

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lone Star Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 2

February 2010



February General Meeting

Speaker: Bruce Marshall

Mr. Marshall is a fourth generation Texan of the family that founded the city of Marshall, TX. His great grandfather was Brigadier General Bruce Marshall, CSA. Mr. Marshall is a well known artist and published author, mostly on subjects of Texas history. He will speak on the facts and myths about Sam Houston. There are some interesting twists where the official histories do not accord with the facts. Please come.



Lone Star Mensa Officers - 2010

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

LocSec:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
Vice President:	Barbara Wilson	512-854-9567	barbara.wilson@co.travis.tx.us
Treasurer:	Linda Edelstein	512-491-9881	ledelstein@mindspring.com
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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
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New Member Coordinator:	Vacant		
Officer Coordinator:	Vacant (Don Drumtra, Acting)		
Testing Coordinator:	Vacant (John Pfeiffer, Acting)	512-525-3507	johnpfeiffer@att.net
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
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U.T. Mensa President:	Skyler Kanegi	512-539-0427	skyler.kanegi@gmail.com
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SIGHT Coordinator:	Steve Vaughan	512-388-5970	svaughan@austin.rr.com
Arbiter:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Ombudsman:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Records Manager & Archivist:	Vacant		
Nomination Committee:	Chair: Janet Kres	Members: Geri Neemidge, Margaret Wofford	
Election Committee:	Chair: Janet Kres	Members: Geri Neemidge, Margaret Wofford	
Liaisons for Colloquium 2011:	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net

LonestaRG 2010 Committee

Chair: Ron and Linda Edelstein
Interim Members: *Facilities* John Neemidge, *Hospitality* Andrew & Kem Edelstein, *Hotel* Vacant, *Payments* Vacant, *Photographer* Vacant, *Programs* Vacant, *Publicity* Vacant, *Registration* Jane K Thompson, *Security* Vacant, *Tastings* Vacant, *Testing* Vacant, *Treasurer* Don Drumtra

Lots of help is needed at the RG. Please let Ron or Linda 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 Don Drumtra: drumtra@aol.com or 512-291-0315.

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) Roger Durham

RVC6@us.mensa.org

Don's Dialectics

-by Don Drumtra, LSM LocSec

At the New Years party, a member asked me what I planned to do as LocSec—what were my goals for 2010? My response was, “to have fun.” After all, was that not why I joined Mensa in 1975? One of the three purposes of Mensa is “to provide a stimulating and intellectual and social environment for its Members.” Within that environment we can have fun.

What is fun? To some, playing bridge is fun. To others playing poker is fun, or quilting is fun, or listening to engaging speakers is fun, or collecting and discussing gems is fun, or talking with friends at a picnic is fun, or discussing solutions to the world's problems is fun. All these activities can be done without Mensa but many seem to be more fun when they may be shared among friends who have the similar interests and get our jokes. Do we need Mensa to have fun? Not necessarily. But with a supportive and non-threatening environment having fun seems to be easier.

So who creates this environment? Civic societies and their institution provide the environments and frameworks within which individuals are more or less free to have fun. It seems to work best when the framework is invisible to the individual—it is there for support and its parameters are unconsciously understood. Most of us want to see little of our government, but we want its institutions and its officers to be available when we need them. Do we expect less from Mensa? We expect our officers to maintain the environment, to manage the framework, to arrange meeting places for our meetings, to schedule speakers, to provide a calendar so we know what activities are available, to manage our money so we can buy charcoal and condiments for our picnics, and to keep the environment stimulating. In Lone Star Mensa, some of us are those officers—we are the volunteer coordinators who sustain the environment so that all of us can have fun. We maintain the environment and the framework—the bylaws, rules, and other elements of bureaucracy—which are necessary, just like they are in the American Society, but which should remain invisible to most of us.

And what do I plan to do? I view my role as a coordinator of the coordinators—not a boss, not one who tells folks what to do, but one who provides other officers support by coordinating the activities of the officers of LSM. And playing that role is one of the ways that I have fun.

Bylaws Amendment Approved

Now Accepting Board Nominations

-submitted by Janet Kres, Nomination Comm. Chair

As Ron Edelstein announced on the LSM Announcement email list, the National Bylaws Committee approved our bylaws amendment and established an effective date of 23 January 2010. The Transition Section requires us to elect the 2010-2011 Board of Officers. We will be electing eight members to the Board, four to serve through March 31, 2011 and four to serve through March 31 2012. The elected board members will in turn elect the LocSec, Vice-President, and Treasurer from the board members we elect.

