

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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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 Kathie.Lawler@dshs.state.tx.us

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: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Rachael Stewart

506 Canion St, Austin TX 78752

512-407-9753 bookbird@yahoo.com

Newsletter Circulation Manager: Helen Siders

512-799-6985 xlartemis@gmail.com

Newsletter Advertising Coordinator: Vacant

Webmaster: Geri Neemidge

512-310-7863 gneemidge@usa.net

Publicity Officer: Paul Anderson

512-259-7824 wrdslngr@swbell.net,

Elist Coordinator: John Neemidge

512-310-7863 neemidge@usa.net

Record Manager: Vacant

Symposia Chair: Vacant

Programs Officer (Meeting Coord.): Todd Shaw

512-423-1252 txpioneer@hotmail.com

Symposia Coordinator: Vacant

Symposia Publicity 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: Ellen Lukasik

elukasik@sbcglobal.net

RG Registrar: Jane K. Thompson

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

RG Hospitality Chair: Anne So

RG Programs Chair: 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 gkholirman@sbcglobal.net

Ombudsman: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirman@sbcglobal.net

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

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

Ralph Rudolph

RVC6@us.mensa.org

American Mensa, Ltd.

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1229 Corporate Drive West

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March ExComm Meeting Minutes

March 5 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee, ExComm convened on March 5, 2008, at 5:58 PM, at Northwest Community Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX. Attending were: President, Ron Edelstein, as Chairman; Vice-President and Bylaws Committee Chairman, Don Drumtra, as secretary; Treasurer, Patty Drumtra; Members at Large, Janet Kres, Kathie Blair Lawler, and John Neemidge; and Newsletter Circulation Manager, Helen Siders.

On behalf of American Mensa Limited and the American Mensa Committee, the President presented the Local Group Service Award to Janet Kres for superior service on the local level in support of the aims and purposes of the organization. (See related article for details.)

Speaking for the Testing Coordinator, Janet announced the testing sessions scheduled for March 29 in North Austin, planned for April in Buda, and planned for October in Round Rock.

The Bylaws Committee Chairman provided the monthly Bylaws Committee report as published in the February Armadillo Literary Gazette, vol. 35, no. 3, page 6. The next Bylaws Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 13 at Central Market.

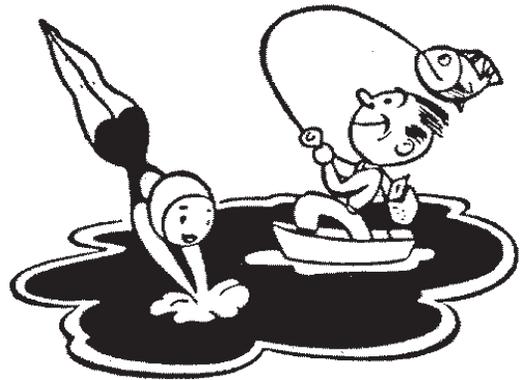
The President announced that he planned to notify members of future ExComm meetings through the newsletter calendar and via the email announcement list. He also noted that he received the 2007 Annual Financial Review Report for Lonestar Mensa from Mark Kres, CPA, as published in the February Armadillo Literary Gazette, vol. 35, no. 3, page 5. The report's single recommendation was that "current bookkeeping practices should continue to be used." The Treasurer moved that Lonestar Mensa thank Mark for giving his time to support the local group. The motion was adopted without debate.

The Treasurer provided a report consisting of spreadsheets summarizing program revenue and expenses for February, and the account balances as of February 29, 2008. She also expressed concern about new American Mensa, Ltd., financial reporting requirements. The ExComm adopted the report without debate. The monthly reports are maintained in the Treasurer's records and are available to members by request. Quarterly reports are published in the Armadillo Literary Gazette.

The ExComm members discussed the vacant Lapsed Member Coordinator officer position and the problem it poses in mailing reminder letters to the estimated 100 member who are expected to forget renew their memberships on time. Helen graciously volunteered to help and the President appointed her to the position.

Helen also kindly volunteered to work out details for a spring potluck picnic for members to share their early 2008 activities. The Executive Committee members agreed that April, after tax day, and before the summer heat, would be a good time to get together for a picnic.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.



RVC6 Report as of March 4th

-by Ralph "Rudy" Rudolph, RVC Region 6

There will be an AMC Meeting on March 29th in San Francisco. The main items on the Agenda (which can be viewed on the AML website) are the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, a proposal to make Interloc part of the Bulletin, and proposed referenda items to hange how we select replacement RVCs. There is also a notice of a proposed dues increase to \$59/year which would be voted upon at the Denver AG AMC meeting. If you have any comments on the agenda items, please contact me.

Each RVC has a set amount of money to spend each fiscal year. I have about \$300 left in my account which will disappear as of April unless spent. Therefore, if you have a project that could use these funds, please send me a description and the best project will get awarded the funds.

Additionally, if you would like to hold an LDW this upcoming year, let me know as soon as possible. I need to notify our LDW Coordinator whether you will be needing funds for the LDW. About \$2000 is available for this purpose.

