

# Armadillo Literary Gazette

*A Publication of Lonestar Mensa*

*Volume XXXVI*

*Number 6*

*June 2009*

*Bob*

-photo by Duncan Stewart



## June Monthly Meeting



<http://www.lcra.org/>

**Presenter:** John Williams of the Lower Colorado River Authority

**Subject:** “The History and Current Roles of the LCRA”

These roles are: Furnishing Electrical Power while Managing the Water Supply and Environment. This Program will also address the current Drought Conditions Plaguing Central Texas.

### **LCRA News Page Headlines as of May 23rd:**

- \* New life jacket program makes flotation devices available to Lake Travis visitors for free
- \* Pedernales River Nature Park to open for limited day use Memorial Day weekend
- \* Recent rains not enough to break drought

# Lonestar Mensa Officers - 2009

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

<b>President:</b>	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Patty Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtrapa@aol.com
<b>Members at Large:</b>	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	neemidge@usa.net
	Kathie Blair Lawler	512-267-1843	scubakathie@gmail.com
	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Frederick Goertz	512-569-1758	fgoertz@gmail.com
<b>Current Member Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>New Member Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Officer Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Testing Coordinator:</b>	Ellen Lukasik		elukasik@sbcglobal.net
<b>Facilities Coordinator:</b>	Ellen Lukasik		elukasik@sbcglobal.net
<b>Awards Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Communications Chair:</b>	Kathie Lawler	512-267-1843	scubakathie@gmail.com
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<b>Newsletter Circulation Manager:</b>	Helen Siders	512-799-6985	xlartemis@gmail.com
<b>Advertising Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
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<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
<b>Calendar Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Elist Coordinator:</b>	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	neemidge@usa.net
<b>Historian:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Symposia Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Programs Officer (Meeting Coord.):</b>	Mike Makuch		mike8@makuch.org
<b>Symposia Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Symposia Publicity Coord.:</b>	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
<b>BCS Coordinator:</b>	Robbie Fraser	214-240-4439	tampabuc47@yahoo.com
<b>San Marcos Coordinator:</b>	Gloria Fortin	512-754-8956	fortin_associates@hotmail.com
<b>U.T. Mensa President:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Waco Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Education Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Education Funding Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Scholarship Chair:</b>	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205	mensascholarships@gmail.com
<b>Education Publicity Coordinator:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Gifted Children's Coordinator:</b>	Michele Vaughan	512-388-5970	lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com
<b>SIGHT Coordinator:</b>	Steve Vaughan	512-388-5970	svaughan@austin.rr.com
<b>Arbiter:</b>	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
<b>Ombudsman:</b>	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
<b>Records Manager &amp; Archivist:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Bylaws Comm. Chair:</b>	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
<b>LonestaRG Chair:</b>	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	neemidge@usa.net
<b>RG Registrar:</b>	Jane K. Thompson	512-335-4196	jane12125@austin.rr.com
<b>RG Hospitality Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>RG Programs Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>RG Facilities Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>RG Publicity Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>RG Treasurer:</b>	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
<b>RG Drawings, Prizes, &amp; Awards Chair:</b>	Vacant		

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

## LocSec's Corner

*-by Ron Edelstein, LSM LocSec*

Well, we now have monthly meeting programs scheduled three months out and I think we've got some very interesting topics. We will start leaving evaluation sheets on a table in the meeting room and request that members take the time to pick one up and fill it out and send it back to the Programs Chair for evaluation. We will also make the form available online for those who prefer that format. Your comments and suggestions will help us improve the format and content of our future programs.

Since LSM members are now eligible to speak at monthly meetings, if you have a topic and a desire to speak on it, please send an email to either the Programs Chair or me and tell us something of the topic, why you think it is of interest to the group and anything regarding your expertise to address it. If you are selected for a future meeting, we will use that information to write an introduction for the ALG to publicize the event.

