

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lone Star Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 3

March 2010



Top: John, Jim, Barbara and VeraLouise read essays at the Scholarship Judging Party

-photos by Claudia Harbert



Bottom: Ron discussed Mensa membership with Bruce Marshall, who spoke on the history and myth surrounding Sam Houston at the February General Meeting.

-photo by Don Drumtra



March General Meeting

Presenter: Alexander "Sascha" Petersen

Topic: A broad overview of the City of Austin's approach to reducing greenhouse emissions and responding to climate change. Sascha is the City's Climate Protection Program Coordinator. He is the man who knows the most about what the city is doing and its plans for the future to protect the environment. More information on Sascha is available on LinkedIn at, <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/alexander-''sascha''-petersen/4/a0a/68a>



Lone Star Mensa Officers - 2010

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

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Testing Proctor:	Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson		
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Awards Coordinator:	Vacant		
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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

A question some friends, acquaintances, and others have asked me since I graduated from UT last December is what are you going to do now? My answer has been, To continue working as the Vice-President of the Austin Power and Energy Society and the LocSec of Lone Star Mensa. The responses have usually been something like, I know what power and energy are but what is Mensa and what is a LocSec. "Mensa," I tell them, "is an international group of people who have gathered together for a common purpose of identifying and fostering human intelligence for the benefit of society, to encourage research about intelligence, and to provide an intellectual and social environment for its members." "A LocSec, or local secretary, is a person who coordinates the activities of the members so that we are all going in sort of the same direction in satisfying the members needs and moving toward the organization's goals. It is kind of like a chairman of a local society chapter but more like a community organizer or an activity coordinator." The next question is usually something like, "What kind of members do you have?" My response is generally, "The membership consists of individuals who score in the upper two percent of standardized intelligence tests—you probably would qualify." Sometimes, we would get into a discussion of how they might learn if they would qualify and I would share stories about Mensa's prior evidence and testing program for admittance.

Last month my article was about the invisible frameworks (or social environment) that the Lone Star Mensa officers and other committee members create and support so that the rest of the members may pursue the goals of Mensa among which is having fun. One set of these frameworks is that of Membership which includes our testing framework. Before testing, interested candidates are encouraged to review their background to see if they qualify on the basis of the tests they have taken already. That evaluation was free last month and many took advantage if it. If they could not find qualifying test scores, candidates could take the Mensa administered test to see if they qualify. Certified Lone Star Mensa proctors administer the tests and the tests are sent to the National Office for grading. A Testing Coordinator provides the LSM framework for testing, scheduling the facilities, proctors, and other things necessary for testing. Ellen Lukasik served as our testing coordinator until last fall qualifying many new candidates for mem-

bership. After that, no one stepped up to support testing and no tests were given until John and VeraLouise Pfeiffer stepped in to provide a new framework for our program. They found facilities, trained proctors, coordinated with the National Office, and generally revitalized our program. You will see new proctors appearing on our list of proctors as they are certified. At the last meeting, the Board commended John and VL for their successful efforts. LSM is stronger because they cared enough to volunteer.

What if you want to help? If you are interested in testing and might want to become a Certified Proctor, contact John and he will help you. If that is not your cup of tea, there are lots of other vacant officer/coordinator positions in which you might have fun creating the invisible framework to help other Mensans have fun. Or maybe you would have fun attending our monthly programs or simply hanging out with other Mensans at TGIT. We would like to get to know you.

Program Coordinator Needed

The LocSec is becoming overloaded. Please consider volunteering for Program Coordinator. This is an officer position responsible for setting up programs for our monthly general meetings the second Wednesday of each month. It is a good position for someone who is interested in learning about the various sources of speakers available in and around Austin and developing contacts with the various organizations that sponsor them. If you are interested please contact the LocSec, drumtra@aol.com. Programs are in the works for the next few months so there is time to learn what to do before taking over.

Nominations Committee

The Nomination Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of the following candidates to serve on the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers for the terms as shown:

Don Drumtra, 2010-2012
Linda Edelstein, 2010-2012
Helen Siders, 2010-2012
Patty Drumtra, 2010-2011
John Neemidge, 2010-2012

Other LSM members may also be considered for the board by submitting a petition with ten LSM member signatures directly to the Election committee (jmkres@sbcglobal.net or 11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin, TX 78758-3508) to be received by March 9.

