

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXVI

Number 12

December 2009

An old Conestoga style wagon slowly crumbles on a hilltop.

-photo by Rachael Stewart 2009



Win a Scholarship or Help Judge the Entries!

-by Claudia Harbert, Scholarships Chair

The application forms for this year's scholarships contest are available! Go to www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships to download the applications. Or, if you are at the Lonestar Mensa website (www.lsm.us.mensa.org) already, click on "Scholarships" and then on "How to Apply". Mensa members can file an application for the regular scholarships and also a separate application for a scholarship that is for members only. So, on the website, be sure to download the application for the local/regional/national awards AND the one for Mensa members. The web page gives you the two links.

If you can't download, ask for an application by sending an email message to mensascholarships@gmail.com to receive a pdf file via email, or send a self-addressed, stamped, business (#10) envelope to:

Mensa Foundation Scholarships P.O. Box 5543 Round Rock, TX 78683

Not going to school these days? If you'd like to help judge the essays, please send an email to me, our local chair, Claudia Harbert: mensascholarships@gmail.com. We'll be having a judging party on a Saturday in late January. It's a fun working party! If you would like to be on the judges' email list for updates, please email.

Lonestar Mensa Officers - 2009

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

President:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Vice President:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
Treasurer:	Patty Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtrapa@aol.com
Members at Large:	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
Communications Chair:	Kathie Lawler	512-267-1843	scubakathie@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Rachael Stewart	512-496-8725	bookbird@yahoo.com
Newsletter Circulation Manager:	Vacant (Don Drumtra, Acting)		
Advertising Coordinator:	Vacant		
Webmaster:	Charles Wilson	512-220-6175	lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
Publicity Officer:	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
Calendar Coordinator:	Vacant (Kathie Lawler, Acting)		
Elist Coordinator:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	neemidge@usa.net
Historian:	Vacant		
Web Contact:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	neemidge@usa.net
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
Membership Chair:	Frederick Goertz	512-569-1758	fgoertz@gmail.com
Current Member Coordinator:	Vacant		
New Member Coordinator:	Vacant		
Officer Coordinator:	Vacant (Don Drumtra, Acting)		
Testing Coordinator:	Vacant		
Testing Proctor:	Mike Tolbert		
Facilities Coordinator:	Vacant		
Awards Coordinator:	Vacant		
Symposia Chair:	Vacant		
Programs Officer (Meeting Coord.):	Vacant		
Symposia Coordinator:	Vacant		
Symposia Publicity Coord.:	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
BCS Coordinator:	Robbie Fraser	214-240-4439	tampabuc47@yahoo.com
San Marcos Coordinator:	Gloria Fortin	512-754-8956	fortin_associates@hotmail.com
U.T. Mensa President:	Skyler Kanegi	512-539-0427	skyler.kanegi@gmail.com
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Arbiter:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Ombudsman:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Records Manager & Archivist:	Vacant		
Bylaws Election Committee:	Chair: Barbara Wilson	Members: Linda Edelstein, vacant	
Nomination Committee:	Chair: Barbara Wilson	Members: Michael Tolbert, vacant	
Election Committee:	Chair: Barbara Wilson	Members: Michael Tolbert, vacant	

LonestaRG 2010 Committee

Chair: Vacant

Interim Members: *Facilities* John Neemidge, *Hospitality* Andrew & Kem Edelstein, *Hotel* Vacant, *Payments* Vacant, *Photographer* Vacant, *Programs* Vacant, *Publicity* Vacant, *Registration* Vacant, *Security* Vacant, *Tastings* Vacant, *Testing* Vacant, *Treasurer* Don Drumtra

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

If you are interested in helping with LSM activities in any of the vacant positions listed above, please contact Ron Edelstein: aduana@mindspring.com or 512-491-9881.

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) Roger Durham

RVC6@us.mensa.org

Edelstein's Gems

-by Ron Edelstein, LSM LocSec

Well, we are now in the Holiday Season, whether, according to your faith or inclination, you call it Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Saturnalia or you are Scrooge and call it "Bah! Humbug!", and its time for the Lonestar Mensa annual party and December general meeting. Please join the rest of your Lonestar Mensa friends and family with tasty food, tastier libations and a lot of fun. We will have our annual party at Coffee-a-Deli, 11800 N. Lamar. For those of you who came to last year's party, it's the same location. If you didn't come last year, the place is a former private residence (small) that is now an old fashioned coffee house (not like Starbucks--more like an old English tea house). We will have the place all to ourselves, including the parking lot, so plenty of room and lots of fun. We'll start at 6:30 PM, with roasted turkey, ham, hot, rich soups, both vegetarian and meat based, home made tarts and cakes, and the usual assortment of drinks, coffee, tea, soda, wine (usual Mensa grade-- "10:00 AM was a good hour!") and beer. No hard spirits, just soft fun.

