

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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Number 7

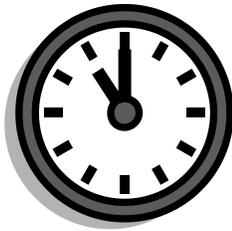
July 2009

LonestarRG XI: The Eleventh Hour

Sep. 4-7, 2009

Round Rock, TX

LonestarRG



- Planned speaker topics include procrastination, clocks, the death penalty, Texas wines, and more
- Pajama Party

- Abundant hospitality, with meals, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, margaritas, and more
- Games and contests
- And much more!

Don't wait 'til the last minute! We're planning a great weekend for you this Labor Day. Lots of interesting speakers, workshops, games and contests, plus planned wine, cheese, and chocolate tastings, await you!

Registration is only \$50 until July 10, \$60 until July 31. Children 9-17 half price, 8 and under are free. Send registrations to Jane Thompson, 2305 Monaco Drive, Cedar Park TX 78613, (jane12125@austin.rr.com). To register online via PayPal, or for program information, hotel information, RG pictures, and more, see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>.

Our RG hotel is the Wingate By Wyndham, located at the intersection of IH-35 and US-79 in RoundRock. Our room rate is \$89/night. The room rate includes a hot buffet breakfast. For reservations call 512-341-7000; our group code is LSMG.



July Monthly Meeting



July 7: Mensan Linda Edelstein, an Enrolled Agent and retired IRS revenue agent, will give a presentation on important changes in the tax code. Learn what actions you can take before the end of the year to take advantage of some of the latest benefits.

Our June speaker was LCRA Senior Engineer Ron Anderson. Ron gave a terrific presentation on the LCRA & water supply issues facing Central Texas. Attendance of 13 high IQers was a 30% increase over the May meeting.

In the Pipeline

August 4: Mensan Phil Ryals with the Goodwill Computer Museum will provide a presentation on the museum. <http://www.austincomputerworks.org/museum/index.html>

September 1 Dr. Clare Wuellner, Executive Director of the Center for Inquiry Austin. <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/austin>.

Lonestar Mensa Officers - 2009

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

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Bylaws Committee

Chair: Don Drumtra

Members: Ron Edelstein, John Neemidge, Lu Russell, Steve Skelton, Helen Siders

LonestaRG Committee

Chair: John Neemidge

Members: *Facilities* John Neemidge, *Gifted Children* Michele Vaughan, *Hospitality* Andrew & Kem Edelstein, *Hotel* Robin Beadles, *Payments* Patty Drumtra, *Programs* Geri Neemidge/Linda Edelstein, *Publicity* Helen Siders/Paul Anderson, *Registration* Jane K. Thompson, *Scholarship* Vacant, *Security* Ron Edelstein, *Tastings* Kathie Lawler/Patsy Graham, *Testing* Ellen Lukasik, *Treasurer* Don Drumtra

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

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

Roger Durham

RVC6@us.mensa.org

LocSec's Corner

-by Ron Edelstein, LSM LocSec

By now I hope that most of the LSM members have had the chance to check out the new format for the LSM website. There have been quite a few changes lately and it's looking great. One of the things that has vastly improved is the calendar. We now are posting events out to the end of the year and beyond. This includes the speakers for the monthly meetings. As we get new speakers for the meetings we will post those so you can see two, three or more months ahead what is scheduled so you can plan to attend the ones that interest you. Hopefully that is most of them.

Since we are now open to having LSM members speak at meetings, consider if you have something to share that would make a good presentation. Let either our Programs Chair, Mike Makuch, or myself know what you'd like to talk about and when you would be available.

Also consider that if you sign up for getting your newsletter online you will get it a day or so sooner than the Post Office can deliver the print edition, and the more people who sign up for electronic delivery, the less it will cost us to mail out the print editions. You can also read the newsletter directly from the website. One advantage is that you get to see the graphics in colour instead of black and white. Past copies of the newsletter going back a couple of years are available on the website.

Winning Scholarship Contest Essay

-submitted by Claudia Harbert, Scholarships Chair

Each month this summer, you will be privileged to read one of the winning scholarship essays from this year's contest. The first is the essay that won our local group scholarship, officially a Karen Cooper Memorial scholarship. After our local judging, we send our top essays on for judging at the Regional and then National levels. The winners are chosen at these levels.

