

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 1

January 2010



Roger Durham, Region 6's Estimable RVC, as The Judge in Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial By Jury*.
-photo by Ron Edelstein @ NTM's Thanksgiving RG



Lonestar Mensa Officers - 2009

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

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Education Funding Coordinator:	Vacant		
Scholarship Chair:	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205	mensascholarships@gmail.com
Education Publicity Coordinator:	Vacant		
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Testing Proctor:	Mike Tolbert		
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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, welcome to the New Year. If you are reading this then you survived the holiday season and the transition according to our arbitrary time system from one year to the next. It's been custom in many societies to take a new year as a fresh start with resolution or simply reappraisal of past life and evaluate what changes should be made going forward. Some people seem to be satisfied with the way things are and don't bother. Either way is good if it fits you. Personally, I sort of do that every morning when I get up. I've got a lot better chance to make a change in one day than I can project for a whole year. If you do the best you can every day, the year will pretty much take care of itself.

This is likely to be my last column as the Lonestar Mensa LocSec. I've mostly enjoyed the last two years in this position, but I'm quite happy to hand it off to someone else. It's funny, trying to manage an all-volunteer non-profit group is much harder than managing a department or group in a large company or a military unit, and I've done both. You don't have the same system of rewards and disciplines available to you that a business executive or military officer has. You have to deal with each person's individual strengths and challenges more carefully, walk a thin line between over-managing and not giving enough guidance. Those things are true in the other venues too, but they are absolutely critical in the volunteer organizations, where everyone is getting paid the same thing...nothing! LSM is a large group, as American Mensa groups go. Last I saw (two days before I wrote this) we were #30 out of around 300 or so nation wide. We have nearly 600 members, but nearly everything that make the group work is done by about two dozen people. Whatever their foibles, they are willing to show up, roll up their sleeves and do the work. Some know I've expressed frustration, exasperation and other emotions at times, but I want every one of those who turn out and show up to know that I appreciate their efforts to make LSM a going organization. I hear complaints from time to time about the boring programs or "nothing going on interesting". My answer is, if you don't see what you want, jump in and make what you want to happen. Complaining from the sidelines will not get you what you want. Make it happen!

So folks, I'll still be around, but now I get to sit in the sidelines and shoot spitballs at the leaders. But I'll be volunteering because I enjoy Lonestar Mensa and want

it to keep going. Join me.

Happy 2010!

Ron Edelstein

Lonestar Mensa LocSec

Bylaws Amendment Balloting Results

-submitted by Ron Edelstein

The votes have been cast and validated. The results of the by laws voting were:

- * 24 votes cast
- * no votes disqualified or rejected for irregularities
- * 13 votes in favor of adopting the new, proposed bylaws
- * 11 votes against

Result: the new by laws passed. The results of the election and the by laws will now be forwarded to the National Office, which will then inform us when they will become effective. I'll publish a notice when we receive that word.

					8	9		
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				6	9		2	
3	9	8				1	6	4
	2		8	1				
5				3				7
7		2			5		4	
		3	1					

January Birthdays

- 2 Jonathan L Hochman
- 8 Betty Knight Davis
- 8 Paul F Memrick
- 9 Charles Wilson
- 10 William C Neely Jr
- 12 Steven C Adamo
- 13 Maria M Crompton
- 16 Rose M Berkowitz
- 16 A Jon Empey
- 16 Maria Maegan Priscilla Navarro Quejada
- 17 Rodney Appling
- 18 Robert J Ely
- 22 Evan Scott Melrose
- 22 Kelly L Rohm
- 25 Harry D Keirns
- 25 James George Zimmerman
- 26 Claude Harmon Garrett IV
- 26 Joseph L Rotunda
- 27 Matthew L Harris
- 27 Hans T Weger
- 28 Troy R Schneider
- 28 Brandon Westerheim
- 30 Duncan Stewart