The ExComm has decided to lower the ante to \$5.00 per adult (18+), just so you have an interest in the proceedings. Pay at the door. Under 18, free. Please bring something to exchange if you'd like to participate in the gift drawing. Nothing over \$25.00 in value, please, and nice used is fine, don't have to go out and buy something. If you are the craft type, something you've made might be even nicer.

Please RSVP your intentions to attend and how many by not later than Friday, 4 December, so we will know how much food and drinks to plan.

Hope to see you on Saturday night, 12 December, 6:30 PM onwards. A good time will be had by all. Don't miss out!

Ron Edelstein
LSM LocSec

ExComm Election Results

-submitted by Barbara Wilson, Elections Chair

Caution!!

The current By-laws which remain effective until approved by both the membership and American Mensa provided that the election just completed be held at this time. If they remain in effect until after January 1, 2010, those elected will be come the members of the Executive Committee for 2010.

However, if the membership approves the proposed By-laws, America Mensa must determine the date to allow elections and smooth transition to the new Officer structure. That determination may nullify this election and force another election in March. If that does not happen....

Congratulations to Winners of ExComm Election

Please join us in congratulating the following Lonestar Mensa Members of the Executive Committee:

President – Don Drumtra. Don is continuing on the Ex Comm but changing positions next year. Don indicated that he does not have an agenda so anyone with ideas should put them forward to the Ex Comm.

Vice President – Barbara Wilson, embarrassed by her inability to convince a younger member to run for this position, agreed to serve if anyone wanted to write in her name and garnered write in votes from about half of those who voted.

Treasurer – Linda Edelstein obtained more votes for this position than any one on the ballot received for their position. Congratulations on that distinction.

Member at Large –John Neemidge is continuing as member at large after serving Mensa in many capacities. His experience is always welcome.

Member at Large –Danny South is newly elected to the Executive Committee.

Member at Large –Helen Siders is newly elected to the Executive Committee.

REIMBURSEMENT VOUCHERS DUE BY DECEMBER 15

All claims for reimbursement vouchers must be sent to the treasurer by December 15 to allow time for payment before the 2009 books are closed at the end of the year.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Dr John L Fike
2 Jason K Hobbs
3 Erich Paul Adolph
5 Aarne Hartikka
5 Nicholas Brigance
5 Jeffery Lee Humphrey
6 Walter R Barksdale Jr
9 Amy L Rue
9 Sanjay Acharya
10 Mary Jane Lockhart
11 Robert Abreo
13 Heather Hall
13 Rene Zubik-Schmidt
14 Margaret Patricia Wofford
14 Barbara J Gordon
14 John Paliwoda
15 Erik C Bentz
16 Justin Blount
19 Sue Ricket Caldwell
19 Scott Jacobsmeyer
24 Pete Spurgeon
26 Michael Clinton Moyer
28 Sonya L Palmer
29 Jack Vincent Musgrove
30 Merlin D Darling
30 Mary L Hoane

Welcome New Members

Sanjay Acharya
Dee Ann Asbury
Nicholas Brigance
Stephen Thomas Gase
Jason K Hobbs
Arjun Jain
Charles W Jones
Adam W Kantz
Robert Dan Manley
Marion Kelly Walraven

Welcome Back to Lonestar Mensa

Jennifer Burgess-Capoccia
Jeffery Lee Humphrey
Edward Loomis
Richard Louie
Richard Cann Montgomery
Robert E Purvis
Scott Reese

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

James Collins
Dr Crockett Lane Grabbe
Garrett Nichols
Jim-Ann Smith Oliver
Gary Skiba
George B Smith Jr



Don Drumtra (left) introduces Ron Edelstein, LocSec, as November's speaker. Ron gave a presentation on the history and function of the US Customs Service.

-photo by Paul Anderson

From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, RVC Region 6

By the time most of you read this, North Texas Mensa's Regional Gathering will be history, but if you're still thinking about going to your first RG, you'll be glad to know that Gulf Coast Mensa is planning their 2010 RG for the usual Memorial Day Weekend dates in Houston. If you've never been to an RG, you owe it to yourself to try at least one. A whole 3-day weekend surrounded by scores of your fellow Mensans – it's an experience like no other. Games, contests, eclectic programs, usually a dance or two, and a spacious hospitality suite where you can just hang out with interesting people and make new friends; and when you can't keep your eyes open any longer, you just take a short elevator ride to your room and rest up for the next day's festivities. Don't worry about being in a group of strangers; if you don't know anyone when you arrive, you certainly will by the time the first day is over. The only thing better than spending a weekend with a hundred or more Mensa members is spending one with a couple of thousand at the Annual Gathering, and speaking of the AG...

