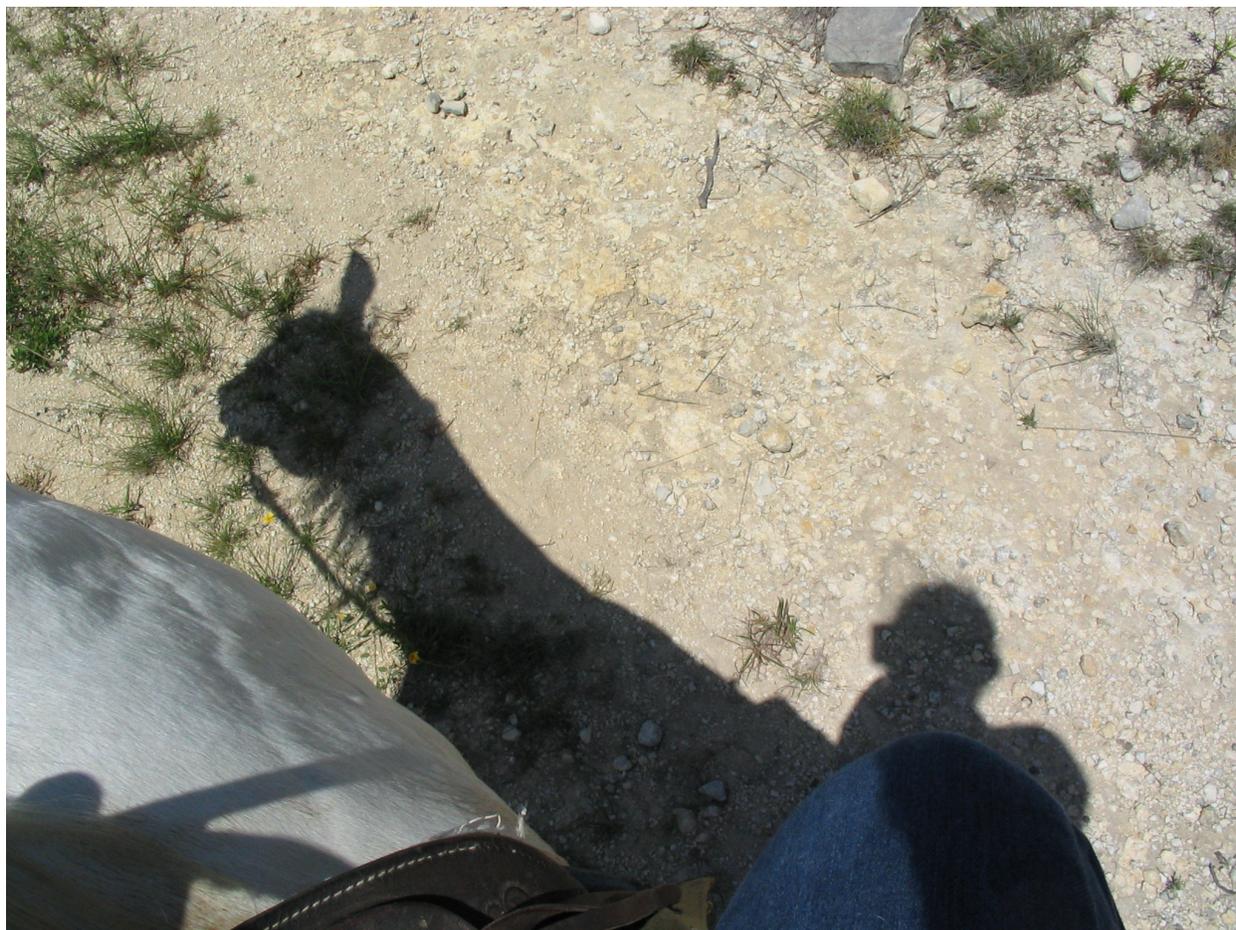


Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXVI Number 2

February 2009



Shooting at Shadows

-photo by Rachael Stewart, 2008

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Lonestar Mensa Officers - 2009

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Membership Chair: Vacant

Current Member Coordinator: Vacant

New Member Coordinator: Carla Young
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elukasik@sbcglobal.net

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Calendar Coordinator: Vacant

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Historian: Vacant

Symposia Chair: Vacant

Programs Officer (Meeting Coord.): Vacant

Symposia Coordinator: Vacant

Symposia Publicity Coord.: Paul Anderson (see Publicity)

BCS Coordinator: Robbie Fraser
214-240-4439 tampabuc47@yahoo.com

San Marcos Coordinator: Vacant

U.T. Mensa President: Vacant

Waco Coordinator: Vacant

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

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

Arbiter: Kathleen Holiman
(512) 250-5488 gholiman@sbcglobal.net

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(512) 250-5488 gholiman@sbcglobal.net

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.