We currently have an opening for an Ombudsman for LSM. We also are recruiting for an RG Chair for next year (2010) and a newsletter distribution manager beginning the first of next year. The RG Chair needs to be appointed soon so they can start choosing their committee, picking a theme and getting some early publicity together for the 2009 RG. The person taking on the distribution role needs to have some time to work with the current manager, Helen Siders, to learn the intricacies of distributing the ALG, both electronically and by USPS. The electronics part is pretty simple, but dealing with the Postal Service is not. Helen has done a great job, but she needs to free her time to pursue other interests, so we need to get her a relief.

See you all at the next LSM monthly meeting, and don't forget the RG in September. Information on that will be forthcoming shortly.



*Enchanted Rock*

photo by Duncan Stewart

### *Welcome New Members*

Amanda Lacy

### *Welcome Back Members*

Donald Sterling Chase Jr  
Elizabeth Johnston Vasquez  
James W Kendrick  
Johnnie Ray Vaughn  
Judy L. Mittag  
Robert Abreo  
Vivek Sarda  
Jerome Morris  
Goran Devic

### *Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa*

Michael Brandon Kittner

## Double Your Testing, Double Your Fun

*-by Patty Drumtra*

Special thanks to Ellen Lukasik for testing people interested in becoming new Mensa members. She tested nine prospects March 7, 2009 in Round Rock. This test was given during a special promotional "Double Funding Double Test" by Mensa National Office. Our treasury was reimbursed twice the usual rate. So, we are not only enriching the talent of our membership, but also our financial accounts.

Thank You so much, Ellen, for the time you spend and the effort it takes to line up a place for the event, and then for administering and proctoring the testing.

The next testing will take place at 10 am on Saturday, June 13th at the Clay Madsen Recreation Center in Round Rock.

## TGIT South

The next meeting of this energetic group will be 6:00pm June 18, 2009 at Central Market South at Westgate, 4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, phone 512.899.4300. Look for the statues of vegetables on the sidewalk just inches from the street. We will eat at the Central Market South CAFE for fun, conversation and food. Look for a Mensa sign. Questions call Helen (799-6985), Don (291-0315) or Patty (291-0361)

Armadillo Literary Gazette -- June 2009

## Two Local Contestants Win National Mensa Scholarships

-by *Claudia Harbert, Local Scholarship Chair*

The list of winners has arrived for this year's Mensa Education & Research Foundation scholarship contest. Lonestar Mensa had another successful scholarship contest this year!

National Mensa promises us one local scholarship winner. This year, that honor goes to Pete Karagozian III, a high school student at Cedar Park High School, who is planning to study medicine. Lonestar Mensa also had two winners at the National level! Kyle Goyette is studying for a PhD in History at Texas State University. He is focusing on the influence of the Equal Rights Amendment on political culture in Texas. Kyle won an award from National Mensa for a top-quality essay. Alexis Avram is studying aerospace engineering at UT. Alexis won the David Mann Scholarship for Study of Aeronautical Engineering or an Aerospace Field, one of 5 scholarships of \$1000, the highest amount awarded by the Mensa Foundation!

The success of our local area in this contest would not have been possible without our local judges, who spent a long afternoon and evening reading and grading all the entries. Their top-rated entries competed at the Regional and then National levels. The essays our judges chose apparently appealed to the Regional and National judges, too! Thanks again to our volunteer judges: Gloria and Ron Fortin, Jim Mangum, VeraLouise and John Pfeiffer, and Barbara Wilson!

The winning essays will be printed one by one in the next issues of the Armadillo Literary Gazette and will also be posted on the Scholarships page of the Lonestar Mensa website.



*Rotorua, New Zealand*

photo by Duncan Stewart

## Change in LSM Monthly News Cycle

Starting in June, we are instituting a new monthly news cycle. All submissions for the Armadillo Literary Gazette will now be due to the Newsletter Editor (Rachael Stewart) and the Communications Chair (Kathie Lawler) by the second Thursday of each month. The Calendar Editor (Charles Wilson) should be included on all calendar entries. See email addresses at the end of this article. This new process will help ensure that we have enough time to make our newsletter more accurate for all Lonestar Mensa members.

