Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXVI Number 10 October 2009

The RG cake decorating workshop was popular (and tasty!).
-RG photos by John Neemidge



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October Monthly Meeting



Ricardo Guerrero of Stwittergy http://www.stwittergy.com

If you've heard of Twitter and wondered what all the fuss is about then you won't want to miss this presentation. Ricardo

Guerrero will give a presentation on the history of, and using of, Twitter; some specifics are about how Dell uses Twitter; and some tools folks can use to monitor Twitter. Finally, this will include tools & Do's & Don'ts for using Twitter; plus a bit of Search Engine Optimization. The presentation will conclude with some slides about what 'Stwittergy' is doing to help businesses use Twitter more effectively.

In the Pipeline

November 3: Ron Edelstein, LSM LocSec.

Ron has over 40 years of experience in international trade, starting as as U.S. Customs officer at the Mexican border. He will give a presentation on vintage Customs border enforcement and some updates to the current border situation, including the "Border Wall".

The Programs calendar is subject to change. Check the LSM web site http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org for last minute changes, or contact me directly. -- Mike Makuch, mike8@makuch.org

Lonestar Mensa Officers - 2009

http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org

President:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com	
Vice President:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com	
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	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net	
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Newsletter Circulation Manager:	Helen Siders	512-799-6985	xlartemis@gmail.com	
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Education Funding Coordinator:	Vacant			
Scholarship Chair:	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205	mensascholarships@gmail.com	
Education Publicity Coordinator:	Vacant		. 00	
Gifted Children's Coordinator:	Michele Vaugha	in 512-388-5970	lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com	
Membership Chair:	Frederick Goert	z 512-569-1758	fgoertz@gmail.com	
Current Member Coordinator:	Vacant			
New Member Coordinator:	Vacant			
Officer Coordinator:	Vacant (Don Dr	umtra, Acting)		
Testing Coordinator:	Ellen Lukasik		elukasik@sbcglobal.net	
Facilities Coordinator:	Ellen Lukasik		elukasik@sbcglobal.net	
Awards Coordinator:	Vacant			
Symposia Chair:	Vacant			
Programs Officer (Meeting Coord.)	Mike Makuch		mike8@makuch.org	
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Symposia Publicity Coord.:	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net	
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Waco Coordinator:	Don Chase	254-694-9327	lowspeedchase@windstream.net	
SIGHT Coordinator:	Steve Vaughan	512-388-5970	svaughan@austin.rr.com	
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Ombudsman:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com	
Records Manager & Archivist:	Vacant			
•	r: Barbara Wilson	Members: Linda Edels	tein, vacant	
Nomination Committee: Chai	r: Barbara Wilson			
	r: Barbara Wilson	Members: Michael Tol	bert, vacant	
LonestaRG 2010 Committee				

LonestaRG 2010 Committee
Chair: Vaca

Interim Members: Facilities John Neemidge, Hospitality Andrew & Kem Edelstein, Hotel Vacant, Payments Vacant,

Photographer Vacant, Programs Vacant, Publicity Vacant, Registration Vacant, Security Vacant,

Tastings Vacant, Testing Ellen Lukasik, Treasurer Don Drumtra

Lots of help is needed at the RG. Please let John know if you can spare some time to volunteer.

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) Roger Durham RVC6@us.mensa.org

Edelstein's Gems

-by Ron Edelstein, LSM LocSec

Well, the 2009 RG, "The Eleventh Hour" is now history. We had a good turn out and a lot of good food and good fun. The auction made some money for the scholarship fund.

I want to express special thanks to John and Geri Neemidge, who stepped up to the plate at the last minute and pulled this off. For those who don't know, our original RG chair had a career opportunity outside the United States and had to leave on short notice. Since John had prior experience with chairing RG's, he agreed to step in and make it happen with only two months to go. It worked—very well, as we have seen. A lot of other people pitched in to make it happen too. That's what it takes to run a successful RG so everyone can have fun.

I did not hear any significant complaints about the hotel. On the contrary, only good things. The hotel will be delighted to have us back again next year and it looks good from our viewpoint too. Of course the final decision will be by the Chair of the 2010 RG, which brings me around to a key point: we don't have one yet! We have several people who have volunteered to be on one of the committees for the RG, but no one has stepped up to be the chair. So, if you want to party next year, someone has to take the reins and drive the wagon! Please contact me, Don Drumtra or John Neemidge if you'd like to volunteer or if you would like more information on what it takes.

Looking forward, the provisional theme for RG XII is "Dozens of Ideas". The Chair can use that and run with it or chose some other theme of their own.

The next big events for LSM are the vote on the proposed new bylaws, which were in your September ALG. Ballots will be published in the October ALG. Following that we will have the election for next year's ExComm. Please considering volunteering for a position and do pay attention to the bylaws. If you don't vote, your mind will be made up by someone else.