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

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LocSec's Corner

-submitted by Ron Edelstein, LSM President

Here we are in February, and what can we say about the dreariest month of the year? Why is it so dreary? Well, it is the middle of the winter, well past the rush and excitement of the year end holidays of Christmas/Chanukah/Kwanzaa/whatever and the New Year and a long stretch to the warm spring and the next holidays.

After some time spent ruminating on February whilst walking with my pipe and an exhaustive five minutes of research on Google on the subject, here's what I came up with.

Fortunately, in consideration of the time of the year, the old timers decided to make it the shortest month of the year. Let's get it over with as soon as possible. First there's Valentine's Day, right in the middle of the month, with all the bright pink and reds and the flash of romance to perk up the mid-winter blahs. (Interestingly enough, the day of celebration does not commemorate anything the least bit romantic. It is the day Valentinus the Presbyter and other early Christians were killed in Rome sometime in the third century C.E.) But let a lover forget his/her love on Valentine's Day and the winter blahs will continue for them for the rest of the year!

It did occur to a couple of our best Presidents early on to get born in February so we could have their birthdays as small holidays to help break it up. It is somewhat ironic that when the Republic was first formed, some people wanted to declare George Washington it's king. (So what kind of republic would that have been, headed by a king?) But George modestly declined on the very pragmatic reason that he really didn't want to run the country for the rest of his life and kings have notoriously poor retirement plans. Guess he could see what this fractious bunch of Americans was going to be to try to govern. Sort of like trying to run a Mensa organization! Then along came Abe Lincoln, also a February birth and we would up with two nice little holidays. When it was decided that Martin Luther King, Jr. deserved a day of celebration, February begin to become somewhat crowded for such a little month. The Federal calendar could only have nine paid holidays, so the solution was to combine Washington and Lincoln into a single day which was neither of their birthdays and for convenience (and fiscal!) purposes would fall on a Monday each year so everyone could get a three day weekend. Ironically, George Washington, who turned down the job of king when it was offered, does share

one attribute of the British royal house. The Queen's Birthday is also celebrated on a convenient Monday in June (Queen Elizabeth was born on 21 June) which is not the Queen's actual birthday. (Interesting tidbit: the United States Navy still full dresses ship, a formal salute rendered only twice a year, on Washington's actual birthday of 22 February, regardless of when the civil holiday is observed.)

Another trivia bit (Mensans love trivia!): Washington was not actually born on 22 February. He was born on 11 February on the Julian calendar in existence at the time. This was adjusted to 22 February after the English calendar was changed from the Julian calculation to the Gregorian method used today. This was also when February got shortened. This happened in 1752, when George was twenty years old. At the time a lot of people thought the government had somehow taken eleven days out of their lives and there were riots with people demanding, "Give us back our eleven days!"

So, that's it for February. Remember Valentine's Day and keep it commercial so we can all have warm pink fuzzies for the rest of the year.

Welcome New Members

Robert Williams
Brian Fisher

Welcome Back Members

Aaron Mundine
David Allan Smith
Edgar V Jensen Jr
Henry J Kubicek
Patricia Dugan

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Edward B Gordon
Thomas E Rawlings
Marc D Shmerling
Meredith S Hardy
Erich M Graham

Bylaws Comm. December Monthly Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chair

The twelfth meeting of the Bylaws Committee convened at 6:30 PM, December 11, 2008, at Central Market, Austin, Texas. The chairman announced the absence of a quorum and declared the meeting adjourned. The minutes and other details of our work are posted our Website, <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/>.

Lonestar Mensa
Annual Financial Report for
2008

-submitted by Patty Drumtra, Treasurer

In general, our financial results for 2008 were remarkably similar to 2007. The overall result of our activities was \$2,200 the same as 2007. We made a little more at the RG and spent a little more on our activities than last year but overall we could have done much more. Ideally, as a non-profit organization, we should be breaking even. We have increased our scholarship award to \$400 for both 2009 and 2010, but there are so many things we could be doing if we had more volunteers.