Engineer's Corner

-by Todd Stahlnecker

Computers vs Lightning “Wow. My computer blew up in last week’s thunderstorm. The geeks at the computer store said the phone modem and motherboard were fried. Apparently, lightning struck the phone wire.” Ever heard a story similar to that? The fact is that lightning probably didn’t hit the phone wire. Phone wiring has been underground in most of the country for many years now. The cause of this common accident lies in the electrical grounding system at the residence in question.

Many older structures had the phone system grounded at one point and the electrical system grounded at another point. A lot of phone installers would commonly carry short metal rods they would drive into the dirt to ground their phone system if the electrical ground was not in the same location. If the phone and the power are grounded at separate locations, the stage is set for a computer to fry.

Imagine that lightning strikes a tree near your improperly grounded home. In most lightning strikes, the electrons actually flow from the ground up to the cloud. Suppose 1,000 amps flow through the ground toward the tree during the strike. Some lightning strikes are several times that amount. Now, suppose there is 10Ω of resistance between the phone ground rod and the electrical ground rod. It’s likely much more but it makes for easy math. Ohm’s Law is that voltage equals amps multiplied by Ohms. So... $(1,000 \text{ amps}) \times (10\Omega) = 10,000 \text{ Volts}$.

Here, now, sits your computer. The mother board is plugged into the electrical power and the chassis is grounded to that system. The phone modem mounted within the computer near the motherboard is plugged into the phone system and is grounded to that system. Suddenly, there is a potential difference of 10,000 volts between the phone modem and the motherboard. Pow! An arch of electrons steak across from one to the other and you now are the proud owner of worthless junk.

For years now, the National Electrical Code has required that all ancillary systems in a home (phone, CATV, ect) be grounded to the same ground point as the electrical system is. Sadly, there are still many installers who don’t know the law or chose not to follow it because it’s not always expedient. A couple years ago, an installer came to put a DSL line into my office so I quizzed him about where he grounded it. I was happy to hear him

say that he grounded it to the metal conduit of the main electrical service. Then, two seconds later, he says “But I always carry some 4-foot ground rods with me incase the electrical service is on the other side of the house.”

Naturally, I had to get out a piece of paper, draw a diagram, do the math, and explain the reason behind the electrical law (probably waving my arms the whole time). Likely, he went home and told his wife “You should have seen this crazy engineer today. I put in his DSL and he flew off on this lecture about grounding. He was even drawing pictures!”



Bylaws Committee Report

-by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chairman

The Bylaws Committee met for the third time 7:15-8:15 PM, March 13, with TGIT at Central Market. We finished work on Article VI about amending the bylaws, discussed possible election voting procedures, and continued work on the ideas and questions that we need to answer. The minutes and other details of our work are posted on our Website, <http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~drumtra/website/LSMBylaws/>

The committee approved answers to two ideas/questions about the board and its elected officers. The committee decided that all board members should be officers with assigned duties and that the elected officers on the board should be a leader, a vice-leader and recorder, a past leader, a financial officer, and one general officer per 100 Lonestar Mensa members or fraction, less one. It is like what we have today with the addition of the Past President.

At the future meeting we plan to take up questions like what should our leader be called--LocSec, Chairman, President, Mommy, or Big Daddy? What should the other elected officers be called? How many, if any, appointed officers should be on the Board? Who should vote on the board? Should our leaders be chosen by direct or indirect vote? Should terms overlap? Which of our officers should be defined in the Bylaws (rather than in ASIEs)?

Come join the fun. The next meeting will be 7:15-8:15 PM, Thursday, April 10, at Central Market with TGIT. The meetings are open and you may attend.

March Monthly Meeting Recap

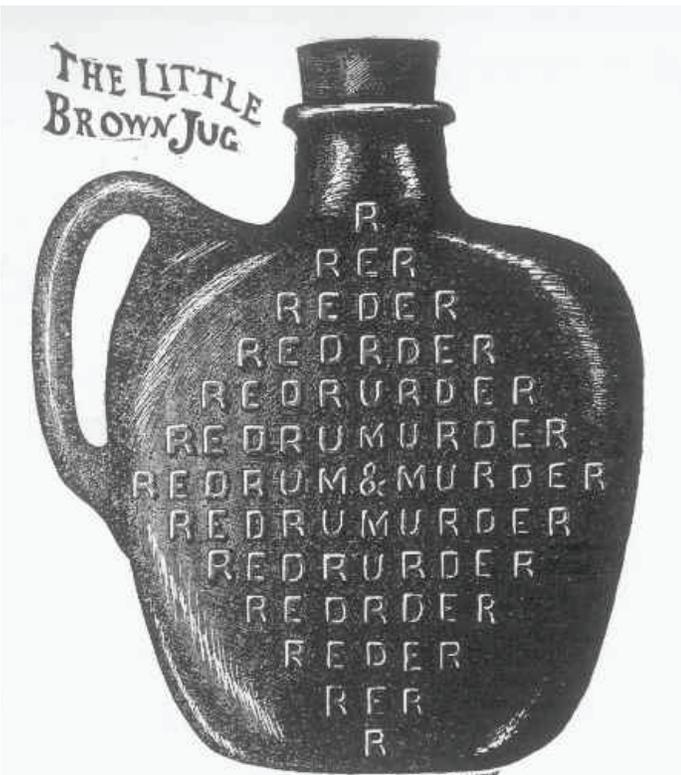
In a very interesting presentation, Dr. Strickling and the actors explained how the theater productions of the Actual Lives Performance Project are being used as flexible tools for developing autobiographical performances by people with disabilities. Dr. Strickling's presentation highlighted the Actual Lives project's unique process, chronicled its successes and difficulties, explained preparations for a May 2008 show funded through the National Endowment for the Arts. More information on the Actual Lives project is available on the project's Website, <http://www.actualives.org/>