Former LSM
LocSec Bob
Larson co-presented a talk on
the UT tower
clock.



From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC

As I write this, in early September, I have just returned from a great weekend at LoneStaRG in Round Rock, TX. John Neemidge, a last-minute substitute as RG Chair, did a terrific job: a wide variety of speakers, Ray O'Connor's sumptuous hospitality, three tastings (wine, cheese, & chocolate), & a Pajama Party dance, among other things. I didn't get to see the final attendance list, but I noticed folks there from Gulf Coast, South Texas, North Texas, Permian Basin, New Mexico, & Mensa 76, in addition to host group Lone Star Mensa. Besides the opportunity to socialize with some new people, I also enjoyed the chance to exchange a few ideas with some other national officers: Bob Bevard, our national Development Officer; Brian Bloch, Interloc Editor; & Jeff Dommenge, Assistant RVC. A good time was had by all, I believe, & now I'm looking forward to the Region's next big party, the Feast of Pleasures & Delights, North Texas Mensa's 30th annual RG, taking place over Thanksgiving weekend at the Radisson Dallas East, LBJ Freeway at Jupiter in Dallas.

Before that, however, I'm scheduled to speak at South Texas Mensa's upcoming Leadership Development Workshop (LDW), October 9-11 in San Antonio. I hope many of you from across the region have signed up for this, as an LDW will help you to understand what is expected & required of anyone taking a leadership position in a local Mensa group. The South Texas group intends for this to be a regional event, not just for their own members, so if you are considering an elected or appointed office in your local group, this would be a great way to get started.

Two weeks after that, October 22-25 will find me in Arlington, TX for the fall meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC). The agenda has not yet been posted, but I expect there will be many new developments to discuss & several new initiatives to evaluate. Then I get a break from American Mensa business, while I enjoy the Dallas RG. Carol Hilson, a two-time Annual Gathering Chair (so far) is the RG Chair this year, & has promised a rip-roaring good time. For those of you who haven't heard, the AMC recently agreed to hold the 2013 AG in Fort Worth, but with a new twist: the AG will be run, not by host group Mensa 76, but by North Texas Mensa, & Carol will become Mensa's first (& probably only) three-time AG Chair.

I look forward to seeing some of you in San Antonio this month, & many more of you in Dallas in November.

In School for the Next 2 Years? Win a Scholarship!

-submitted by Claudia Ellis Harbert, Lonestar Mensa Scholarships Chair

The scholarships contest for 2009-2010 has begun! Contestants write an essay about their educational dreams and plans. Submit your essay following the instructions on the application form, and you will be eligible for a local award, a regional award, several other general awards, and possibly some subject-related awards. Subject-related scholarships include one for a graduate student who plans a career in writing or teaching English, one for a woman returning to school after an absence of 7 or more years, one for an undergraduate getting a liberal arts degree, one for someone studying

aeronautical engineering or aerospace, one for someone pursuing a degree in math or science, one for a graduate student in history, one for anyone studying journalism, one for a woman studying journalism, one for a student of the arts, one for a student of fine arts, one for a veteran, and one studying for a career in education.

Enter to win, or tell your family and friends who are in an educational program beyond high school. The only qualification is that you need to be enrolled in a degree program for 2010-2011. In addition, Mensa members can enter a separate contest for members only (you can use the same essay for both contests). The deadline is January 15, 2010. Get the details and download the application(s) at http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships.

In the August NL, the Treasurer's Program Activity Summary ran twice.
This is the correct LSM Balance Summary.

Surmary Year to Date Surmary by Quarter -							200						
		ZOO Budget			7 month	6		and is		3 munth	1 Horse		
Programs		12 Months		months		Total	5	J			Apr-Jun		July
			-				_	-					<u>-</u>
Membership Program													
Total Revenue	5	900.00	5	525 OI	3	470.00	SIL.	\$	31_00	3	310.00	3	129.00
Total Expenses		900.00		525.01		122.00	23%		30.00		-		92.09
Communications Program													
Total Revenue		3,900.00		2,275.01		2,306.8 5			DB8.05		989.65		329.55
Total Expenses		3,900.00		2,275.01		1,B23.91	arx.		735.47		75 8. 15		329.29
Symposia Program													
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Total Expenses		1,200.00		TOLIO		104.10	15%		30.00		64.10		10.00
Education Program													
Total Revenue		480.00		2 71 1.01		251.00			121.00		1711.01		40.00
Total Expenses		480.00		251.01		62.54	22%		62.54		-		-
Common Activities													
Total Revenue		150.00		87.50			1017		37.50		37.50		12.50
Total Expenses		150.00		87.50		B4.12	98X		38.17		21.50		24.35
All Programs													
Total Resenue	\$	6,630.00			3	3,045,35		\$	-	5	-	3	811.05
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Total Programs	\$	-	\$	-	3	1,648.50		\$	580.87	\$	912.30	3	155.32
LonestaRG													
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Total Expenses	_	4,000.00				-	0%	_	-	_	-		-
Total Disbursements	\$	200.00			3	-	0%	\$	-	3	-	Ş	-
Undistributed Rev and Ex	P												
Total Reserve	\$	780.40		443.57	3	155.18		\$	131.52	\$	27.38	ş	(3.72)
Total Expenses	_		_	-	_	50.8 5		_	50 <u>.0</u> 5	_		_	
Total Undistributed	\$	780.40	\$	443.57	3	95.33	<u>21%</u>	\$	71.67	\$	27.38	Ş	(3.72)
Total Contributions	\$	780.40	5	443.57	3	1,743.82	3037	\$	£52.84	\$	839.68	3	151.60