Please send all newsletter and calendar items to the following members:

### **Communications Chair:**

Kathie Lawler    ScubaKathie@att.blackberry.net  
                          ScubaKathie@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Rachael Stewart    BookBird@yahoo.com

### **Calendar Editor:**

Charles Wilson  
                          Lonestar.Mensa.Webmaster@gmail.com

The following Action was passed at the May Executive Committee meeting:

### ***LONESTAR MENSA Standing Rule Action Still in Effect (ASIE) 2009-5***

#### *LSM Monthly News Cycle*

*The following table provides the various tasks, responsibility, recipient, and due day for tasks related to providing monthly news updates to LSM members during the normal monthly cycle. Upon recommendation of the Communications Chair, the ExComm shall establish specific alternate due dates each year in the LSM Standing Rules if necessary to accommodate holidays and special events. Submissions earlier than the due date and coordination by telephone are encouraged.*

*Out of cycle updates to the online calendar and separate announcements may be made at any time.*

*Actor*

*Writers*

*Action*

*Submit articles and calendar entries*

*Send to*

*Communications Chair, Editor, Calendar Editor*

*Due Day*

*Second Thursday*

*Armadillo Literary Gazette -- June 2009*

## May ExComm Minutes

*-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened on May 6, 2009 at 6:05 PM, at 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, Circulation Manager Helen Siders, and Programs Officer Mike Makuch. The ExComm approved without debate the April 1 ExComm minutes published in the May Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 6 with the correction of the meeting date to 2009 and the Membership Committee abbreviation.

Ron announced that he had appointed Frederick Goertz as Membership Committee Chair and Mike Makuch as Programs Officer (Meetings Coordinator). He also announced that he had reviewed the original checking account statement for February, March, and April 2009 comparing 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 that the group was currently in good health; however, the 20 percent drop in membership will result in decreased revenue, which might require budget adjustments. The ExComm adopted the report without debate. Financial reports are available to members online and by request. Quarterly reports are also published in the ALG.

Don reported for the Membership Committee (MemComm) that Fred had discussed lapsed member procedures with the AML National Office (NO). He planned to contact lapsed members and invite them to renew their membership. Mike suggested that it might be useful to ask members who have not renewed why they did not and perhaps combine efforts with Fred. The ExComm encouraged Fred and Mike to work together on this. A testing session was scheduled for June.

John reported for the Communications Committee (ComComm) that there are still vacant positions on the committee, that no feedback has been received from the change of the newsletter article submission date to the second Thursday beginning in June, and that alias addresses and email lists have been updated and are available for use. John agreed to send the list to the Ex-

Comm members. Helen presented member comments to the ExComm on suggestion to email newsletter links to the membership (rather than sending a PDF file). The ExComm debated the decision process surrounding such changes. It was the sense of the ExComm that the ComComm should have been involved in the decision process and that the ComComm should carefully consider the pros and cons of such changes before agreeing to implement them.

Mike reported for the Symposia Committee (SymComm) that programs have been confirmed for through August and that he was exploring ways to get feedback from members on what sort of programs they would be most interested in. He reminded members of the picnic on May 30.

Don reported for the Education Committee (EdComm) that the national scholarship award winners should be announced in May and that the LSM winner would be announced shortly after that.

Don, Bylaws Committee Chair, reported that there was not a quorum at the April 9 Bylaws Committee meeting. The report was published in the May ALG page 5. He also submitted the report provided in this ALG that the committee completed the draft bylaws at a special meeting April 27 and recommended ExComm approval of the draft bylaws for submission to the AMC Bylaws Committee. The ExComm adopted the recommendation without debate.

