

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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May 2009



View from Brick's River Cafe in Bandera TX.

-photo by Rachael Stewart 2008

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Lonestar Mensa Officers - 2009

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Symposia Chair: Vacant

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mike8@makuch.org

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Symposia Publicity Coord.: Paul Anderson (see Publicity)

BCS Coordinator: Robbie Fraser

214-240-4439 tampabuc47@yahoo.com

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512-754-8956 fortin_associates@hotmail.com

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Waco Coordinator: Vacant

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Scholarship Chair: Claudia Harbert

512-238-0205 mensascholarships@gmail.com

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512-388-5970 lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com

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

Arbiter: Vacant

Ombudsman: Vacant

Records Manager & Archivist: Vacant

Bylaws Comm. Chair: Don Drumtra (see V.P.)

LonestaRG Chair: Carla Young (see New Member)

RG Registrar: Jane K. Thompson

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

RG Hospitality Chair: Vacant

RG Programs Chair: Vacant

RG Facilities Chair: Vacant

RG Publicity Chair: Vacant

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

RG Drawings, Prizes, & Awards Chair: Vacant

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.

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LocSec's Corner

-by Ron Edelstein, LSM LocSec

After a lot of thought and discussion with members, the ExCom decided that we need to change an existing practice of some duration. As most of you know, we sometimes have a problem getting speakers for the monthly general meeting. I've been convinced that we have been shorting ourselves by not drawing on one of our natural resources: our own membership. By definition, Mensa is supposed to represent the top 2% of the general population, at least as measured by standardized tests. There should be a lot of people in Lonestar Mensa who have or have had interesting jobs or professions or who have diverse interests that would make a good topic for the general meeting. So, effective immediately we opening up the monthly general meeting for members to speak.

Here are the basic rules. They are not carved in stone and can be modified if someone has real heartburn over something and is willing to discuss it:

1. No personal attacks on anyone, either fellow Mensan or otherwise. This does not mean you can't express an negative opinion about what someone has done, but keep it to the facts and actions, not personalities.
2. No campaigning for a specific political party. In election season we may try to set up a debate for the different parties to be represented and present their viewpoints, but no freelancing.
3. No proselytizing for a religion or cult. You can refer to religions in a comparative manner, but no promoting or attacking a specific religion.
4. No sales pitches. If your talk includes examples of a particular technology or program or project that your company is involved in, it's fine to use that as an example. But you start trying to sell your products or services and the long arm of the LocSec is liable to reach out and yank you off the stage. (OK, so my arms aren't really long, but you get the picture.)
5. Use good sense about what you think your fellow Mensans would really like to hear. If your vacation is spent diving Spanish treasure galleons in the Caribbean and you've got some great underwater shots, or you like doing archaeological digs in Mayan ruins in the Yucatan, that is probably interesting. If the pictures are of your vacation on Maui, we will probably get jealous and stone you!

If you want to speak to the group, contact our Program Chair or me directly, let us know what you want to talk about, when you want to speak and whether you will

need a projector or laptop. LSM has both available if you don't have your own. If we already have a speaker for the month you'd like, be flexible and maybe we can give you the following month. We would like to know in time for us to get an announcement into the ALG (deadline is the 15th of each month or as otherwise announced) and for our PR person to get publicity, since our meetings are open to the general public and we'd like to give you a nice crowd if possible.

Feedback is welcome. My email address is in the ALG.

New Program Chair and Program Calendar

-by Ron Edelstein, LSM LocSec

We have a new Programs Chair for Lonestar Mensa, Mike Makuch. He is a long time member of LSM, but has said he has not been involved before because our programs at the monthly meetings were generally so boring. I challenged him to step forward and come up with something that would pull members in. Since he lives quite a distance out from the center of Austin, we agreed the test would be what would inspire him to drive in to attend a meeting. Of course what might inspire him might not be the same for everyone else--Mensans are infinitely variable. But we have talked and I think he has some ideas that may work. We are also going to start posting future meeting topics both in the ALG calendar and on the LSM website calendar as far out into the future as we can book them. Eventually we would like to fill the dates in the calendar for at least six months, maybe even a year in advance. This gives us both something to look forward to and also some flexibility if, as meetings approach and speakers may find they have to adjust, we may can reschedule someone further out to bring them up.