To start the election process, on January 13, the LocSec appointed Janet Kres, Margaret Wofford, and Geri Neemidge as members of the Nomination and Election Committees and Janet as Chair.

If you would like to serve on the 2010-2011 board please send an email by February 7 to the Nomination Committee at jmkres@sbcglobal.net advising us if you would like be included in the slate of nominated candidates for a one year or two year term. You may also petition with ten LSM member signatures to be directly included as a petition candidate. Under the new bylaws, there is no provision for write-in candidates. You may also send in your name by US mail to Janet Kres, 11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin, TX 78758-3508 or give your name to a member of the Nomination Committee.



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

-submitted by Helen Siders

Would you like to receive this newsletter, The Armadillo Literary Gazette, by E-MAIL instead of paper?

Now, why would anyone give up their paper version of the newsletter? Maybe you are a highly skilled computer user, who gets most of their information on-line. Or you want to save trees. Or your newsletter sits in a stack of paper for weeks or months after being read one time, and one time only.

To make this choice, go to the Profile Update page located at www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate. While you are at it, please update your email address. Thank you.

2009 Annual Financial Report

-by Patty Drumtra, 2009 Treasurer

We have had a good year financially. Overall revenue slightly exceeded expectations while expenses were 75 percent less than we had budgeted. The income statement shows the comparison between our budget and expenses for each of our programs. The low expense numbers show that we could have spent more and perhaps done more in each of our programs. Our balance sheet shows current assets of \$6,141 providing us sufficient resources for seed money for new projects. Long term assets include \$8,000 for the education fund, \$7,000 for the scholarship endowment, and \$3,000 held in reserve to support the 2010 RG. These funds provide us interest revenue to help support our programs although current interest has been significantly below what it has been in past years. Additional details on our finances are available on our Website. The ExComm adopted this report on 2010 January 13.

I have enjoyed serving as your Treasurer for the past two years and appreciate your support. I and hope to see you all at our events and activities in the future.

**Lonestar Mensa
Cumulative Program Activity Statement
(Income Statement)**

2009 January 1 - December 31

	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>	<u>100%</u>
Communications Program			
Total Revenue	3,900.00	3,934.45	101%
Total Expenses	3,900.00	3,479.56	89%
Education Program			
Total Revenue	480.00	481.00	100%
Total Expenses	480.00	174.59	36%
Membership Program			
Total Revenue	\$ 900.00	\$ 827.00	92%
Total Expenses	900.00	172.15	19%
Symposia Program			
Total Revenue	1,200.00	1,297.80	108%
Total Expenses	1,200.00	931.40	78%
Common Activities			
Total Revenue	150.00	150.00	
Total Expenses	150.00	187.41	125%
All Programs			
Total Revenue	6,630.00	6,690.25	
Total Expenses	<u>6,630.00</u>	<u>4,945.11</u>	75%
Total Programs	-	1,745.14	
LonestaRG			
Total Revenue	4,200.00	4,316.91	103%
Total Expenses	4,000.00	4,041.66	101%
Total Disbursements	200.00	275.25	138%
Undistributed Rev and Exp			
Total Revenue	760.40	445.76	59%
Total Expenses	<u>760.40</u>	<u>59.85</u>	8%
Total Contributions	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,131.05</u>	

February Birthdays

- 1 Dennis Robert McDaniel 14
- 5 Jan Cox 15
- 7 Justin L York 15
- 9 Meredith S Hardy 17
- 9 Lorna Schwimmer 18
- 9 Steven Vaughan 20
- 10 David A McCrae III 21
- 11 William W Adcock 23
- 11 Vivek Sarda 25
- 11 Philip A Watson 26
- 12 Jim-Ann Smith Oliver 27
- 12 Barry L Wilkinson 27
- 14 Phillip B McWilliams
- 14 Michael Seay

- Casey D Shaw
- Jeffrey Esquivel
- Linda Van Broeke-Pierce
- Jeffrey Neil St Onge
- Matthew L Rife
- Angela H Adams
- Dandy G Nichols
- Jeffrey McKee
- Christina Hinton
- Greg B Leppert
- Dave McCracken
- Geri Lynne Neemidge