More specifically, as one may see from the Cumulative Program Activity table, our total revenue from programs exceeded expectations by \$200 and is reflected in the Symposia Program line significantly exceeding our estimate. This was mostly the funds collected at the Christmas party. This was offset by lower than expected Recruitment Program revenue mainly from fewer tests given. The big surprise was the larger than expected turnout at the RG providing an unexpected \$500 additional revenue for scholarships, next years RG, and other LSM activities. Thank you.

Although expenditures for the year were below budget, Communications and Symposia were close to budget and Recruitment, Education, and Subgroup Programs spent less than 50 percent of their budgets. We could do more in those areas. A particular problem is the Subgroups Program which has not spent any money since its inception in 2006. At the December meeting, the ExComm decided to merge the program and its budget with the Symposia program for 2009. Funds will still be available for activities through the Symposia budget and the Area Coordinators will have a voice in how they

	2008 Budget		100%
Recruitment Program			
Total Revenue	\$ 900.00	\$ 776.00	86%
Total Expenses	900.00	251.48	28%
Communications Program			
Total Revenue	3,600.00	3,647.45	101%
Total Expenses	3,600.00	3,472.18	96%
Symposia Program			
Total Revenue	900.00	1,155.00	128%
Total Expenses	900.00	1,120.64	125%
Education Program			
Total Revenue	480.00	480.00	100%
Total Expenses	480.00	240.26	50%
Subgroup Program			
Total Revenue	300.00	300.00	100%
Total Expenses	300.00	-	0%
Common Activities			
Total Revenue	150.00	150.00	100%
Total Expenses	150.00	103.30	69%
All Programs			
Total Revenue	6,330.00	6,508.45	103%
Total Expenses	<u>6,330.00</u>	<u>5,187.86</u>	82%
Total Programs	-	1,320.59	
LonestaRG			
Total Revenue	4,200.00	4,733.27	113%
Total Expenses	4,000.00	3,830.84	96%
Total Disbursements	200.00	902.43	451%
Undistributed Rev and Exp			
Total Revenue	760.40	1,018.09	134%
Total Expenses	-	131.52	
Total Contributions	<u>\$ 760.40</u>	<u>\$ 2,207.16</u>	

Lonestar Mensa Cumulative Program Activity
2008 January 1 - December 31

are spent as members of the Symposia Committee.

Overall then, our net assets grew by the Total Contributions of a little over \$2,200 bringing our net assets to almost \$20,000, as may be seen on the Balance Sheet. All but about \$2000 of that money is invested in CDs still yielding 3 and 4 percent bringing in revenue Education Program and scholarships.

Adopted by the ExComm on 2009 January 7.

Annual Financial Review Report

Lone Star Mensa
For the period January 1, 2008 to
December 31, 2008

Prepared by Mark Kres, Lonestar Mensa Member in Good Standing, Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Member in Good Standing.

The financial records for the above-cited time were reviewed with the current Treasurer. The review was not an audit conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, & was limited in scope.

Findings:

Policies & procedures in effect for the chapter treasurer were reviewed. Sources: Chapter by-laws & American Mensa's "Treasurer's Handbook [5th Edition, April 2007]. The transactions reviewed were in compliance with the policies & procedures. A sample of income transactions was traced to source documentation & all samples were found to be correct. A sample of expense transactions was traced to source documentation & all samples were

found to be correct. All bills examined were being paid on a timely basis. A sample of checks was reviewed to verify that all the checks examined were signed by someone other than the payee. This procedure has been followed. All deposits of the Local Group Support funding from AMC which were examined were received on a timely basis. The Treasurer uses double-entry bookkeeping practices. The entries to the books are supported by Microsoft Excel software. This has enabled the Treasurer to provide more detailed and accurate information on a timely basis to the membership.

Conclusions:

Preliminary financial statements indicate that for all activities (including the RG), revenues were \$11,242 & expenditures were \$9,035, for a surplus of \$2,207. The surplus has been primarily used to fund scholarships, to fund deposits for the 2009 RG, & to increase certificates of deposit to earn interest for future cash needs. All source-level documentation is kept in an orderly fashion and appears to be complete.

Recommendation:

That the current bookkeeping practices should continue to be used.