Local Group Winner of Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship – Pete Karagozian III

As I think about college and my career choices, I must consider my previous academic experiences and interests. My high school years have been enjoyable, enlightening, and motivating for me. Although early on I faced difficulties and challenges, I found over the last four years that not only could I meet these challenges, I

could master them. After my freshman year I saw education as much more than a mandatory requirement. I saw it as a pathway to my future, inspiring me to take every opportunity to study advanced subjects beyond the core curriculum. I have taken many honors and AP classes focusing on hard math and sciences. I found biology-and chemistry-based courses to be the most challenging, interesting, and personally rewarding for me. These courses have further inspired me to pursue a career in medicine. I see the medical field as not only an opportunity for self growth and success, but as an opening to give back to my community.

In high school, I developed a new respect and understanding for hard work. My hard work represents me, therefore I do not just complete it, but I complete it to the best of my ability. I intend to finish all tasks well, because the bare minimum is no longer rewarding and enjoyable. I have taken advanced courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. I am currently enrolled in (an) AP Biology II course and an advanced Anatomy and Physiology course. I have volunteered at Seton Medical Center Williamson to become more familiar with the inner workings of a hospital and medical environment. I am an active participant in the Key Club Community Service organization, marching and concert band, and the National Honor Society. These extracurricular organizations help me to remain focused on school work, continue to develop my time management skills, and most importantly, to actively contribute as a member of a team.

Ultimately my career goal is to become a physician and use my knowledge and expertise in the health sciences to help others. A career in medicine will allow me to combine my motivations and dedication to contribute to the health field, as well as helping other people. To achieve a career in medicine, I intend to participate in a challenging pre-med program while majoring in Biochemistry. I believe this curriculum will be essential for me to best prepare for medical school and eventually a medical profession.

I understand and expect the path to becoming a physician will be very difficult. I know that with my strong academic and time management skills, dedication, and motivation, I will be able to push through future obstacles and start a career that I truly enjoy and respect.

Note: All 3 of the winning essays for this year's scholarship contest are posted on the Lonestar Mensa website. The other 2 essays will appear one-by-one in the next issues of this magazine.

SynRG 2009

-by Phil So

All those who attended SynRG 2009 in Houston this last Memorial Day weekend had a great time. Highlights include MaDiana's "Nectar and Ambrosia" liqueur tasting, Anne's fantastic, all-inclusive Hospitality Suite and Chris and Patty's Chocolate Tasting. A real thrill was the Blues Trio consisting of Clarence Parker, Leonard Brown and Robert Mason rocking-out the audience Saturday. The Neemidge's "Name the Movie Game", Hugh's Philosophical Discussion, Amanda's Belly Dance demonstration and the Toga Party were also hugely popular. The Kid's Track events (Treasure Hunt, Kid's Casino, Mini Golf and Show and Tell) were also a lot of fun. The adults found the kids to be tough opponents in the Chess Tournament. It gave us great pleasure to welcome many new attendees from out of town and out of state.



Keynote Speaker, Dr. Johns-Krull discusses the findings of his cutting-edge research in astronomy.



Clarence Parker and his Blues Trio really knew how to get the audience on their feet.



Some "Pirates" hunting for treasure.



Amanda demonstrates Belly Dancing at the Toga Party, with help from Hugh.



Dr. Amos of M.D. Anderson describes his research in applying statistical analysis of genetics to predict diseases.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, especially those from out of town, who lent a hand and made this event go so smoothly.

Visit the GCM web site (www.gcmensa.org) or "MEN-SA – Gulf Coast Chapter" on facebook for more (color) photos from SynRG 2009 and the most up to date information regarding SynRG 2010.

June ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at 6pm, June 3, 2009, at the Northwest Community Center, 2913 Northl & Dr., Austin, TX. Attending were: Pres. Ron Edelstein, Chair; V.P. Don Drumtra, Secretary; Treasurer Patty Drumtra; Members-at-Large Paul &erson, Kathie Lawler, & John Neemidge; Membership Committee Chair Fred Goertz, Circulation Manager Helen Siders, & member Patsy Graham. The ExComm approved without debate the May 6 ExComm minutes published in the June Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 5.

Ron announced that he had accepted the resignation of Carla Young & appointed John as LonestarRG Chair & the ExComm had by email vote confirmed the appointment effective May 27. He also announced that he had assumed the positions of Ombudsman & Arbiter until he could find volunteers for those positions.