Welcome New Members

- Justin C Bollier
- Benjamin J Sanders

Welcome Back to Lone Star Mensa

- Ashlie Newman
- James V Motsinger

**Welcome to Region 6,
Lone Star Mensa**

- Alan Lauer
- Arjun Malik
- Cristina E LaFuente
- Jimmie Lynn McDonald

Lonestar Mensa
Balance Sheet
2009 December 31

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash	\$ -
Checking Account	7,927.10
Certificates of Deposit	15,490.10
Less Funds and Obligations	(18,000.00)
Accounts Receivable	-
Interest Receivable (Allocated)	-
Prepaid Expenses	<u>723.87</u>
Total Current Assets	\$ 6,141.07
Long Term Assets	
Funds	18,000.00
Equipment	152.49
Other Long Term Assets	<u>-</u>
Long Term Assets	18,152.49
Total Assets	<u>\$ 24,293.56</u>
Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	
Liabilities and Appropriations	
Accounts Payable	\$ 228.44
Escrow Accounts	1,352.19
RG Reserve	895.13
Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation	352.50
Other Liabilities and Appropriations	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities and Appropriations	\$ 2,828.26
Net Assets	<u>21,465.30</u>
Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	<u>\$ 24,293.56</u>

From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, RVC Region 6

OK – the train to the AG is on! Thanks to some timely assistance from Austin Horowitz, the AG Tour and Travel Coordinator, we have an Amtrak fare code (No. X20B-981) that will give anyone traveling to and/or from the AG a 10% discount on the base fare. Note that those of us who are 62 and over will probably want to use Amtrak’s Senior Discount (15%) rather than the 10% convention discount. Either discount will apply only to the basic rail fare, but not the additional charge for sleeping accommodations, but note that the sleeping car charge includes all meals on the train. Also, the convention discount is good for all travel to and from the AG from 6/27 through 7/8, not just for our group, so if you only want to ride with us part of the way or just in one direction, or you want to go by train but on a different day, you can still get the discount. However, note that the convention discount is not available online

– you will have to make your reservations by telephone at 1-800-USA-RAIL. The senior discount can be reserved online.

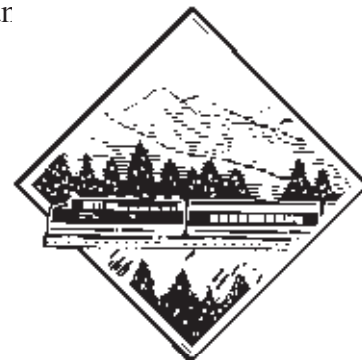
To recap the travel plans, Leslie and I plan to leave Dallas on Monday, 6/28 via Train 22, the Texas Eagle, which departs San Antonio at 7am, Austin at 9:31am, Ft. Worth at 2:20pm; Dallas at 3:40pm, and Longview at 6:15pm. Upon arrival in Chicago at 1:52pm on Tuesday, 6/29, we change to Train 354, the Wolverine, departing Chicago at 6pm and arriving at Dearborn no later than 11:59pm. Since the travel time from Chicago to Dearborn is only 6 hours, there is no sleeper on the Wolverine, and the extra fare for business class is probably not worth it.

Returning, we will leave Dearborn via Train 351 on Tuesday, 7/6, at 7:11am, arriving in Chicago at 11:24am, then changing to Train 21, which departs at 1:45pm. We will have 4 hours to do a very small amount of sightseeing in Chicago on the way to the AG, and I’ll be glad to take anyone who wants to go on an excursion to the top of the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower, now the tallest building in North America, but I suggest you not make any plans to leave Union Station on the way home, as we will have only 2 hours between trains.

Summer is Amtrak’s busiest season, so I encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible, either directly with Amtrak or through your travel agent.

In the meantime, membership renewals are due next month, so don’t forget to get your renewal in to the National Office as soon as possible. Early renewals save money for Mensa that can be used for the support of valuable membership services.

Roger Durhar



January ExComm Minutes

-submitted by Don Drumtra, ExComm Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at 6:00 PM, January 13, 2011, at the Souper Salad Restaurant, 2438 Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78757. Attending were: President Ron Edelstein Chairman; Vice-President Don Drumtra Secretary; Treasurer Patty Drumtra; Members-at-Large Paul Anderson, Kathie Lawler, and John Neemidge, and Treasurer Elect, Linda Edelstein.

(Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, the following is a bullet-list of the meeting's activities. The original document is available on the Lone Star Mensa website: <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>.)