Mike and I both encourage any member to send us suggestions of topics you would like to see at the meetings, preferably accompanied by a recommended speaker whom you know can address the topic well. Also be aware that we no longer have a ban on LSM members speaking at monthly meetings. Member presentations can be scheduled just as the outsider presentations.. send in your topic and how you are going to present it to Mike or me, and we will contact you for scheduling and any questions we may have. The basic question is just what I posed to Mike, "What would make you leave the comfort of your home and come to a meeting because it sounds interesting?"

Lonestar Mensa Program Activity Summary 2009 January 1 – March 31

Programs	Summary Year to Date			Summary by Quarter	
	12 months Budget	3 months Total	25%	3 months Jan-Mar	3 months Apr-Jun
Membership Program					
Total Revenue	\$ 900.00	\$ 31.00	3%	\$ 31.00	\$ -
Total Expenses	900.00	30.00	3%	30.00	-
Communications Program					
Total Revenue	3,900.00	988.65	25%	988.65	-
Total Expenses	3,900.00	736.47	19%	736.47	-
Symposia Program					
Total Revenue	1,200.00	300.00	25%	300.00	-
Total Expenses	1,200.00	30.00	3%	30.00	-
Education Program					
Total Revenue	480.00	121.00	25%	121.00	-
Total Expenses	480.00	62.54	13%	62.54	-
Common Activities					
Total Revenue	150.00	37.50	25%	37.50	-
Total Expenses	150.00	38.17	25%	38.17	-
All Programs					
Total Revenue	\$ 6,630.00	\$ 1,478.15	22%	\$ 1,478.15	\$ -
Total Expenses	6,630.00	897.18	14%	897.18	-
Total Programs	\$ -	\$ 580.97		\$ 580.97	\$ -
LonestaRG					
Total Revenue	2009 RG RGComm \$ 4,200.00	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	Spending limit 4,000.00	-	0%	-	-
Total Disbursements	\$3,356.27 \$ 200.00	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -
Undistributed Rev and Exp					
Total Revenue	\$ 760.40	\$ 131.52	17%	\$ 131.52	\$ -
Total Expenses	-	59.85		59.85	-
Total Undistributed	\$ 760.40	\$ 71.67		\$ 71.67	\$ -
Total Contributions	\$ 760.40	\$ 652.64	86%	\$ 652.64	\$ -

2009 First Quarter Financial Report

-by Patty Drumtra, Treasurer

The financial results for the first quarter showed a strong gain in our net assets indicating that program committees are not using the funds they have available.

As the first quarter Program Activity Summary table shows, revenue and expenses of each program should be 25 percent of their budget amounts. The revenue of the membership program is at 3 percent, significantly below budget. This is due to a lack of testing in December, January, February. We should realize some income in this program in April from our March testing activities. Several programs are significantly under budget reflecting a lack of volunteers and activities in these programs. Our total contributions were at 86 percent indicating that we should be doing more. The Balances Summary table shows our net assets to be over \$20,000, the bulk of which is in CDs drawing interest to support

our scholarship program. Our RG spending limit stands at roughly \$3,300 with a possible increase to \$4,800 with ExComm approval.

The ExComm approved this report on 2009 April 1.



Lonestar Mensa Balances Summary 2009 March 31

Bylaws Committee

April Monthly Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chairman

	Jan 1	Mar 31
Members	575	623
Rank	29	29
RG Registrants 2007/2008	39	39
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 55.00	\$ -
Checking Account	1,919.54	1,916.53
Certificates of Deposit	19,284.82	20,236.38
Less Funds and Obligations	(15,000.00)	(17,000.00)
Accounts Receivable	-	-
Interest Receivable (Allocated)	-	37.71
Prepaid Postage	561.42	340.95
Prepaid RG 2010	-	-
Prepaid RG 2009	8.17	8.17
Prepaid Take Home Tests	97.50	97.50
Other Prepaid Expenses	-	-
Total Current Assets	\$ 6,926.45	\$ 5,637.24
Long Term Assets		
Scholarship Endowment	2009 RG ExComm Approval Limit 6,000.00	6,000.00
Education Fund	\$4,856.27 6,000.00	8,000.00
RG Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00
Equipment Acquired Value	981.31	981.31
Less Equipment Expensed Value	(729.82)	(754.57)
Other Long Term Assets	-	-
Total Long Term Assets	\$15,251.49	\$ 17,226.74
Total Assets	\$22,177.94	\$ 22,863.98
Liabilities and Appropriations		
Accounts Payable	\$ 282.47	\$ 145.62
Scholarships Escrow	435.66	510.66
RG Escrow 2009	1,025.00	1,085.00
RG Escrow 2010	-	-
RG Reserve	771.27	771.27
Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation	211.50	246.75
Other Liabilities and Appropriations	-	-
Total Liabilities and Appropriations	\$ 2,725.90	\$ 2,759.30
Net Assets		
Lonestar Mensa Net Assets	19,452.04	20,104.68
Total Net Assets	\$19,452.04	\$ 20,104.68
Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	\$22,177.94	\$ 22,863.98