Don reported that ExComm had adopted two emergency motions by email since the May 6 meeting: a motion to accept of Carla Young's resignation & to appoint John Neemidge to LonestarRG Chair & a motion to adopt an amendment to the standing rule on the 2009 ExComm Meeting Dates to schedule future meeting dates to June 3, July 8, & the first Wednesday of each month after that at the NW Recreation Center (ASIE 2009-7). He moved that ExComm ratify each decision. By separate votes, the ExComm unanimously ratified the actions without debate.

Patty reported that the group was currently in good financial health & provided the ExComm the details that were posted online. The ExComm adopted the report without debate. Financial reports are available to members on the LSM Website & by request; quarterly reports are also published in the ALG.

Kathie, Communications Chair, reported that the new news cycle was to begin this month, June 11, when ALG submissions are due.

Don reported for the Education Committee (EdComm) that the \$400 Lonestar Mensa annual scholarship was awarded to Pete Karagizian III. Pete also won a scholarship from MERF. The ExComm thanked the Scholarship Committee members for their hard work in selecting a winner from the many submissions & particularly to Scholarship Chair, Claudia Harbert, for her leadership of the Scholarship Program.

Fred, Kathie, & Helen led a discussion about mailings to potential members through the use of email, first class mail, & bulk mail. The discussion included management of prospective member lists as well as meeting attendance lists that are some of our sources of potential members.

They agreed to work together to develop an approach to provide information to potential members, to ensure potential members would feel welcome at our meetings if they choose to attend, & to ensure names of guests at meetings be captured. Don moved that copies of all potential member lists including meeting attendance lists shall go to the Membership Chair to facilitate the membership process. The ExComm adopted the motion without further debate (ASIE 2009-8). A testing session has been scheduled for June 13 in Round Rock.

Don reported for the Symposia Committee (SymComm) that the picnic was a wonderful success with good food & great company. The varied background & life perspectives of the picnicgoers ensured interesting conversation. The June program presented by Ron Anderson of LCRA inspired many questions from the audience.

Don, Bylaws Committee Chair, reported that the ExComm approved bylaws were submitted to the AMC Bylaws Comm. on May 8 & received a response that the initial review should be completed in a month.

John, LonestarRG Chair, reported that he had appointed the members to the RG committee shown in the July ALG, page 2. John also reported that he had previously circulated a contract with among the ExComm members for comment & had responded in detail to all comments received. He moved that the ExComm authorize the President to sign a revised contract with the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel & Conference Center in Round Rock committing LSM to a guest room rate of \$89 plus tax & a total meeting room rate of \$1500-\$3000 plus tax after the responses provided were negotiated with the hotel to the President's satisfaction. The ExComm adopted the motion after debate. John announced that the next RG meeting was scheduled for 10 AM, Saturday, June 13, at the hotel.

Don moved that the standing rule on Website Information Availability be taken from the table & that further debate be postponed until the October ExComm meeting. The ExComm adopted motion without debate.

John moved that the September ExComm meeting be rescheduled for the 2nd Wednesday & that the standing rule be amended accordingly. The ExComm adopted the motion after debate (ASIE 2009-9).

Don announced the next regular monthly ExComm meetings were scheduled for 6-7 PM, July 8 (2nd Wednesday), August 5, (first Wednesday), September 9, (2nd Wednesday), & the first Wednesdays in October, November, & December, at the Northwest Recreation Center multipurpose room. ExComm meetings are open & all Mensa members may attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

From the RVC

In my 35 years of Mensa membership, I have noticed that the favorite pastime of some Ms (very few, thank goodness) seems to be pontificating at length on subjects about which they know little or nothing. I don't know why they do this, perhaps in order to make themselves seem more knowledgeable, and hence more interesting, than they actually are, but for whatever reason, they insist upon doing so at every opportunity. Now, unfortunately, an opportunity has arisen which they find well-nigh irresistible.

Some of you are undoubtedly aware that American Mensa Ltd. has, for the last couple of years, been involved in a lawsuit against a foreign company which applied for trademark registration of a name which included the letters "mensa". AML opposed their application, and when they declined to make some modest changes in their logo, a suit was filed. All of this was a normal and rational reaction to an attempted infringement on our name, which we have spent a great deal of time, effort, and money to publicize over the years.