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 55.00
Checking Account	1,919.54
Certificates of Deposit	19,284.82
Less Funds and Obligations	(15,000.00)
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Interest Receivable (Allocated)	-
Prepaid Expenses	667.09
Total Current Assets	\$ 6,926.45
Long Term Assets	
Funds	15,000.00
Equipment	251.49
Other Long Term Assets	-
Long Term Assets	15,251.49
Total Assets	\$ 22,177.94
Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	
Liabilities and Appropriations	
Accounts Payable	\$ 282.47
Escrow Accounts	1,460.66
RG Reserve	771.27
Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation	211.50
Other Liabilities and Appropriations	-
Total Liabilities and Appropriations	\$ 2,725.90
Net Assets	19,452.04
Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	\$ 22,177.94

Lonestar Mensa Balance Sheet

2008 December 31

Bylaws Committee January Monthly Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Bylaws Committee Chair

The eleventh meeting of the Bylaws Committee convened 6:15-7:30 PM, January 9, 2009, with TGIT, at Central Market. We approved the last two month's minutes and all other prior work, a revised article structure, and a transition strategy to move from our current bylaws to the new ones. The committee then began work on the actual wording of the Bylaws completing the Preamble, Articles I through IV, and the first part of article V. The minutes and other details of our work are posted on our Website, http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/by-laws/by_laws_committee/

At our next meeting we plan to continue to work on the bylaws text. Come to the Bylaws Committee meeting and stay for the rest of TGIT. Our next meeting is scheduled for 6-7 PM, Thursday, February 12, 6-7 PM, and TGIT will meet 6-8 PM. Bylaws Committee meetings are open and all may attend.

December 3 ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened on December 3, 2008, at 6:05 PM, at Northwest Community Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX. Attending were: President Ron Edelstein as Chairman; Vice-President Don Drumtra as Secretary; Treasurer Patty Drumtra; and Members-at-Large Kathie Lawler and John Neemidge. The ExComm approved without debate the November 5 ExComm minutes as published in the December Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), page 12.

Patty reported the revenue and expenses for November and the account balances as of November 30. LSM continues to be financially sound with expenses below budgeted levels.

The ExComm adopted motions for the following without debate:

- The November financial report.
- The appointment of Mark Kres, CPA, to perform the annual review of the LSM accounting records.
- The Revenue Estimate, Distribution, and Budget recommendation for the 2009 ExComm subject to corrections for final 2008 expenses.
- ASIE 2008-12-01 amending ASIE 2007-01-01, Program Structure and Responsibilities, to merge the Sub-Groups Program with the Symposia Program eliminating two officer positions.
- Rescinding ASIE 2007-01-01, Lonestar Mensa Education Program Funding and adopting, in its place, ASIE 2008-12-03, LSM Education Program Funding, and ASIE 2008-12-02, Scholarship Award Funding, to clarify budgeting and accounting procedures for education and scholarship.
- ASIE 2008-12-04, Check Signature Authority, to change LSM signature authority for LSM bank accounts to Ron, Don, Patty, and John for 2009.

The ExComm approved with debate a recommendation that the 2009 ExComm increase the Education Fund from \$6,000 to \$8,000 and keep the Scholarship Endowment at \$6,000.

There was no report from the Recruitment Committee.

Kathie, Communications Committee Chair, led the following discussions:

- Vacancies. Kathie has selected a Webmaster but was still looking for a volunteer fill the Newsletter Circulation Manager position.
- Formality of newsletter articles. After discussion, the ExComm members agreed with past practice that, in general, official articles should be fairly formal but that other articles could be more informal or “folksy” depending on the author’s desire.
- Calendar. After discussing the importance of the calendar and the need to synchronize the online and newsletter calendars and provide real-time calendar changes online, Kathie

proposed a Calendar Coordinator to be added to the Communications Committee to maintain both the paper and online calendars. The motion passed and the position was added to ASIE 2008-12-01, amending LSM program structure.

·Aliases, Website access, and related security concerns. John reported he was still working the National Office on Website logins and alias changes and Don agreed to post new the ASIEs on a subdirectory of the bylaws directory until the new Webmaster restructures the Website.

·Commercial folding, labeling, and posting. After members discussed the possibility and the cost (in the neighborhood of \$130 per month or over \$1500 per year), the ExComm decided that the commercial approach should not be pursued.

Ron reported for the Symposia Committee that the Christmas party planning was complete and reservations were open. For 2009, the ExComm adopted eleven regularly monthly membership meetings, on the first Tuesday of each month February through December 2009 (ASIE 2008-12-05). A meeting room has been reserved at the Old Quarry Branch Library for monthly meetings. We are still looking for a volunteer Programs Officer to develop programs for 2009. There was no Education Committee report.