The 16th meeting of the Bylaws Committee convened at 6:00pm, 4/9/2009, at Central Market, Austin, Texas. The chairman announced the absence of a quorum and waited for additional members. Seeing no quorum by 7:00 PM and being unable to conduct business without a quorum, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned. The minutes and other details of our work are posted our Website, <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/>

The committee planned to finalize the bylaws at this meeting but the delay until the next meeting allows you another chance to suggest any last minute changes you might want to see before the bylaws goes to the ExComm and then the American Mensa Bylaws Committee. After those approvals, we all will have an up or down vote on it; portions cannot be changed then without going through the approval process again. If you do not want to submit comments online, you are welcome to come to the next Bylaws Committee meetings and stay for the rest of TGIT. Our next meeting is scheduled for 6-7:30pm, Thursday, May 14. Bylaws Committee meetings are open and all may attend. If we have an earlier meeting to get our work completed, we will post the decision on the Website.

Go, Go, Electronic!

-submitted by Helen Siders

If you think you are seeing fewer paper newsletters at the TGIT "Fold and Sticker" party these days, you are absolutely correct. A significant number of Lonestar Mensans have "opted in" to forego the paper newsletter for the electronic e-mail version. If you want to join this hip group, go to the Profile Update page located at www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate. The phrasing on the

profile page will be 'electronic publications, if available.' There is a one to two month lag before your paper newsletters stop being snail-mailed and the e-newsletters start floating through the ether to your PC.

April ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened on April 1, 2008 at 6:05pm, 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 Kathie Lawler, Circulation Manager Helen Siders, LonestaRG Chair and New Member Coordinator Carla Young, and LSM member Mike Makuch. The ExComm approved without debate the March 4 ExComm minutes published in the April Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 5.

Ron announced that he had accepted the resignation of Kathleen Holiman from her positions as Ombudsman and Arbiter effective March 31 and Carla Young as New Member Coordinator effective April 1. Kathleen reported that she had accumulated no records during her service; Carla reported that she plans to turn her records over to the Secretary shortly. The ExComm commended both and thanked them for their work and years of service.

Patty provided the first quarter financial report. 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.

Ron reported for the Membership Committee (ComComm) that he was still looking for a committee chair. Testing on March 7 was a success with more than eight potential members participating.

Kathie, Communications Chair, reported that the committee still had vacant positions to be filled. She led a discussion about improving the regularity of the LSM news cycle including changing the ALG submission deadline to the second Thursday of each month. Her committee plans to solicit member feedback for the proposal through an ALG article and to present the implementation ASIE for ExComm approval at the May meeting. In response to a query from the Webmaster, ExComm members expressed their sense that password restricted information on the Website should include items that are personal or a privilege of membership (such as members' unpublished personal information, newsletter archives, meeting minutes, and financial information). Unrestricted items should include items that might attract new members, items already avail-

able to the general public, and all other items (such as the general calendar, officers' names and contact information, and symposia). Don agreed to draft an ASIE incorporating these principles for ExComm consideration at the May meeting.

Ron reported for the Symposia Committee (SymComm) that an LSM member was interested in the position of Program Coordinator but had not yet accepted the position. He noted that the April meeting was to feature soapbox speakers and that the spring picnic was scheduled for May 30. He led a discussion on lifting the 1996 restriction on LSM speakers at the monthly meeting. He said that he had discussed the issue with Member at Large John Neemidge who had suggested that some safeguards that should be incorporated in an ASIE amendment removing the restriction. It was the sense of the ExComm that the restriction should be lifted with proper safeguards and suggested that John draft an amendment for the May meeting. Don reported that finalization of the ASIE for TGIT meeting dates was still waiting for ComComm to finalize the forth Thursday dates so that the ASIE could be approved and all dates added to the online calendar.