The LonestarRG Committee had no report.

Don moved that the ExComm adopt four ASIEs previously discussed: ASIE 2009-4 on TGIT dates; ASIE 2009-5 on The LSM News Cycle; ASIE 2009-6 amending on LSM Member Speakers at Monthly Meetings; and ASIE 2009-xx on Website Information Availability. The ExComm adopted the first three without debate and tabled the fourth until the next meeting due to lack of time for debate. The ASIEs are available on the LSM Website.

Don announced the next regular monthly ExComm meeting was scheduled for 6-7 PM, Wednesday, June 3 at the Northwest Recreation Center multipurpose room. ExComm meetings are open and all Mensa members may attend.

At 7 PM the ExComm adopted a motion to extend the meeting 20 minutes. It adjourned at 7:20 PM.

## From the RVC

Now that all the campaigning is over and this year's National and International Elections are history, it's time to look forward to the Annual Gathering. If you have never been to an AG, you cannot imagine what an experience it can be. Think of the best Mensa activity you have ever attended, then multiply it by at least a factor of 10. If you've never been to a Regional Gathering, multiply it by 100. Think of it: 2000 of your fellow Ms all together in one place for 4 days! If you can't get away for the AG in Pittsburgh this year, you can start planning now to go to next year's AG in Michigan. Speakers, games, workshops, art, music, all kinds of entertainers, banquets, tours, non-stop hospitality... what more could one ask?

Well, actually, there is one more thing I could ask for - extending the party for another few days! Here's a thought: if we start planning now for 2010, we could arrange to charter a car or two on the train from San Antonio to Chicago, and then on to Detroit. In addition to San Antonio, you could board the train in Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Longview, Texarkana, or Little Rock. I've been trying to promote the idea of an Amtrak road trip to an AG for years now, and next year is the perfect location for a trip starting in Region 6. Think about it, OK?

For those of you who can't make it to the AG, I hope to see you at Lone Star Mensa's RG in Austin over Labor Day weekend or at the North Texas Mensa RG in Dallas at Thanksgiving. Also, please take note that South Texas Mensa (San Antonio) is planning a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in October. If you want to learn how a Mensa group really works, please plan to attend. Thanks to a grant from American Mensa, it's free!

On a more serious note, some of you may be aware that American Mensa recently concluded a long-running lawsuit over unauthorized use of our name. While the jury did not choose to award us any damages, they did confirm our legal rights to use of our name and the British company we sued has changed the name of their product to eliminate the alleged infringement. If you have further questions about this litigation, a Q&A section has been posted on the AML website.

Roger Durham

## Electronic Newsletter Available

Would you like to receive this newsletter, The Armadillo Literary Gazette, by E-MAIL instead of paper? This offer has been offered since January of 2007. Now 22% of Lonestar Mensa receives the electronic version of the newsletter.

Now, why would anyone give up their paper version of the newsletter? Maybe you are a highly skilled computer user, who gets most of their information on-line. Or you want to save trees. Or your newsletter sits in a stack of paper for weeks or months after being read one time, and one time only.

To give it a try, log on [www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate](http://www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate). You can enter UserID (member nbr or your email address) and Psw. First, if your email address is not current, update it! Then look for the phrase 'electronic publications, if available.' Then set the switch to enable the electronic distribution of your newsletter and other publications. There will be a one to two month lag before the arrival of your first electronic newsletter.