Welcome New Members

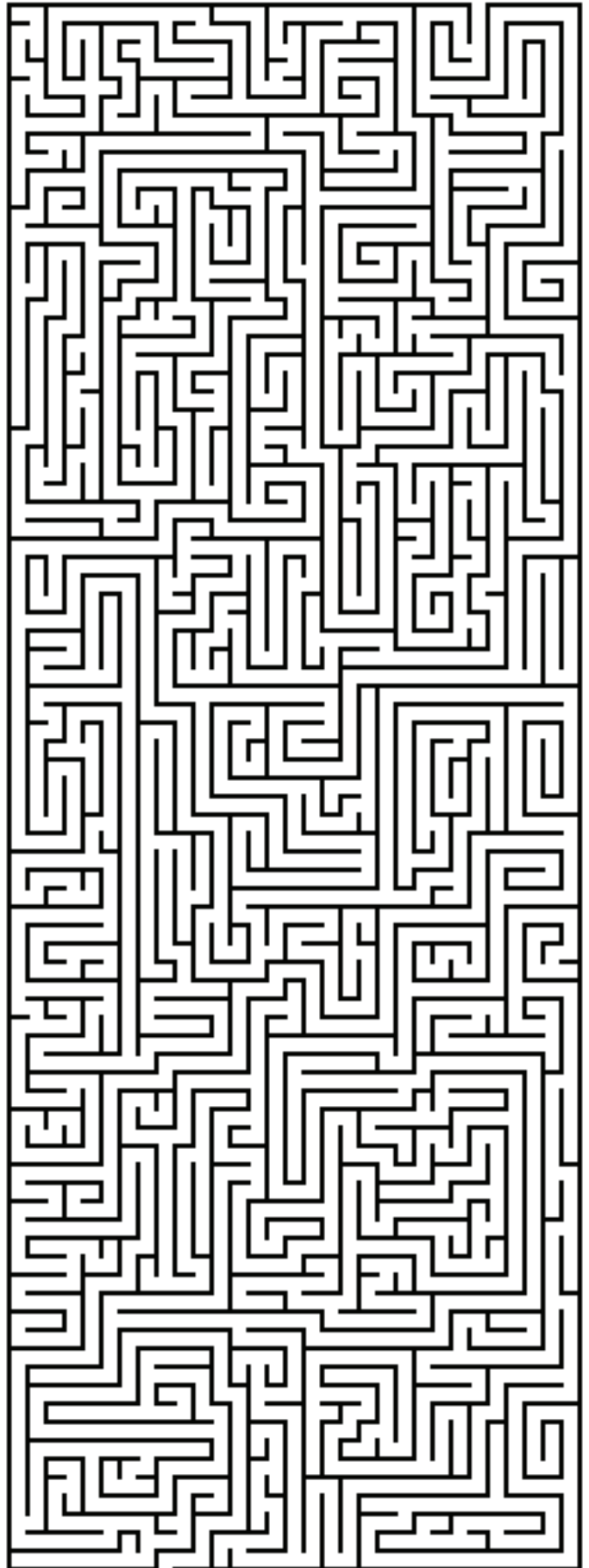
Michael Both
James B Hales
Matthew L Harris
Ashley Marrow
Joel N Rushefsky

Welcome Back to Lonestar Mensa

Matthew Kirk Biersmith
Shawn M Gamble
Greg B Leppert
Evan Scott Melrose
Andrew M Rooke

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Paul E Kent
Donna M Kornhaber
Patrick J Marshall
Brett McKenzie
James Lamar
Patsy M Graham



generated by <http://hereandabove.com/maze/>

From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, RVC Region 6

North Texas Mensa's Regional Gathering in Dallas was, as usual, a smash hit. In addition to the folks from other groups in Region 6, like Mensa 76, East Texas, South Texas, Lone Star, Gulf Coast, Permian Basin, Baton Rouge, Central Oklahoma, and New Mexico, there were visitors from Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Vermont, and Washington State. More than 150 Ms in all – what a party! RG Chair Carol Hilson did her usual superb job of organization, Kevin Buchanan's Hospitality was memorable, and Karen Brack provided an incredible array of eclectic programs, while new member Anne White put together the most popular RG dance I've seen in years. If you missed it, plan to come next year. And, don't forget Gulf Coast Mensa's 2010 RG, coming up over Memorial Day Weekend in Houston.

The proposed Mensa cruise in March, unfortunately, had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, but the train trip to the Annual Gathering has drawn numerous responses and I look forward to seeing many of you aboard the Texas Eagle next summer. I'll be working with Amtrak to finalize plans for the trip during the next few weeks, and by February I should be able to give you all the details.

Turning from fun to serious business, it's almost time to begin thinking about American Mensa's next national election in 2011. We'll be appointing the national Nominating Committee soon, and I hope to see our Region well-represented. If any of you would like to serve on the national NomComm this time around, let your LocSec know right away, as I will be asking all of our Region's LocSecs for names of potential NomComm members before the middle of January. LocSecs, please be thinking about who in your group has been active in American Mensa, knows lots of other members, and would be a good choice for the NomComm. It would be preferable, though not required, if

NomComm members can commit to attending the AG in Michigan, as there will be planning meetings and candidate interviews taking place at that time.

And, speaking of LocSecs, many groups recently went through local elections and have new officers taking over this month. My congratulations (or condolences) and best wishes to all of you who are newly elected to a leadership position in your local group. Please do not hesitate to contact me (rv6@us.mensa.org) if I can be of assistance in any way.

Roger Durham



1/4 of Lonestar Mensans are Electronic!

-submitted by Helen Siders

The number of Lone Star Mensans who have opted in to replace their paper newsletter with the electronic e-mail version remains stable at around 25%.

If you wish to join this hip group, go to the Profile Update page located at www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate. While you are at it, please verify that your email address is current.

Our USPS postage bill is less and our volunteer tasks of preparing the paper newsletters for snail mailing have decreased. Fewer trees are being used to get the Armadillo Literary Gazette to you. Thank you.

December ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at 6:00 PM, December 2, 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; Vice President elect Barbara Wilson; and Members at Large elect Helen Siders, and Danny South. The ExComm adopted without debate the agenda and the Nov. 4 ExComm minutes published in the December Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 6.

Ron announced that John Pfeiffer was appointed interim Proctor Coordinator and that he had accepted Mike Makuch's resignation from the Programs Officer position.

Don reported the results of the balloting on the by-laws amendment. All 24 votes received were counted. The vote was 13 for and 11 against. Ron declared the amendment passed.

Patty reported that at the end of November that LSM was in good financial health. The ExComm adopted the report without debate. Don presented a budget for 2010. The ExComm adopted the budget as Special Rule, ASIE 2009-13, subject to review of the incoming ExComm. The ExComm tabled a motion to adopt bank signature authority for the new officers until the bylaws implementation date is known.

Kathie, Communications Chair, reported that the last mailing went well but there were delays in getting the newsletter to the printer on time. She scheduled a Com-Comm meeting after the ExComm meeting to revise the News Cycle Standing Rule.

Education Committee provided no report.

Ron reported for the Membership Committee that testing is expected to begin in January.

Ron reported for the Symposia Committee that the December meeting / Holiday Party is scheduled for December 12.

John, LonestarRG 2009 Chair, reported that the RG report was being completed. The ExComm adopted the RG Treasurer's report without debate.

John also reported that LonestarRG 2010 participation

increased to 23 registrations and \$840. LSM is still looking for an RG chair.

The ExComm took the following action:

- (1) Extended the meeting to 7:30 PM;
- (2) Adopted a Standing Rule, ASIE 2009-14, scheduling dates, times, and locations all regularly scheduled meetings in 2010. There was considerable debate on the meeting date, time, and location time for the ExComm meetings and the date is scheduled for review based on the bylaws implementation date.
- (3) Tabled a motion to adopt a motion concerning election reports after considerable debate.
- (4) Briefly discussed rules for write-in candidates for elections. Since there are no write-ins allowed in the new bylaws, no rules were proposed.

Don announced that all reports and ASIEs were available on the Website and the next regular monthly ExComm meetings were scheduled for 6-6:50 PM, January 13 and February 10 at Souper Salad subject to change based on the bylaws implementation date December 2.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



TGIT South

The next meeting of our South Austin group is 6:00pm January 21, 2010 at Central Market South at Westgate, 4477 S. Lamar Blvd, Austin, phone 512.899.4300. Look for the statues of vegetables on the sidewalk next to the street. Onion, bell pepper, tomato, squash, apple, orange and more!

Enter Central Market South at its northmost door. We will eat at the Central Market South CAFE for fun, conversation and food. Look for a Mensa sign.

Questions? Call Patty (291-0361), Don (291-0315) or Helen (799-6985).

What's Happening in January?

New Year's Eve Party

Thursday, December 31 2009 8:00pm-1:00am
The Edelsteins'

Ham, sandwich makings, and soda provided. BYOB and a dish to share.

Location: 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin - just off Parmer, halfway between Mopac and 35. Turn onto Scofield Drive, go one block, turn right on Dapplegrey - house is at streetlight where Pony dead ends at Dapplegrey. RSVP to ledelstein@mindspring.com or by phone to 512-491-9881, by Dec. 28.

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, January 13 6:00-6:50pm

Souper Salad

2348 W. Anderson Ln, 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 Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

Wednesday, January 13 7:00 - 9:00 PM

North Village Branch Library

2505 Steck Ave, Austin

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursdays

Thursday January 14 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.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

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

Thursday, January 14 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, January 21 at Central Mkt South

Tuesday, January 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.

Games Night

3rd Saturday

Saturday, January 16 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.

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, January 19th 6:30pm

Athenian Grill

600 Congress Ave. (corner of 6th and Congress), Austin
RSVP to ledelstein@mindspring.com or by phone to 512-491-9881 by January 15.

Scholarship Essays Judging Party

Saturday, January 23rd 1:00pm until finished

Claudia Harbert's home

4 Forest Mesa, Round Rock 78664 (512) 238-0205

Judges needed! Please join us for an intellectual afternoon! Usually there are 30-50 essays of 500 words each. You'll read each one and grade it 1-10 in such categories as "grammar," "supporting statements," and "your reaction." You'll have company and munchies! If you'd like to bring food to share, that would be great!

RSVP when you decide, so we'll have some idea of how many to expect. Use maps.google.com or call for directions. Near the Dell Diamond.

Seal & Label

4th Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, January 28 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.

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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.

2010 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				31 New Year's Eve Party	January 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Excomm & Monthly Meetings	14 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	15	16 Games Night
17	18	19 Eclectic Eats	20	21 TGIT South	22	23 Scholarship Judging
24	25	26	27	28 TGIT North Seal & Label	29	30
31	February 1	2	3	4	5	6