Other information is available from last months ALG on the program.



From the left:

Tracy Shaw of LSM who introduced Dr. Strickling and the other guests.
Chris Strickling, Ph.D., Director of the Actual Lives Performance Project
Carol Gilson, Actor
Juan Munez, Actor



PROPOSITION—How many ways can you read the words red rum and murder?

“... Here is an old palindromic combination which I perpetrated in my early days for the benefit of a temperance organization, and which will try the patience and skill of our young puzzlists. The problem is to begin from the outer R’s and tell just how many different ways one can read the warning words Red, Rum and Murder, without being affected by delirium tremens. Commence from any of the outside letter, spell right into the center and out again on any of the branches and see how many ways you can spell it without making and two sequence of letters alike.”

From *Sam Loyd’s Cyclopedia of 5000 Puzzles, Tricks, and Conundrums (With Answers)*

Published 1914, added to Public Domain 2005. (I hereby put this version of Sam Loyd’s 1914 work into the public domain. (Ed Pegg Jr, 2005))

Online at <http://www.mathpuzzle.com/loyd/>

Awards and Appointments

Janet Kres Receives American Mensa Service Award

On March 4, American Mensa Limited on behalf of the American Mensa Committee awarded Janet Kres the Local Group Service Award for superior service on the local level in support of the aims and purposes of the organization. The award consisted of a certificate and a lapel pin, which the Vice-President, Don Drumtra, presented at the general membership meeting, March 11. Don presented the award on behalf of the President, Ron Edelstein, who recognized her award at the Executive Committee meeting on March 5. Janet received the award for her ever enthusiastic support of the chapter, accepting the President’s responsibilities when the position unexpectedly became vacant in the fall of 2005, and then accepting nomination and election to serve an additional two terms for 2006 and 2007. During her terms, Janet created a new sense of harmony and cooperation among officers and inspired the development of the current program structure and the successes of the Recruitment and Education Programs. Janet continues to support the chapter as Executive Committee Member-at-Large and helping the Recruitment Committee support our membership and the testing activities. Please join the Executive Committee members in giving her warmest congratulations for this richly deserved award.

Helen Siders Appointed Lapsed Member Coordinator

On March 5, Lonestar Mensa President, Ron Edelstein, appointed Helen Siders to the position of Lapsed Member Coordinator. This officer is a member of the Recruitment Committee and is responsible for contacting members who forget to renew their membership. This is important work helping us remember to dig out the renewal our renewal forms that we inadvertently buried while completing our annual taxes. Thank you, Helen, for volunteering. We appreciate it.



What's Happening in April?

ExComm Meeting

1st Wednesdays

Wednesday, April 2

6:00-7:00pm

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

Contact Ron Edelstein at (512) 491-9881 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

1st Saturday Bridge Night

Saturday, April 5

7:00-10:00pm

Mark and Janet Kres' house

11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin (512) 836-5773

Please RSVP so we will know how many bridge players we will have. Instruction will be provided. Beginners welcome. This is "party bridge", not duplicate bridge.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 8

7:00-8:45pm

Austin Public Library -- North Village Branch

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

Topic -- Honey: Nectar of the Gods

Presenter -- Kim Lehman www.beeladyprograms.com

Honey is highly valued around the world and throughout history. Learn a bit about bee biology, the decline in honey bees, how bees make honey and the floral sources in our area. Discover the amazing medicinal uses of honey. Top it off with a taste of nine different varieties of honey.

As a storyteller, musician and educator, Kim Lehman presents programs about bees in schools and libraries. She has been a speaker for a number of state conventions, writes a column for kids in Bee Culture magazine, and is a past president of the Austin Herb Society.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

2nd & 4th Thurs (except Thanksgiving & Xmas)

Thursday, April 10 & April 24

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

Second Thursdays

Thursday, April 10

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.

Poker Night

Saturday, April 12

7:00pm-???

Laura Shankland's house

11300 Bunting Dr., Austin

(512) 297-8344

lolas@laurashankland.com

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

Fold & Sticker

Last Thursdays

Thursday, April 24

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.



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April

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

2008