Ballot for Bylaws Referendum

The Proposed Bylaws of Lonestar Mensa of Texas were included as a Supplement to Armadillo Literary Gazette Volume XXXVI, Number 9, September 2009 which was mailed to the membership on Friday, August 28, 2009.

In Article VII-Amendments, the current bylaws provide:

Section 2. A mail ballot shall appear in the issue of the LSM newsletter that follows publication of the proposal. The mail ballots must be returned by mail or in person to the LSM Vice President, who shall be responsible for their tabulation. The balloting deadline shall be noted on the ballot, and will not be less than 90 days following the first publication of the proposed amendment (s) or revision(s).

Section 3. To become effective, amendments shall require an affirmative vote of a simple majority of these casting valid ballots,

BY-LAWS BALLOT

I vote to approve the Proposed Bylaws of Lonestar Mensa of Texas published as a Supplement to
Armadillo Literary Gazette Volume XXXVI, Number 9, September 2009.

☐ I vo	ote NOT to approve the Proposed Bylaws of Lonestar Mensa of Texas published as a Supple-
ment	to Armadillo Literary Gazette Volume XXXVI, Number 9, September 2009.

The balloting deadline is November 27, 2009—the day after Thanksgiving.

Ballots must be received by the deadline at

Don Drumtra, Vice President, LSM 3206 Twilight Trail, Austin, TX 78748

Welcome New Members

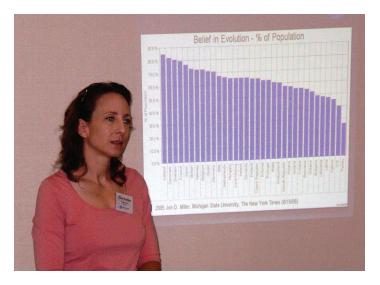
J Paul Crider * Jeffrey Mckee * Emmeline Aguirre Ross H Toungate * Adam English * Skyler L Kanegi Kimberly R Wofford * Sara E Aronson Marcus Genova * James Gullett * Stephen Brice Rider Aaron D Santos * Christopher Butler Christopher Lucas

Welcome Back

Lee Edward Forman * James R Thomas II
Will W Lane * John Latemple * Adam P Tatusko
Frederick Charles Bothwell III
Alberto J Diez-Canseco * Rodney Appling
Clinton J Wostal * Kyle Connell * Paul W Roeber
Lesley Carol Morehead * Barbara J Gordon
Rose M Berkowitz * Tom Lawnsby * Jaeyoun Kim
Amy L Rue * K Anthony Bottorff * Jerry Dike

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

William W Adcock * Robert Davies Curtis Williamson * Stephanie Stoebe Philip A Watson * Todd Pogue



Dr. Clare Wuellner discussed the Center for Inquiry, and its efforts to promote scientific literacy, at the September 1 Monthly Meeting.

- photo by Don Drumtra

Call for Nominations

-by Barbara Wilson, Elections Committee Chair

I need your help. The current by-laws require the Nominating Committee to present nominations for candidates for the following voting members of the Executive Committee no later than October 6, 2009:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Member at large

Member at large

Member at large

Please let me know if you would like more information about any of these positions or are already interested in running for any of these positions. I can be reached at barbara.wilson@co.travis.tx.us

The election for the voting members of the Executive Committee is in November and those elected take office January 1, 2010.



September ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at 6:10 PM, September 9, 2009, at the Northwest Community Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX. Attending were: President Ron Edelstein Chairman; Vice-President Don Drumtra Secretary; Treasurer Patty Drumtra; Members-at-Large Paul Anderson, and John Neemidge; Fred Goertz, Membership Chair; and Newsletter Circulation Manager Helen Siders. The ExComm approved without debate the agenda and the August 5 ExComm minutes published in the September Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 6.

Ron announced his appointment of Michael Tolbert to the Nomination and Election Committees and Don as Acting Officer Coordinator to the Membership Committee.

