thanked Helen for her work in writing and posting the letters. Ron reported that several awards were given out at the RG and others should be given for key speakers and volunteers. He agreed to contact Mark Kres the Recruitment Committee chair on getting awards publicity in the ALG.

Communications: Kathie, Chair, thanked all ALG submitters for getting their articles and calendar items to Rachael Stewart, Editor, and thanked Rachael and Helen for getting the August issue mailed so that most readers would receive it before the RG. Helen reported that the annual publication submission is due to USPS in September. Kathie also presented three topics:

Printer purchase for communications committee business. The sense of the ExComm was the Communications Committee and its Chair had the authority to spend funds within their budget for purchases under \$100.

Aliases out of date. Don agreed to send John a list of email addresses for the aliases and John agreed to coordinate with the National Office (NO) to make changes.

Webmaster vacancy. After serving several years, Geri Neemidge has decided to retire so that someone else may have the opportunity to manage the Website. Ron agreed to ask for volunteers in the next ALG issue. The ExComm discussed the possibility of appointing several Webpage Coordinators to keep certain Webpages current, such as the calendar, ASIES, and RG Webpages. John agreed to coordinate with the NO for additional IDs and passwords to facilitate this.

Symposia: The ExComm adopted the committee motion tabled at the previous meeting that a special (ad hoc) committee be created to explore other locations in Austin for TGIT. Ron appointed John to be the TGIT Location Committee Chair to explore and recommend alternate locations for TGIT.

Education: There was no committee report.

Bylaws: Don, Bylaws 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, September 4 at Central Market, all are welcome.

2008 LonestarRG: Don reported for the committee that the 2008 RG appeared to be a success. There were 91 registrations with revenue of \$4260. Other revenue and expenses are being compiled and the RG Committee plans to present their final report at the next ExComm meeting.

2009 LonestarRG: Don reported for the committee that as of September 2, there were 33 registrations with revenue of \$885. The chair, Carla Young has appointed one committee member, and has set the registration rate at \$40 through the end of September. She plans to work with hotels next week and has planned the next committee meeting for September 13. John agreed to modify the PayPal form on the Website to show the current rate.

The next regular monthly ExComm meeting was scheduled for 6-7 PM October 1 at the Northwest Community Center. ExComm meetings are open and all may attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Bylaws Committee August Monthly Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chair

The eighth session of the Bylaws Committee convened 6:25-7:00 PM, August 7, with TGIT, at Central Market. We approved last month's minutes and other prior work, discussed and approved indirect elections of the Loc Sec, Vice-President, and Treasurer, discussed and approved changing the name of the Recruitment Committee to Membership Committee, and continued to consider what officers would be included in the Bylaws and Standing Rules (ASIEs). The minutes and other details of our work are posted our Website, <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/>

More specifically the committee approved roughly half of the officers with titles and duties specified in the Standing Rules. More detail is provided in officer's Worksheet on the Website, http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/resources/officer_worksheet4.xls.

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Mensa Testing Day -- October 18

Do you have family, friends, or coworkers that have should be Mensans? Encourage them to test on Mensa Testing Day. Local groups around the country will offer the admission test as part of this annual campaign. In Austin, the Mensa Admission Test will be administered on October 18th at 10 am at Anderson High School. Our testing fee is \$40 and participants need to bring a government issued photo ID. For additional test locations, dates, and information, visit the American Mensa website: www.us.mensa.org

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TWENTY PERCENT

of Lone Star Mensans are Electronic!

-submitted by Helen Siders, Newsletter Distribution Mgr

The number of Lone Star Mensans who have opted in to replace their paper newsletter with the electronic e-mail version remains stable at 20%.

If you wish to join this hip group, go to the Profile Update page located at www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate. While you are at it, please verify that your email address is current.

Our USPS postage bill is less and our volunteer tasks of preparing the paper newsletters for snail mailing have decreased. Fewer trees are being used to get the Armadillo Literary Gazette to you. Thank you.

Bylaws Committee

September Monthly Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chair

The ninth session of the Bylaws Committee convened 6:10-7:05 PM, September 4, with TGIT, at Central Market. I believe that this was the most productive meeting we have had. We approved last month's minutes and all other prior work, the number of elected board members, a worksheet of appointed officers, regular board meetings and related notices, and board voting procedures.