The Education Committee did not submit a report. .

Don, Bylaws Committee Chair, reported that the March 12 Bylaws Committee report was published in the April ALG page 5. The committee hopes to complete its initial work at the next Bylaws Committee meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 9.

Carla, LonestaRG Chair, reported that she had scheduled an RG committee planning meeting for later in April. She provided the ExComm a draft hotel contract for consideration.

Don presented an amendment to ASIE 2008-12-6, on ExComm meetings, deleting "through May" and correct the meeting location Austin grid coordinates. ExComm meetings are now scheduled at the NW Recreation Center for the rest of 2009.

The next regular monthly ExComm meeting was scheduled for 6-7pm May 6 at the Northwest Recreation Center multipurpose room. ExComm meetings are open and all Mensa members may attend.

At 7pm the ExComm adopted a motion to extend the meeting 30 minutes. It adjourned at 7:30 PM.

From the RVC

By now you may have heard that American Mensa ended the membership year on March 31st with an all-time record membership of more than 57,800. Considering the state of the economy, that is little short of amazing. Our national office staff deserves our thanks and hearty congratulations for their efforts. However, the end of the membership year also saw the usual percentage of members not renew their membership for another year. If your local group has not participated in the annual lapsed member campaigns in the past, I encourage you to contact your local officers now and urge them to take part this year. American Mensa will pay your group cold hard cash to contact your lapsed members and ask them to rejoin. The national organization will be doing that too, but it's not nearly as effective coming from them. Many former members, when asked to rejoin, have said, "Why should I? No one from my local group cares whether I am a member or not." So why not get a committee together and mail some postcards or send some e-mails to those lapsed members? Make them feel wanted, and they just might be inspired to get active and help provide new leadership for your group.

Also, if you haven't voted in the American Mensa election yet, please take a few minutes to do so. Although there's no contest here in Region 6 this year, there are a number of candidates for other national offices who would like your support. The election materials won't be in the Mensa Bulletin this year; they have been mailed to everyone separately. The materials for the International election, however, are in the Bulletin as usual.

Finally, don't forget SynRG, the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering, in Houston over Memorial Day weekend. Registration information can be found on the national website, www.us.mensa.org. If you've never been to a Regional Gathering, you can't imagine what a wonderful experience it can be to spend an entire weekend with dozens of Mensans. And if you really want a mind-blowing experience, there's still time to register for the Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh the first week of July. Nearly 2,000 Ms are expected to attend, and that means non-stop excitement. More about that next month.

Roger Durham

Make your vote count!

All members of American Mensa, Ltd., whose membership is current on April 1, 2009, are eligible to vote in both the American Mensa, Ltd. national election and the Mensa International, Ltd. election.

This year, the American Mensa national election ballot will be direct-mailed separately from the April/May Mensa Bulletin and should arrive with your mail on or after April 15. Included with your AML election ballot is a candidate information booklet and the referenda for your review when making your voting decisions. The Mensa International ballot and election information will still arrive with your April/May Mensa Bulletin.

If you renewed your membership on or before March 31, 2009, and you either do not receive a national ballot in the mail, or you do not have an international ballot included with the April/May Bulletin, please email the National Office at operations@americanmensa.org or call 888/294-8035 ext. 5502

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On behalf of the American Mensa Committee, the Election Committee of American Mensa, Ltd., presents to the membership for consideration the candidates for election to the American Mensa Committee. Included at <http://www.us.mensa.org/election> are the candidates' personal biographies, campaign statements and answers to directed questions from the AMC. This is your opportunity to review this information in advance of receiving your mailed ballot.

As a reminder, voting for both American Mensa and Mensa International elections began on April 15.

The national voting period runs from April 15 to May 31. The international election ends earlier, on May 15. Voting information for each election will be included with each ballot. Please note that online voting will be available for the national election and that election-specific login information will arrive with your ballot packet. The international election will be by paper ballot only.

Voting is one of the most important actions you can make to affect the course of your Mensa experience. Please take a few minutes to look through your election materials and place your votes.