Last month this lawsuit finally came to trial, and while the jury found in our favor on the issue of our ownership of (and hence the right to defend) the trademarked name "Mensa", they were unable to award us monetary damages, due to an unfortunate ruling by the judge. Consequently, AML was unable to recover our attorneys' fees, which were much higher than anyone had expected at the commencement of the litigation, when it was believed that the parties would be able to reach a settlement. As a result, the AMC has voted to make some minor adjustments in the current year's budget to help offset the expense of the lawsuit.

Now, a notice of appeal has been filed, and thus the lawsuit is still on-going, so the AMC members, including myself, cannot yet divulge the details of the actual litigation, but I can tell you that the costs of the suit are being paid, and the budget adjustments are largely limited to details of administration affecting the way that the AMC and the National Office operate. There are a very few proposed new programs which will be postponed for a year or two, but no current member benefits will be affected. In other words, you will not even be aware of the changes that have been made.

There are, however, a handful of ill-informed and irresponsible members who have chosen to disseminate false and malicious rumors that Mensa is somehow

"broke" and facing financial ruin. Nothing could be further from the truth. The AMC Finance Committee and National Office staff have done an excellent job of managing our resources so that the outcome of this litigation, whatever it may be, will have virtually no impact on the activities and benefits available to the membership. If you hear otherwise, it is from someone who is either ignorant of the facts, or deliberately trying to stir up trouble for their own amusement.

Roger Durham

Welcome New Members

Zachary Stoebe
Christopher Both
Quentin Mather
Lisa Mather
Valerie L Kaiser
Clifford J Spradlin

Welcome Back Members

Bruce Wayne Jean
Aleta Ann Wallace
Raul Rodriguez Calvoz
Sue E. Thompson
Felix Eugene Garrett
Jimmie D Roberts
Kenneth Joshua Mueller
A Oriana Yates
Michael Clinton Moyer
Vaughn E Akins
Melanie G Glover
Reiser Mayne
Albert W Neff III

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Zachary R Calvert

TGIT South

The next meeting of this energetic group will be 6:00pm July 16, 2009 at Central Market South at Westgate, 4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, phone 512.899.4300. Look for the statues of vegetables on the sidewalk just inches from the street. We will eat at the Central Market South CAFE for fun, conversation and food. Look for a Mensa sign. Questions call Don (291-0315) or Patty (291-0361) or Helen (799-6985).

What's Happening in July?

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

Monthly Meeting

1st Tuesday

Tuesday, July 7 **7:00-8:45pm**

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library
7051 Village Center Drive, Austin
Southeast of the intersection with Far West Blvd.
Speaker: Linda Edelstein

Topic: Important changes in the Federal Tax Code
Please see the meeting announcement on the front cover for details.

ExComm Meeting

1st Wednesday

Wednesday, July 8 **6:00-7:00pm**

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room
2913 Northland Drive, Austin
Contact the ExComm Secretary, Don Drumtra, at drumtra@aol.com, 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda.
Officers are encouraged to attend and all LSM members are welcome.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

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

Thursday, July 9 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, July 16 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, July 23 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.

South of Austin Diners

Thursday, July 9 **6:00pm**

Pappa Pasta, San Marcos
Host: The Fortins (512) 754-8956
Please feel free to bring family, significant others and friends. We enjoy meeting new folks and learning more about this area of Texas. This month we will return to San Marcos and dine at Pappa Pasta – 2550 Hunter Road.
If you need directions or further information, call The Fortins at 512.754.8956 or email fortin_associates@hotmail.com.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, July 23 **6:00-8:00pm**

Central Market Café, Austin
4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020
Help fold and label the newsletter. Prospective members welcome. See TGIT for directions.

Coming in August

Monthly Meeting

1st Tuesday

Tuesday, August 4 **7:00-8:45pm**

Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library
7051 Village Center Drive, Austin
Southeast of the intersection with Far West Blvd.
Speaker: Phil Ryals
Topic: The Goodwill Computer Museum

ExComm Meeting

1st Wednesday

Wednesday, August 5 **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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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		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday							
July				1	2	3	4 
5	6	7 Monthly Meeting	8 ExComm Meeting	9 TGIT North S. Austin Diners 'Dillo Deadline	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16 TGIT South	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23 TGIT North Fold & Sticker	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31	August	1
2	3	4 Monthly Meeting	5 ExComm Meeting	6	7	8	