I'm still working on the "MensaTrain" to the AG next summer, and responses are still trickling in. If you think you might be interested, it's not too late to e-mail me at the special reply address: AGTrain@region6.us.mensa.org and let me know where you would be boarding and whether you would prefer coach or sleeper (see my September column for route and schedule information, or go to www.amtrak.com and look up the Texas Eagle route). I should have more information for everyone right after the first of the year.

And, it's probably not too late to join the Mensa cruise out of Galveston, March 7-14, 2010, to Cozumel, the Costa Maya, and Roatan, Honduras. Deposits (\$500 per cabin) were due by Nov. 21, but at the time of writing it looks like we will make our minimum, and after that we can add additional cabins at the same rate as long as space is available. The cost, depending on accommodation, will be a mere \$580 to \$730 per person, double occupancy, including all fees and taxes. Don't have a roomie? Single occupancy is available for a surcharge of about 50%. If you're interested, contact Dennis Nienkerk at: Strong Travel Services, 8214 Westchester Dr #670, Dallas 75225. His office phone is 214-361-0027; Cell: 214-680-7607.

Roger Durham

ExComm and Monthly Meetings

Date Change for 2010

-by Don Drumtra, ExComm VP

The regular monthly General Membership Meetings for 2010 are moving to the second Wednesday each month from 7:00-8:00pm at the brand new North Village Branch Library site. The new library is a beautiful facility with original art, stained glass, and an open layout. We will be meeting in the room to right as you enter the library. The library's new address is 2505 Steck Ave., Austin Texas, 78758-8142. It is on the south side of Steck, west of the Burnet intersection, and 8200 North by 2505 West on the city grid. The new facilities will hopefully help us attract interesting speakers, however, our Program Coordinator position is vacant. If you are interested in serving and gaining useful experience in arranging programs, please contact Ron Edelstein.

The regular monthly ExComm Meetings for 2010 are moving to the second Wednesday an hour before the monthly membership meeting. Old timers will remember that this is a return to how we met in the past. The meeting location is scheduled for Souper Salad on Anderson Lane, south of the library where the membership meetings are scheduled. This will allow interested members to attend both the ExComm and membership meetings with only one trip each month. ExComm meetings are scheduled for 6:00-6:50 PM at Souper Salad, 2438 West Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78757. It is on the north side of Anderson and west of the Burnet intersection Burnet Rd., 7900 North by 2438 West on the city grid.

Our regular Monthly TGIT (thank goodness it's Thursday) meetings for 2010 are the same time and place as in 2009. They are scheduled for 6-8 PM the second and fourth Thursdays at Central Market on North Lamar and the third Thursdays at Central Market on South Lamar. Second Thursday meetings are attended by folks who like general conversation and at times participation in LSM committee meetings Third Thursday meeting attendees generally spend the evening telling stories. And the monthly newsletter fold and sticker workshop is held in conjunction with the fourth Thursday meetings. Meetings may be rescheduled if a holiday or Mensa special event conflicts with TGIT.

All meetings are open to Mensa Members and guests. Membership Meetings are also open to the general public.

November ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at 6:00 PM, November 4, 2009, at the Northwest Community Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX. Attending were: President Ron Edelstein Chairman; Vice-President Don Drumtra Secretary; Treasurer Patty Drumtra; Members-at-Large Paul Anderson, Kathie Lawler, and John Neemidge, Membership Chair Fred Goertz, and LSM members Helen Siders and Kelly Walraven. The ExComm adopted without debate the agenda and the September 9 ExComm minutes published in the September Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 7.

Don reported that the ExComm did not adopt an email motion to hold 2010 monthly meetings on the Second Tuesdays at the North Village Branch Library.

Ron announced that there were no officer changes in October.

Patty reported that at the end of October that LSM is in good financial health. The ExComm adopted the report without debate. Financial reports are available to members on the LSM Website and by request; quarterly are also published in the ALG.

Kathie, Communications Chair, reported that the last mailing went well but there were delays in getting the newsletter to Austin for review on time. She will be checking on it.

Don reported for the Education Committee that Mensa scholarship applications were being accepted and that announcements were sent to various schools and would be available at the monthly meeting. He passed out copies of the announcement at the meeting.

Fred reported that LSM needs a proctor coordinator and several proctors to maintain its testing program.