Program Series

Climate Protection in the City of Austin

-by *Don Drumtra, LocSec*

A few years ago, after our Program on Austin's planned light rail system, several members expressed an interest in what the City of Austin was doing to protect our environment. In response, we began a discussion with the representatives of the City to see what sort of programs they could offer us to help us understand what is being planned for the future of Austin. They are enthusiastic about offering us a series of programs that might be interesting to Mensans who live in and around the city. Here is what we have come up with.

The first program of the series, on Wednesday, March 10, will serve as an overview of the series. Alexander "Sascha" Petersen is scheduled to provide us a broad overview of the City of Austin's approach to reducing greenhouse emissions and responding to climate change. Sascha is the City's Climate Protection Program Coordinator. He is the man who knows the most about what the city is doing and its plans for the future to protect the environment. More information on Sascha is available on LinkedIn at, <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/alexander-%22sascha%22-petersen/4/a0a/68a>

The second program of the series, on Wednesday, April 14, will address Austin's approach to reducing vehicle emissions. Austan Librach is scheduled to present details on Austin's Plug-in-Partners Program. Austan is the Director of Emerging Transportation Technologies, Austin Energy, a department of the City of Austin. He is Austin's point man for enlisting partners from a broad geographic mix of the largest municipalities and utilities in the country. More information on Austan is available at <http://epipc01.tamu.edu/phev/document/Austan%20Librach%20bio.pdf>

These programs are scheduled for the second Wednesdays in March and April at 7 PM, at the North Village Branch Library on the SW corner of Steck and Burnet in Austin. See the What's Happening page for details.

The future programs in this series will be tailored to our interests as expressed at the first and subsequent meeting. If you have particular interests in what the city of Austin is planning and doing, please let me know.



March Birthdays

- 1 Chelle Bell
- 1 Ben Daniel
- 2 Joanna J Newnam
- 2 Ryan S Fogarty
- 5 Christopher Malcolm Newland
- 5 Keith Busby
- 6 Mary Dunlap Young
- 7 Vladimir Garner
- 8 James V Motsinger
- 8 Jane Thompson
- 8 Joseph William Hrbek Jr
- 8 Justin Long
- 10 Joshua Benjamin Chlapek
- 13 Stephen Thomas Gase
- 14 Eric J Hammack
- 15 Terry Rodgers
- 16 Joseph Powell
- 20 Paul Anderson
- 20 James W Kendrick
- 20 Jeff Ridgeway
- 20 Patrick J Marshall
- 21 Ashley C Bowie
- 22 Ken A Finn
- 22 Benjamin J Sanders
- 23 Lee Edward Forman
- 24 Lydia Ann O'Neil
- 24 Gerri J Duke
- 24 Zachary D Simecek
- 24 Isabella Taylor
- 25 Trudy L K Loper
- 25 Gary Paul Davis
- 25 Sara E Aronson
- 26 Elizabeth Johnston Vasquez
- 27 Sara S Sharpe
- 29 Alan Lauer

Welcome New Members

Tami Heaton
Leslie A Hibbard
Michael Huddleston
Jantzen Matzdorff

Welcome to Lone Star Mensa

Ryan S Fogarty
Joyce L Gioia-Herman
Christopher Malcolm Newland
Frank M Lopez

Welcome Back to Lone Star Mensa

Charles Frank
Sheldon Benjamin Kohan
Donna Hynes Kruse
Michael Ryan Maguire
Ryan Rozich
Laura Shankland
David Sikora
McCartney Melville Taylor I

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From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, RVC Region 6

As mentioned before in this space, the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering (RG), over Memorial Day weekend in Houston, is coming up in just a few short weeks. Now, if you don't live in the Houston area, you may be asking yourself, "Well, good for them, but what does that have to do with me?" I'll tell you.

Once upon a time here in Region 6, it used to be common for members of various local groups to get together and attend other groups' RGs. In fact, that's actually one of the major benefits of Mensa membership: the ability to travel around and visit other Mensa groups' activities. Not only will you have a good time and meet some new friends, it gives you a chance to see what other groups are doing that you might want to borrow for your own local group.

Some of my favorite Mensa experiences have come at out-of-town RGs; not just our local ones like Houston and San Antonio, but also the Kansas City Buffalo Stampede and the Confederate Uprising in Huntsville, AL. RGs are a great way to get away for a weekend while still surrounded by congenial people in a safe and relaxing atmosphere.