## Bylaws Committee May Monthly Report

*-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chair*

The seventeenth meeting of the Bylaws Committee convened 6:30-8:10 PM, April 27, 2009, at Central Market North. This was an adjourned meeting called by consensus to complete the work scheduled for the sixteenth meeting and finalize the draft bylaws for ExComm approval. We approved previous work the committee had done, completed work on Articles VI - Elections and XIII -Bylaws Amendments, and recommended that the ExComm approve the Proposed Bylaws as an amendment to our current bylaws for submission to the AMC Bylaws Committee. Finally, the committee adjourned the meeting at the call of the chair for possible future meetings to address questions or changes from the AMC review. The minutes, proposed bylaws, and other details of our work are posted our Website, [http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/bylaws\\_committee/](http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/bylaws_committee/)

Please join me in thanking all Lonestar Mensa members who provided input and other support during the Bylaws development process and particularly the Bylaws Committee members for all their hard work and hours of meetings to complete the project. If everyone agrees with the committee's work, the new Bylaws should be fully effective on April 1, 2010.

## What's Happening in June?

### **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](mailto:JMKres@sbcglobal.net).

### **Palabra - Date TBD**

If you are interested in getting together to (learn or) play Palabra please contact Patsy Graham, [mensapats@att.net](mailto:mensapats@att.net)

### **Canasta - Date TBD**

If you are interested in getting together to (learn or) play Canasta please contact Patsy Graham [mensapats@att.net](mailto:mensapats@att.net)

### **Monthly Meeting**

#### **1st Tuesday**

**Tuesday, June 2**

**7:00-8:45pm**

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library

7051 Village Center Drive, Austin

Southeast of the intersection with Far West Blvd.

Please see the meeting announcement on the front cover for details.

### **Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)**

**2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)**

**Thursday, June 11 at Central Mkt North**

**Thursday, June 18 at Central Mkt South**

**Thursday, June 25 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.

### **ExComm Meeting**

#### **1st Wednesday**

**Wednesday, June 3**

**6:00-7:00pm**

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Contact the ExComm Secretary, Don Drumtra, at [drumtra@](mailto:drumtra@)

[aol.com](mailto:aol.com), 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda. Officers are encouraged to attend and all LSM members are welcome.

### **South of Austin Diners**

**Thursday, June 11**

**6:00pm**

The Salt Lick Barbeque, Driftwood

Host: The Fortins

(512) 754-8956

Please feel free to bring family, significant others and friends. We enjoy meeting new folks and learning more about this area of Texas. This month we will be dining in Driftwood at The Salt Lick Barbeque. The link is <http://www.saltlickbbq.com/directions.htm>.

If you need directions or further information, call The Fortins at 512.754.8956 or email [fortin\\_associates@hotmail.com](mailto:fortin_associates@hotmail.com).

### **Fold & Sticker**

**Thursday, June 25**

**6:00-8:00pm**

Central Market Café, Austin

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin

(512) 206-1020

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

## Coming in July



### **Monthly Meeting**

#### **1st Tuesday**

**Tuesday, July 7**

**7:00-8:45pm**

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library

7051 Village Center Drive, Austin

Southeast of the intersection with Far West Blvd.

### **ExComm Meeting**

#### **1st Wednesday**

**Wednesday, July 8**

**6:00-7:00pm**

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Contact the ExComm Secretary, Don Drumtra, at [drumtra@aol.com](mailto:drumtra@aol.com), 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda.

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**PUBLICATION NOTICES**

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

Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text/.txt format preferred) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format.

Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, except for those works restricted by the author.

Advertising Rates and Policies:

Non-commercial: Lonestar Mensa members may submit 2 per year at no charge. 4 line maximum, subject to editor's discretion as to date of publication.

Commerical: Business card sized (2" x 3") ads are \$10 for one month, \$25 for three months, and \$40 for six months. Publication may be delayed due to space considerations. Ads must be camera ready, and should be submitted electronically if at all possible. We reserve the right to edit for content if necessary. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. The deadline for ad submission is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June	1	2 Monthly Meeting	3 ExComm Meeting	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 TGIT South S. Austin Diners	19	20
21 Happy Father's Day	22	23	24	25 TGIT North Fold & Sticker	26	27
28	29	30	July 1	2	3	4 
5	6	7 Monthly Meeting	8 ExComm Meeting	9 TGIT North	10	11