Ron reported for the Symposia Committee that there will be a picnic honoring new members on November 7 and the December general meeting will be the annual Christmas Party scheduled for December 12. The ExComm adopted a motion to reduce the cost to \$5.00 per person payable at the door with the SymCom picking up any remaining cost. Soft drinks, beer, and wine will be available. The ExComm approved a reimbursement of \$114.24 in support of the Halloween party.

John, LonestaRG 2009 Chair, advised that his report

was not yet completed.

John also reported that LonestaRG 2010 participation remained at 22 registrations and \$800. LSM is desperately in need of an RG chair.

The ExComm adopted a Standing Rule (ASIE) to hold 2010 membership meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the North Village Branch Library and a Standing Rule to hold TGITs on the second, and fourth Thursdays at Central Market North and the third Thursday at Central Market South except on holidays.

Since the Northwest Recreation Center is closing for renovation in 2010, the ExComm considered holding the 2010 ExComm meetings 6:00 to 6:50 PM at Souper Salad on Anderson Lane before the general meeting. The V-P agreed to draft a standing rule with specific dates and time for consideration at the next meeting.

Don announced the next regular monthly ExComm meetings were scheduled for 6-7 PM, December 2 (the first Wednesday), at the Northwest Recreation Center multipurpose room. ExComm meetings are open and all Mensa members may attend. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.



Picnic to Honor New Members Was a SUCCESS

-by Helen Siders

November seventh was a perfect autumn day to meet and greet Lonestar Mensans, including several new members. We scheduled the picnic at our favorite park, Northwest Park at 7000 Ardath St. in central Austin. Attendance was around 25 or 30.

We ate a lot of food and drank iced tea. We discussed the ongoing Election of new officers. Children ran and played. Ron Edelstein commandeered the grill. When darkness fell, we lit some candles and kept on picnicking.

It was a pleasure to welcome the seven or eight new members who were able to attend. Throughout the long afternoon, the light breezes kept on blowing colorful leaves across the meadow.

What's Happening in December?

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.

ExComm Meeting

(usually) 1st Wednesday

Wednesday, December 2 6:00-7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Contact the ExComm Secretary, Don Drumtra, at drumtra@aol.com, 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda.

Officers are encouraged to attend and all LSM members are welcome.

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursdays

Thursday December 10 Midnight

Email: scubakathie@gmail.com & bookbird@yahoo.com

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

Photos from the Holiday will be particularly welcome. Please list persons' names and whether they have agreed for their photo to be published.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

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

Thursday, December 10 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, December 17 at Central Mkt South

Tuesday, December 22 at Central Mkt North

Central Market Café 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market North at Central Park

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

Central Market South at Westgate

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

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

Central Market (North) Café is located on the south side of the Central Market grocery store in the Central Park shopping center east of N. Lamar between 38th and 41st Streets.

We usually meet upstairs but if there is party, look for us downstairs or outside.

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

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 12 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Coffee-a-Deli

11800 North Lamar Blvd., Austin

See the LocSec column on page 3 for details.

Monthly Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday (2010)

Saturday, December 12 6:30 - 9:00 PM

At the Holiday Party.

Games Night

3rd Saturday

Saturday, December 19 7:00-11:00pm

Hosted by Patsy Graham

5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757

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

Fold & Sticker

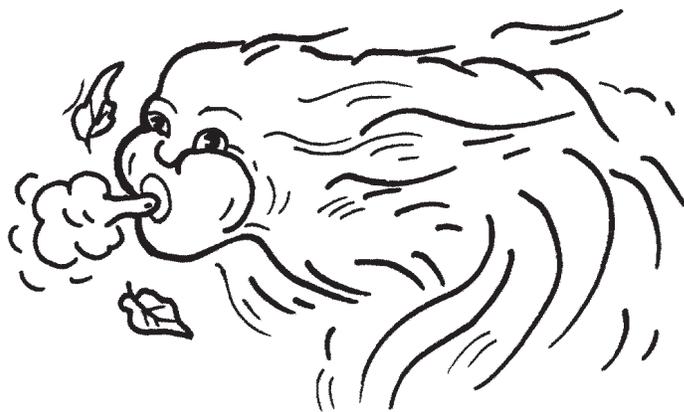
4th Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Tuesday, December 22 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Cafe, Austin

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

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



Coming in January

Wednesday, January 13: ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, January 13: Montly Member Meeting

Thursday, January 14: TGIT

Thursday, January 14: 'Dillo Deadline

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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.

Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.



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

2009 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		December 1	2 ExComm Meeting	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	11	12 Holiday Party
13	14	15	16	17 TGIT South	18	19 Games Night
20	21	22 TGIT North Fold & Sticker	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	January 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9