Don, Bylaws Committee Chair, said the monthly Bylaws Committee Report for November 13, was as published in the December ALG, page 7, and on the committee Webpage. The next Bylaws Committee meetings were scheduled for the second Thursdays, December 11, and January 15 at Central Market with TGIT. All are welcome.

Carla Young, LonestarRG 2009 Chair, reported through the Secretary that she had appointed Jane K. Thompson LonestarRG 2009 Registrar, continued hotels negotiations, and planned to hold a committee meeting in mid-January to discuss hospitality, rates, and other issues after she received a firm hotel contract.

Don reported that the Northwest Community Center will close in June for renovations and moved that the regular monthly ExComm meetings in 2009 be continued there at 6-7 PM the First Wednesday of each month January through May. The motion passed without debate (ASIE 2008-12-06). The next regular monthly ExComm meeting was scheduled for January 7. ExComm meetings are open and all Mensa members may attend.

The ExComm extended the meeting by 10 minutes and adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Quarterly financial reports are published in the ALG and monthly reports are available to members by request. The ASIEs are available on the LSM Website at <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/documents/>

January 7 ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened on January 7 2008 at 6:10 PM, at Northwest Community Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX. Attending were: President Ron Edelstein as Chairman; Vice-President Don Drumtra as Secretary; Treasurer Patty Drumtra; Members-at-Large Paul Anderson, Kathie Lawler, and John Neemidge; LonestarRG 2009 Chair, Carla Young, and guest Helen Siders.

Ron welcomed the Paul to the ExComm and reported that he appointed the other officers for 2009 listed on page 2 of the Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG). He and the ExComm thanked all 2008 officers for their generous service and the 2009 officers for volunteering to serve. After the meeting Ron reviewed the original checking account statement for November 2008, compared 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 our financial position remains strong after December and that we had a successful year in 2008. She summarized revenue and expenses for December and for the year 2008 and provided account balances for December 31. She presented the 2008 annual report and the 2009 budget for approval and publication. The ExComm adopted without debate the following items previously distributed to ExComm members:

- The Monthly Financial Report for 2008 December (available online).

- A standing rule to adjust revenue estimates and budgets up when outside revenue is received. (ASIE 2009-1, available on line).

- The Annual Financial Report for 2009 (available on line).

- The Revenue Estimate, Distribution, and Budget for 2009, (ASIE 2009-2, available online.)

Financial reports are published quarterly in the ALG and other financial reports are available by request and online at <http://lonestar.us.mensa.org/bylaws/excomm/>

Ron and Carla reported for the Recruitment/Membership Committee that there was no testing in November and December but that Ellen Lukasik, the 2009 Testing Coordinator, was working on plans for 2009. Carla mailed several welcome letters to new members last

month.

Kathie, Communications Committee Chair, reported that the committee is considering distributing responsibility for maintaining several individual webpages on the LSM website to other coordinators under Webmaster rules. John, Electronic Resources Coordinator / Web Contact reported that he was negotiating the alias assignments and Web logon administration issues with the National Office staff. The Communications Committee plans to meet to discuss dates for fold and sticker, website and newsletter content and proofreading, website maintenance, advertising, and other communications issues.

Ron reported for the Symposia Committee that the Christmas party was a great success. The ExComm thanked Ron and Linda Edelstein for their hard work in making it a success. ExComm members discussed programs for the monthly meetings and working with the LonestarRG committee to exchange potential speakers. Carla agreed to obtain a speaker for the February program and Ron had some ideas for March.

The Education Committee had no report but Ron indicated that he was looking for an Education Chair.

The ExComm extended the meeting by 15 minutes to complete the agenda.

Don, Bylaws Committee Chair, reported that the December Bylaws Committee Meeting did not attain a quorum so the committee was unable to conduct business. The next Bylaws Committee meetings were scheduled for Thursday, January 8 and February 12 at Central Market, all are welcome. Details of Bylaws meetings are provided online.

Carla, LonestarRG 2009 Committee Chair, reported that she is completing her hotel negotiations, beginning to sign up speakers, and planed to hold a committee meeting to discuss hospitality, rates, and other issues when she receives a hotel contract.