More specifically the committee discussed and adopted the Officers Worksheet listing all officers and their titles; adopted a board of four appointed and five to eleven elected officers depending on the local group membership; approved regular monthly Board meetings at a regular date, time, and location specified in the special rules (ASIEs); approved posting notice of each meeting in the newsletter calendar for the month of the meeting, on the online calendar, and in an announcement in the LSM member email list; approved special meetings being called as written in the Model Bylaws but with five percent of the membership; approved Board meetings at a location within the geographic area of the local group open to all Lonestar Mensa members without admission cost to attend; approved board decisions being made by majority vote except as specified in the Bylaws, Robert's Rules, and Special Rules (ASIEs); adopted the Robert's Rules procedure that the Chairman should normally not vote but may vote to make or break a tie, and approved changing the monthly Bylaws Committee meeting back to the second Thursday of the month but from 6-7 PM subject to approval of absent members. The minutes and other details of our work are posted our Website, <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/> The completed Officers worksheet may be found at http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/resources/officer_worksheet6.xls

At our next meeting we plan to consider titles for general board members, membership meetings, an annual business meeting, and possibly some specific wording of bylaws paragraphs of Article III. Come to the Bylaws Committee meeting and stay for the rest of TGIT. Our next meeting is 6-7 PM, Thursday, October 9, and TGIT will meet 6-8 PM. Bylaws Committee meetings are open and all may attend.

What's Happening in October?

ExComm Meeting

1st Wednesdays

Wednesday, October 1 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.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

2nd & Last Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, October 9 & October 30 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

2nd Thursday

Thursday, October 9 7:15-8:15pm

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.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 14 7:00-8:45pm

Austin Public Library -- North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Ln, Austin (512) 491-9881

Topic and Presenter: In honor of LSM Gifted Children's Month, this meeting will be a guided discussion on current hot topics in gifted education. Come ready to learn more about the current state of gifted education in Texas, ways you can advocate for an appropriate education for gifted children, and to discuss your experiences, ideas, and opinions.

Children's Event: Jungle Java

Wednesday, October 15 10:00am

1400 E. Old Settlers Blvd, Round Rock

For parents, preschoolers, and home schoolers. RSVP to Michele Vaughan at lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.

com, 699-0689 cell phone contact for event.

Mensa Testing Day

Saturday, October 18th 10:00am

Anderson High School, Austin

8403 Mesa Drive (at Steck)

See page 10 for details.

3rd Saturday Poker

Saturday, October 18 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.

Children's Event: Haunted Castle 3D IMAX

Sunday, October 19 1:30pm

Bob Bullock Museum, Austin

Contact: Michele Vaughan at lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com, 699-0689 (cell phone day of event).

See page 5 for details.

Fold & Sticker

Last Thursday

Thursday, October 30 6:00-8:00pm

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.

LSM Mustelid Mansion

Thirteenth Annual Halloween Extravaganza

Friday, October 31st 7:00pm

The Neemidges'

1807 Messick Place, Round Rock (512) 310-7863

Join your fellow ghouls, goblins, witches, and ghosts at Geri and John's annual Halloween Party -- on Halloween this year! If you like handing out candy you're welcome to help us with the trick-or-treaters, and those of you with kids, feel free to get here a bit later if you want to take them trick-or-treating in your neighborhood first (or just trick-or-treat in ours). Decorations both fun and scary! The terrifying trinity, Cheesehead, Meathead, and Diphead, will serve sandwiches and snacks. Geri will make her famous witches' brew to add to the party spirit(s)! Wear a great costume and be the hit of the costume contest, or just come as you are! Bring your friends! Bring your family! Bring along some beastly beverages, potent potions, devilish delights or terrible treats to share!

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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.

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ExComm	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9  TGIT Bylaws Comm.	10	11 Bridge
12	13	14 Monthly Meeting	15 Jungle Java <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17	18 Mensa Test Day Poker
19 Haunted Castle IMAX	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30  TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	31 Mustelid Mansion	

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