A Short Analysis of the Proposed National Bylaw Amendments

If you haven't voted already, please take the time to vote in the current national elections (either online or by separately mailed hardcopy ballot). This year the election includes 10 bylaws amendment proposals. Of greatest importance (in my opinion) are two pairs of competing amendments affected by the same procedure. Amendments 2 and 3 cannot be simultaneously implemented. Hence, if they both pass by the required 2/3 margin, whichever has a greater percentage majority of "yes" votes will be implemented. The same situation is the case with Amendments 8 and 9.

Please make sure to maximize the results by voting YES for Amendments 3 and 9, and by also voting NO on their respective competing amendments, Amendments 2 and 8.

Finally, my recommendation for all of the ballot measures: vote YES on Amendments 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10, and vote NO on Amendments 2, 7, and 8. For further information on any of the proposed bylaws amendments beyond what has been published in the February InterLoc (within the February Bulletin), the March Bulletin, or previously in your local group's newsletter, please e-mail me.

Jared Levine
Life Member
Metropolitan Washington Mensa
boxmaster@alumni.williams.edu



Rethinking Mensa: A Chairman Candidate's Perspective

My name is Dave Swanka. I'm a member of American Mensa; I'm currently the Regional Vice-Chairman for Region 3; and I'm one of the candidates for Chairman. Each of us has strengths and weaknesses, virtues and vices, and something to bring to the table.

If any one of you reading this is perfectly content with the current status of Mensa and the path it's on, vote for those candidates supporting the status quo. After all, it can be argued that Mensa — which just hit its all-time high membership — is a growing, vigorous, and well managed organization. Two years ago, even last year, the same could be said of General Motors, AIG, Citigroup, Lehman Brothers, and others. My point is, today's snapshot of current status does not reliably predict tomorrow's performance. I would like to see Mensa streamlined and made more efficient now, at the time and pace of our choosing, rather than waiting to do it in the grip of a panic. I voted against this year's budget for that very reason. Mensa relies heavily on its dues income, and its budgets assume continuous revenue growth. Should this not happen, we will be left with a budget shortfall, and we are not nimble enough to cope well with this. Configuring ourselves to the most efficient operational mode possible is our best protection.

The most important thing we all can do is to vote for our chosen candidates. In the last Mensa election, something like 8% of the membership voted. That doesn't send a clear message even to the winners, unless that message is "we don't care, do whatever." I don't believe that's true. We do care; otherwise we wouldn't renew our memberships.

I believe in readying Mensa for bad times as well as good. I believe Mensa can take positive action at its own pace rather than being forced to react. I believe that, even though no plan is perfect, Mensa can plan to handle reasonable risks without sacrificing growth. I believe that, as Chairman, I can prepare Mensa to move forward. I ask you, and thank you, for your support.

Dave Swanka
Candidate for Chairman

Membership Follow Up

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Vice-President

Following up on the article last month about Lonestar Mensa breaking 600 members, we are pleased to report that at the end March we had reached 623 members—an all time high. We did good this year. Give yourself and your friends a pat on the back for the good work.

April is usually a down month as many put off renewing their membership. We understand that the poor economy had made things difficult for some families and individuals and some might need to postpone renewal until things improve. But the economy and our situations will improve; they always have. Please be sure you or your Mensa friends did not just forget to renew. And if you must postpone renewal, please mark your calendar so that you do not forget to renew when things improve so that you can regain the benefits of membership. Don't forget, you are still invited to join us at the monthly meetings and at TGIT as you wait until you are able to renew. To renew, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/renew> or give the National Office a call at 888/294-8035 ext. 199.



Welcome New Members

Steven McKissick ☆ Burnice Cowan
Angel Sater ☆ Ethan Cabrera
Marcus Hunter ☆ Andrea V R Zepeda
Kyle Olson ☆ Pathikrit Bhowmick
Haerin Kim ☆ Nicole Dow
Abhishek Khare ☆ Hayden Anz
Jon Jankowiak ☆ Brad E Rhoden
Keaton McDonald

Welcome Back Members

John Morey
Robert E Drum
Cassandra Cher Joy
Katherarine Muller

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Jeff Dommengé
Amy C Hildenbrand
Evan Lamar Howell
Jeffrey Neil St Onge

Local think tank, Lonestar Mensa, discovers extraterrestrial life

I have been a member for some time, over 20 years. I think I mostly joined “just to see” and perhaps to have it on my resume. I’ve never looked for anything more from my Mensa membership than that, until recently.