The ExComm ratified the email vote to adopt the following guidance for the 2010 RG:

- Name: LonestaRG XII.
- Theme: Dozens of Possible Themes--what do you suggest?
- Initial registration fee: \$40.

Patty reported that LSM is in good financial health and

that the projected RG expenses are within the current spending limit and that the RG is projected to break even. The ExComm approved two vouchers and adopted the report without debate. Financial reports are available to members on the LSM Website and by request; quarterly reports are also published in the ALG.

The Communications Committee had no report.

*Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Coordinator, reported for the Education Committee that the Scholarship raffle at the RG was a great success netting over \$130 for scholarships. She thanked everyone who made donations.

Fred reported for the Membership Committee, that he emailed out over 120 messages encouraging lapsed members to renew. The reason most given for not renewing was the poor economy coupled with the cost of membership. Tests were administered during the RG and several candidates participated.

The Symposia committee had no report. ExComm members praised the Mike Makuch, Programs Officer, for his excellent programs bringing large turnouts to our meetings.

John, LonestaRG 2009 Chair, reported that, based on the feedback forms, the RG was a great success and participants were happy with the location. Registration was 83 with registration revenue of \$3615. All expenses were not tabulated but it appeared that RG will break even and perhaps be able to contribute a small amount to scholarship and future RGs. He will be preparing a final report for ExComm consideration. Expense vouchers are due by October 2 to be considered for payment. John also reported that LonestaRG 2010 is off to a good start. Volunteers have stepped up for facilities, hospitality, registration, and treasurer and as of September 10 we have 16 registrants signed up for a total of \$560.

The ExComm members adopted without debate the Special Rule (ASIE), Annual Election Calendar, posted on the Website.

Don announced the next regular monthly ExComm meetings were scheduled for 6-7 PM, October 7, (and the first Wednesdays of November and December), at the Northwest Recreation Center multipurpose room. ExComm meetings are open and all Mensa members may attend. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

*Indicates that the officer reported to the ExComm through the secretary.

What's Happening in October?

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.

Monthly Meeting 1st Tuesday

Tuesday, October 6 7:00-8:45pm

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library 7051 Village Center Drive, Austin

Southeast of the intersection with Far West Blvd.

Speaker: Ricardo Guerrero

Topic: Twitter

ExComm Meeting (usually) 1st Wednesday

Wednesday, October 7 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.

Dillo Deadline 2nd Thursdays

Thursday October 8 Midnight

By email to scubakathie@gmail.com & bookbird@yahoo. com

Articles submissions are due to the ALG Editor and calendar inputs are due to the Calendar Coordinator by Midnight on the Dillo Date.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT) 2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursdays (Moved on Holidays) Thursday, October 8 at Central Mkt North Thursday, October 15 at Central Mkt South Thursday, October 22 at Central Mkt North Central Market Café 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market North at Central Park

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

Central Market South at Westgate

4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 899-4300

Meet us at the Café after work for fun, conversation, and food. Prospective members welcome.

Central Market (North) Café is located on the south side of the Central Market grocery store in the Central Park shopping center east of N. Lamar between 38th and 41st Streets. We usually meet upstairs but if there is party, look for us downstairs or outside.

Central Market (South) Café is located on the east side of the Central Market grocery store in the Westgate Mall on the south side of S. Lamar access road (the south access road of I-290/SR71) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trl. Look for the Mensa sign.or folks with Mensa shirts.

Games Night 3rd Saturday

Saturday, October 17 7:00-11:00pm

Hosted by Patsy Graham

5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757

Bring your favorite beverage; I'll have some small snacks. I have several games but if you have a favorite bring it along. Please RSVP to mensapats@att.net so I'll have an idea of how many to expect.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, October 22 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

Fourteenth Annual Halloween Extravaganza Friday October 30th 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! 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!

Coming in November

Monthly Meeting 1st Tuesday

Tuesday, November 3

7:00-8:45pm

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library

7051 Village Center Drive, Austin

Southeast of the intersection with Far West Blvd.

Speaker: Richard Guerrero

Topic: Twitter

ExComm Meeting 1st Wednesday

Wednesday, November 4 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.

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PUBLICATION NOTICES

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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.



Please send print & Web calendar input/changes to the Calendar Coordinator, Kathie Lawler, 512-267-1843, scubakathie@gmail.com. Monthly calendar inputs are due to Kathie by the Dillo Deadline normally the 2nd Thursday of each month.

2009 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				October 1	2	3	
4	5	6 Monthly Meeting	7 ExComm Meeting	8 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	9	10	
11	12	13	14	TGIT South	16	17 Games Night	
18	19	20	21	22 TGIT North Fold & Sticker	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30 Halloween Party	31	
November 1	2	Monthly Meeting	ExComm Meeting	5	6	7	