John, TGIT Location Committee Chair, reported that the committee recommends that there be three regular TGIT meetings a month, the Second Thursday at Central Market (CM) North, The third meeting at CM South, and the fourth Thursday at CM North (subject to change due to Newsletter F&S requirements). The ExComm adopted the recommendations with debate, thanked the committee for their work, and dismissed the committee. The Secretary agreed to draft the stand-

ing rule with the specific dates for 2009 in coordination with the Communications Committee.

Don presented for adoption ASIE 2009-3, an amendment to ASIE 2007-1, Program Structure and Officer Responsibilities, previously distributed by email and available online, to:

- move record management (Includes ASIEs and archives) and the Record Manager and Archivist to the ExComm as an independent officer and to add the duties to the ExComm Secretary if not the Record Manager position is not filled.,

- merge recruitment and membership, to change the committee name to Membership Committee to agree with the AMC approach, and to make other related changes to the committee members responsibilities based on the merger,

- revise Communications Committee members' responsibilities to include aliases and both print and online communications,

- add a coordinator for San Marcos–Texas State University activities,

- delete RG and Nomination Committees (since they are ad hoc), and

- and make related editorial changes.

The amendment was adopted with little debate.

The next regular monthly ExComm meeting was scheduled for 6-7 PM February at the Northwest Community Center Multipurpose Room. ExComm meetings are open and all Mensa members may attend. Minutes are printed in the ALG and available online.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Colloquium Rate Reduction

With the price of airfare dropping drastically, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation also wants to chip in to get you and a friend to Colloquium. The Mensa Foundation announces reduced rates for the *2009 Colloquium: Weather or Not?*, to be held in Atlanta, GA at The Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center from Feb. 27 - March 1. The Colloquium is open to both the public and Mensa members.

Reduced Rates:

- *Two-for-one at the regular registration rate
- *\$99 Professional Rate
- *\$59 Saturday-only Student Rate

The Foundation will bring together well-known experts in the weather field for the weekend to engage attendees in examining the past, present and possible futures of climate change: Dr. Kenneth E. Kunkel, Executive Director, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute; Dr. Heidi Cullen, Climate expert, The Weather Channel, Senior scientist, Climate Central; Dr. Noah S. Diffenbaugh, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Purdue University; Dr. James E. Hansen, Director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York; Joshua Wurman, Center for Severe Weather Research, Boulder, Colo.; and Greg Holland, National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Attendees can look forward to exciting sessions on topics such as:

- o Hurricane Response to Climate Fluctuations and Trends: Where we are and where we hope to go
- o Running the Wrong Way: Mobile radar observations of tornadoes and hurricanes
- o The Threat to the Planet: Dark and bright sides of global warming
- o Extreme Climate in the 21st Century
- o Seeing Climate, Seeing Change
- o Winter Storms: A Look at the Past and a Glimpse into the Future

For a synopsis of the presentations, please visit <http://colloquium.us.mensa.org> and click on "Programs." Your Colloquium registration includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch and dinner.

Please let me know if you have any questions. If you would like more information, please email Jill Beckham, Foundation Director at Director@mensafoundation.org.

Thank you!

Best,

Lauren A. Fernandez
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Engineer's Corner

-by Todd Stahlnecker

Kennedy Space Center

The Kennedy Space Center is located midway between Miami and Jacksonville, Florida. It's America's only launch site for manned space flight and home to the 130 million cubic feet Vehicle Assembly Building along with 900 other facilities and buildings. The entire site is 34 miles long, 6 miles wide, encompassing about 219 square miles, and employees 14,000 people. It's also located in one of the most severe weather prone areas in the United States.

Hurricane Charley caused around \$700,000 of damage to the facility but the biggest blow to the complex came from Hurricane Frances in 2004. Officials evacuated the space center in preparation for Frances' arrival. When they returned 11 days later, the mammoth Vehicle Assembly Building was missing 820 of the large rectangular aluminum panels that make up the sides of the building and the roof was weakened. The facility that produces the heat shields for the shuttles was also greatly damaged. The facilities house three space shuttles, critical components of the international space station, other key hardware, as well as many pieces of historical value. Tropical storm Ernesto caused multiple delays in getting space shuttle Atlantis off the pad too with each launch delay costing up to \$1 million.

Being situated on the Atlantic coast has both advantages and drawbacks. Spent rocket stages, boosters, and launch aborts may fall into the ocean with little harm to human settlements. Large components may arrive via barges and the closer you are to the equator, the more energy you get from the earth's rotation allowing you to put up more payload per pound of fuel. Besides hurricanes, the drawbacks include corrosion from Atlantic Ocean salt and oppressive humidity.