I’ve attended a few meetings in the past couple of years. I have been surprised at the low turnout for a group of ~600 members. Finally in February I emailed Ron about it and he very skillfully turned it right back around on me and here I am volunteering!

I would like to get something more from my membership. I’d like to see us take on some heavy, deep, stimulating, thought provoking topics. I’d like to meet more of the ~600 members. I’d like to attract more new members. I presume that there are about 20,000 more individuals in Austin who are qualified for membership. I’d like to leave meetings thinking “wow that was interesting” or just plain mentally exhausted.

For the past couple of weeks I have been scheduling speakers for upcoming meetings. It’s not difficult. I think I will enjoy this. My only qualifications for this role are that I know what I am interested in. I would like to schedule programs that you are interested in. Maybe our interests are similar but maybe not. Let me know. Let’s make some headlines.

Mike Makuch, Program Chair, mike8@makuch.org



May Monthly Meeting

Presenter: Bill Bunch, Executive Director of the SOS (Save Our Springs) Alliance.

Topic: Protecting the Edwards Aquifer, its springs and contributing streams, and the natural and cultural heritage of the Hill Country region and its watersheds, with special emphasis on Barton Springs.

www.sosalliance.org

June Monthly Meeting

Presenter: John Williams of LCRA

Topic: LCRA plays a variety of roles in Central Texas: delivering electricity, managing the water supply and environment of the lower Colorado River basin, developing water and wastewater utilities, providing public recreation areas, and supporting community and economic development. Mr Williams will present on the colorful history of the LCRA as well as briefing on the current drought conditions in Central Texas.

www.lcra.org

Lonestar Mensa Spring Picnic

Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park
7000 Ardath St., Austin, TX
4PM, Saturday, May 30, 2009

Come join us at the Lonestar Mensa spring picnic. The picnic will be held at Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park in north central Austin, home of many previous LSM picnics. Please bring a dish to share for our potluck meal (side dish, dessert, salad, etc), your own main dish, and your beverage. There'll be a grill if you wish to cook. We'll have plates, napkins, utensils, and charcoal. Bring your friends, family, and leashed pets.

We'll be at Picnic Area A, which has one of the long concrete picnic tables, but you may want to bring a lawn chair. The park is quite shady, but sunscreen is always a good idea. There's a good playscape for the kids immediately adjacent to the picnic area. If you have ideas or want to help, contact Geri & John Neemidge (badgers@neemidge.net) or Helen Siders (xlartemis@gmail.com or 512-799-6985).

South Austin Mensa

The next meeting of South Austin Mensans will be 6:00pm May 21, 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. You do not have to live in South Austin to join us. We will eat at the Central Market South Cafe for fun, conversation and food. Look for a Mensa sign. Questions call Don (291-0315), or Patty (291-0361) or Helen (799-6985).



What's Happening in May?

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.

Palabra - Date TBD

If you are interested in getting together to (learn or) play Palabra please contact Patsy Graham, 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

ExComm Meeting

1st Wednesday

Wednesday, May 6 **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.

Monthly Meeting

1st Tuesday

Tuesday, May 5 **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 page 10 for details.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

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

Thursday, May 14 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, May 21 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, May 28 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.

Bylaws Committee Meeting

2nd Thursday

Thursday, May 14 **6:00-7:30pm**

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.

Gulf Coast Mensa -- SynRG 2009

May 22 - 25

Crown Plaza Brookhollow, Houston TX

See www.gcmensa.org/April%2009%20Promo%20B.pdf for details

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, May 28 **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.

Lonestar Mensa Spring Picnic

Saturday, May 30 **4:00pm**

Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park

7000 Ardath St., Austin, TX

Please see the announcement on page 10 for details.

Coming in June

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 page 10 for details.

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@aol.com, 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda.

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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.

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<i>2009</i>							
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
<i>May</i>					1	2	
3	4	5 Monthly Meeting	6 ExComm Meeting	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14 TGIT North Bylaws Mtg	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21 TGIT South	22 SynRG	23 SynRG	
24 SynRG	25 SynRG	26	27	28 TGIT North Fold & Sticker	29	30 Picnic	
31	<i>June</i> 1	2 Monthly Meeting	3 ExComm Meeting	4	5	6	