- Adopted Dec ExComm minutes with out objections.
- Ron thanked the membership for their support.
- Ron announced that he found no discrepancies in the bank/treasurer records for Oct, Nov, Dec.
- Patty reported that at the end of 2009 that LSM was in good financial health.
- Patty reported that the Treasurer elect should turn over the 2009 books to Mark Kres on January 18 for his independent review.
- Kathie reported that the ComComm meeting was successful (report posted on the LSM Website).
- ExComm adopted the report & established a \$5 electronic ALG subscription fee.
- Kathie recommended adoption of an amendment to the LSM News Cycle standing rule ASIE 2009-5.
- ExComm adopted the amendment without debate, standing rules ASIE 2010-1 and 2010-2 respectively.
- Education Committee provided no report.
- Ron reported that testing is scheduled for 9-Noon, January 16 and 23, at the Leander Public Library.
- Ron reported that the January 13 general meeting will be soapbox presentations and that we have tentative speaker for February 10.
- Don reported that Omni Hotel, Southpark, Austin had been selected as the location for the AML 2011 Colloquium on the Social Impact of computer gaming.
- The ExComm adopted a motion to postpone indefinitely any pending motions and other actions of the 2009 ExComm and adjourned sine die at 6:20 PM.



Board of Officers Meeting Minutes

January 2010

-submitted by Barbara Wilson, Secretary of the Board

Don called the regular monthly meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers to order at approximately 6:21 PM, January 13, 2010, at the Souper Salad Restaurant, 2438 Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78757. Attending were: LocSec Don Drumtra, Chairman; Vice-President Barbara Wilson, Secretary; Treasurer Linda Edelstein; Past LocSec Ron Edelstein; Member-at-Large John Neemidge; ComChair, Kathie Lawler; and guests Paul Anderson and Patty Drumtra.

(Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, the following is a bullet-list of the meeting's activities. The original document is available on the Lone Star Mensa website: <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>.)

- No objections to published agenda.
- Don reappointed the committee chairs (see pg 2). No objections.
- Barbara asked whether the NomComm had been advised of the terms of the Bylaws Article VI 4. (c) Officers that limits the number to be elected to 4 this year based on the membership total of 623 at that time.
- Linda introduced the 2010 budget. Approved with expectation of amendments as needed. No objections.
- Don announced Guarantee Bank signing authorities would be Don Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, John Neemidge, Ron Edelstein and non officer Patty Drumtra.
- John reported that LonestarRG 2010 registrations remained at 23.
- John nominated Ron and Linda Edelstein for 2010 RG Co-Chairs. Don appointed them. No objections.
- Ron and Linda John as Facilities Chair, Andrew and Kim Edelstein as Hospitality Co-Chairs; and Don as Treasurer. They indicated that they intend to offer Jane K. Thompson the position of registrar.
- Board adopted the 1st Wednesday, 7-8pm, at the Edelsteins for Board meetings until the 2010-2011 Board assumes office. Meetings will remain open to all members who wish to attend.
- Barbara reported no protests re: the balloting of the election of 2010 officers.
- Don reported no protests re: the balloting on the by-laws in 2009.
- Board authorized destruction of the ballots and related material.
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:48 PM. Next meeting: February 3 at the Edelstein's.

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 for date, time, & location.

ExComm Meeting

(usually) 2nd Wednesday

Wednesday, February 3

7:00-8:00pm

Home of Ron and Linda Edelstein

1439 Dapplegrey Ln, Austin 78727

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

Officers are encouraged to attend and all members are welcome.

Monthly Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

Wednesday, February 10

7:00 - 9:00pm

North Village Branch Library

2505 Steck Ave, Austin

See the cover page for program details.

The library is located on the South West corner of Steck and Burnet.

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursdays

Thursday February 11

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. Email both to: scubakathie@gmail.com and bookbird@yahoo.com.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

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

Thursday, February 11 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, February 18 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, February 25 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. Once inside, look for a Mensa sign or folks with Mensa shirts.

Games Night

3rd Saturday

Saturday, February 20

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.

Seal & Label

4th Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, February 25

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.



Upcoming in March

March 3: ExComm Meeting

March 10: Monthly Membership Meeting

March 11: TGIT North

March 11: 'Dillo Deadline

March 18: TGIT South

March 20: Games Night

March 25: TGIT North

March 25: Seal & Label

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Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, except for those works restricted by the author.

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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
	<i>February</i> 1	2	3 Excomm Meeting	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Monthly Meeting	11 TGIT North <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 TGIT South	19	20 Games Night
21	22	23	24	25 TGIT North <i>Seal & Label</i>	26	27
28	<i>March</i> 1	2	3 Excomm Meeting	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Monthly Meeting	11 TGIT North <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	12	13