One alternative is to make California's Mojave Desert a premier launch site. The FAA certified the Mojave Airport as a spaceport in 2004 which is where Burt Rutan's SpaceShipOne was launched from. Right around 50 space shuttle landings have been at Edwards AFB in the Mojave Desert. Each one must be ferried back to Florida piggy back on a 747 which takes about a week at a cost of \$1 million. Shuttles are diverted to Edwards when bad weather prevents their landing at the Kennedy Space Center and that's often the case. The Mojave Desert weather conditions seldom vary.

NASA is not likely to move due to the huge cost of the needed infrastructure at the Kennedy Space Center old as it is. However, should the Kennedy Space Center receive a direct hit from a major hurricane, the infrastructure would have to be replaced anyway. The damage from Frances was caused by 70 mph sustained winds with gusts up to 94 mph. A direct hit by a major storm would likely result in near total destruction. If that happens and the US lacked the political will to replace or relocate the space center, America might well abandon its manned space program altogether.

2008-2009 Community Activities Program (CAP)

Many Mensa Local Groups make their communities better by participating in community service activities. These community service efforts are recognized yearly by the national Community Activities Program (CAP). As well as providing recognition, the program encourages Local Groups to share their experiences and ideas with other Local Groups.

Members of Local Groups participate in any community service activity they choose and enter their projects (and results) in the program. Over the years, over 200 entries have been submitted. There were 17 entries last year.

CAP is NOT a competition or contest. All legitimate entries will receive the public recognition and appreciation that they so rightfully deserve. It may happen that the Committee members determine that an entry warrants consideration for a special award. This may or may not occur. Recognition and appreciation of all legitimate entries will be announced during the Annual Gathering, and listed in the Bulletin.

The CAP entry form, in PDF format, can be found on the American Mensa Website. Click on officer resources, then Forms and Guides. After filling out the form, have it signed by the Local Secretary, and send it to the National Office by May 1st. The Community Services Committee members look forward to reading about and celebrating your community service activity.

Respectfully,
Michael Paul Beetham
Chair, Community Services Committee
communityservices@us.mensa.org

February Monthly Meeting

Presenter: Sheila Scarborough

Topic: Local Family Travel on a Budget: Day and Weekend Trip Ideas

Sheila Scarborough was born into a Navy family in Key West, Florida. She served for almost 23 years as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy aboard ships homeported in Hawaii, California, Virginia and Japan plus shore duty in Washington D.C. and Rhode Island. She also lived overseas with her family in the Netherlands during a tour with NATO. She began writing part-time while on active duty, and is now enjoying a successful career as a full-time freelance writer and blogger specializing in travel, NHRA drag racing and Web 2.0/social media. A certified Navy Master Training Specialist and former Associate Professor at the University of Florida, Sheila is also an enthusiastic and knowledgeable public speaker and teacher. Sheila has written for many publications including National Geographic Traveler, Texas Highways and the San Antonio Express-News.

New South Austin TGIT (Thank Goodness it's Thursday)

Hey! South Austinites. We will be meeting at 6:00pm Feb 19, 2009 (and every third Thursday) at Central Market South at Westgate, 4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, phone 512.899.4300.

We will eat at the Central Market South CAFE for fun, conversation and food. Look for signs and Mensan shirts.

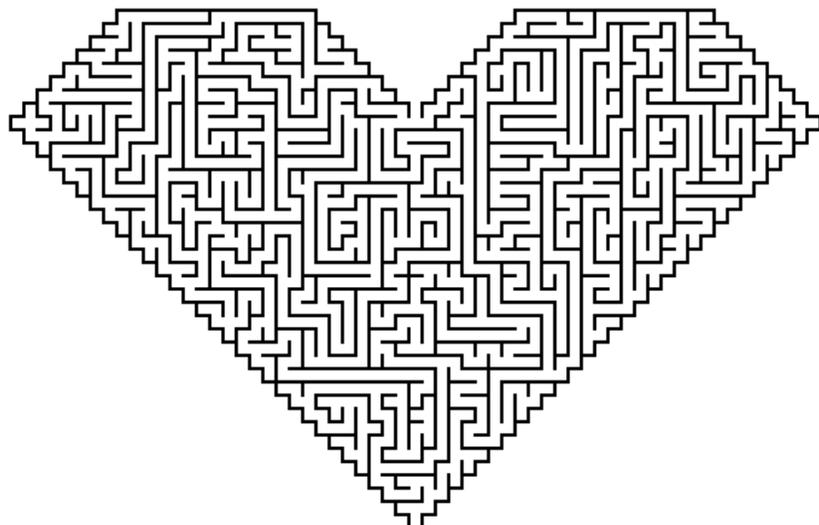
Members and prospective members are welcome, even if not currently living in South Austin.

Admission Testing News and Promotions

In response to tough economic times, American Mensa will be rolling back the prior evidence review fee (\$40) to the 1999 pricing (\$25) from now until June 30, 2009. Please encourage any friends or family that you think would be a perfect fit for Mensa to see if they meet the requirements. For a partial list of accepted test scores, please visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/testscores>.

Do you know anyone 17 and under who you think may qualify for Mensa? Tell them February is Free Prior Evidence Month! Anyone who is age 17 and under and submits a previous test score to the National Office from Feb. 1-28 will save the standard \$40 (temporarily \$25) evaluation fee. All they need to do is download the application (<http://www.us.mensa.org/application>) and send it in with their test scores. They will not need to fill out the payment portion of the application, but please ask them to note the promotion on the form.

The next Mensa Admission Test is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at 10:00 am at Anderson High School in Austin, Texas. The test fee is \$40 and practice home tests may be ordered online (www.us.mensa.org). Interested parties should contact Ellen Lukasik at elukasik@sbcglobal.net.



What's Happening in February?

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, February 3 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, February 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. Officers are encouraged to attend and all LSM members are welcome.

Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz

Sunday, February 8th 6:30pm

Opal Divines
700 West 6th Street in Downtown Austin
Starting Feb 8th, geeks who drink pub quiz will be bringing their Colorado based pub quiz to Austin. Join us at their first event to represent Mensa in style (or at least go down fighting). At the AG in Denver, we had at least four teams representing Mensa's GenX SIG and a good time was had by all. (Or at I heard no complaints!) All 21+ are welcome and feel free to bring a friend. RSVP's would be appreciated so that teams can be formed, but not mandatory. Please email carla.x.young@gmail.com to RSVP or look for the yellow mensa logo.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

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

Thursday, February 12 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, February 19 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, February 26 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, February 12 6:00-7:00pm

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.

Eclectic Eats

Wednesday, February 18 7:00pm

Odaku Sushi
2501 W. Parmer Ln, Austin 78727
Join Ron and Linda Edelstein at Odaku Sushi, in the HEB shopping center at Parmer and MoPac, for excellent Japanese food. <http://www.odaku.com/omdn1> has their dinner menu. Please RSVP by Monday, February 16, to ledelstein@mindspring.com or call (512) 491-9881.

3rd Saturday Poker

Saturday, February 21 7:00pm

Home of Laura Shankland & McCartney Taylor
11300 Bunting Dr, Austin
Dealer's choice, nickel ante. BYOB. Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect. RSVP to lolas@laurashankland.com or call 297-8344.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, February 26 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.

GenX Happy Hour

Friday, February 27th 6:30pm

Fado Irish Pub
214 W 4th St, Austin
Want to spend some time chatting/drinking/eating with some folks your own age? If you were born between 1961 - 1981, then come on out and share some conversation with members of a similar age. Don't worry about being a new-comer- since there haven't been any regularly scheduled GenX events in awhile, everyone will be a newcomer! Look for a yellow mensa logo, and if you can't find us call 512-586-7524.

PERIODICAL Postage Paid at *AUSTIN, TX*

Permit #554-650

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to:
ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE

c/o American Mensa, Ltd. 1229 Corporate Dr West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

MONTHLY

PUBL OFFICE: 1439 Dapplegrey Lane Austin, TX 78727

PUBLICATION NOTICES

The *Amadillo Literary Gazette* is the official publication of Lonestar Mensa. 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.

Commercial: 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							
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
February 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Monthly Meeting	ExComm Meeting			Pub Quiz	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
				TGIT North Bylaws Mtg			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
<i>'Dillo Deadline</i>			Eclectic Eats	TGIT South		Poker	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
				TGIT North Fold & Sticker	GenX Happy Hour		
March 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Monthly Meeting	ExComm Meeting			Mensa Admission Test	