Borrowing an idea from one of my fellow RVCs, Ken Silver of Minnesota, I have worked up a little table to show you that it's not really that long a trip from most places in the region to the nearest RG. Plan ahead and Southwest Airlines will take you there and back for under \$100 in many cases, or just load up the car and take off down the interstate. The time of your life may be just a few hours away. Some one-way mileage:

Home City	RG – Austin	Dallas	Houston
Albuquerque	705	647	884
Baton Rouge	432	440	268
El Paso	577	636	747
Little Rock	514	319	439
Lubbock	384	348	519
Midland	317	331	476
Oklahoma City	388	207	445
New Orleans	511	520	348
San Antonio	80	274	198
Shreveport	327	187	238
Tulsa	452	256	494

As you can see, except for those at the very far west end of the region, most of you have at least one RG within less than a 1,000-mile round-trip. If you've never been

to another group's RG (and especially if you've never been to an RG at all), think about giving one of this year's gatherings a try.

DON'T FORGET – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Roger Durham



LSM Board of Officers Minutes

2010 February 3, 7:15-8:15 PM, Austin, Texas

-submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

Attending Don Drumtra, Ron Edelstein; John Neemidge, Danny South, John Pfeiffer, Vera Louise Pfeiffer and Patty Drumtra. The Board by unanimous votes acted as follows:

- Confirmed the adoption at the last meeting of a Resolution to grant LSM Check signature authority to the individuals listed in the Resolution (ASIE 2010-5).
- Confirmed the LocSec recommendation to the National Office and subsequent appointment of Michael McCormick, Michael Tolbert, Kelly Walraven, and Charles Wilson, as LSM proctors and members of the Membership Committee and the appointment of Don Drumtra as Record Manager and Archivist.
- Adopted a motion to commend John Pfeiffer for serving as the Testing Coordinator and a Proctor and revitalizing the LSM testing program and VeraLouise for serving as Proctor and helping John with the revitalization process
- Adopted special rules on Board Composition, Transition Elected Officers, and Transition Elections (ASIEs 2010-6, 7, and 8)
- Adopted standing rules amending the LSM Program Structure and Officer Responsibilities and delegating authority to the Communications Committee to approve free ALG electronic subscriptions to selected individual groups (ASIEs 2010-9 and 10)
- Postponed until the next meeting motions to approve the January Board minutes and adopt a standing rule revising the content and format of future print and electronic versions of the minutes of the Board of Officers.

The next Board Meeting, attendance at which is open to all members, will be held at the home of Ron and Linda Edelstein, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, at 7 pm on March 3. Details of ASIE's approved can be found with the detailed minutes posted on the LSM Website.

XII LONESTARG 2010 XII

Dozens of choices

The “dozenth” celebration

- * Planned speakers on a variety of subjects
- * Games
- * Casino Night
- * Kid’s track for the Young Mensans
- * Contests
- * Dance
- * Tastings

And a lot more!

Come celebrate a dozen years of LonestarRG with your Mena friends. Hedonism on a budget. This is “family friendly, so bring ‘em all. This year’s LonestarRG will be held on Labor Day weekend, 3-5 September 2010. The venue will be the Wingate by Wyndham Inn on IH-35 in Round Rock, the same as last year. The room rate includes an extended Continental breakfast. Room rates will be announced on the website and in the newsletter as soon as contract negotiations are complete.

Send registrations to Jane K. Thompson, Registrar LonestarRG XII, 2305 Monaco Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78613 (jane12125@austin.rr.com). To register online via PayPal or to download a printable registration form, go to: www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm

Registration is \$45 until June 1st, \$50 until July 4th, \$60 until August 21st, \$70 until September 3rd and \$75 at the door. Children 9-17 half price and 8 or under are free. Day Trippers are \$40/day.



Judgment Day Party Meets Superbowl Sunday

-by Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chair

Judging the scholarships essay contest entries is the kind of fun that Mensans are likely to enjoy! This year, we had an essay from a prison inmate who is taking classes toward a degree he hopes to finish by the time he is freed. We had a contestant who wants to be a dentist; his friends say it’s to inflict pain, but he says it’s to squirt the water through the syringe. One loves to sing, another is studying historic preservation, and one has been reading everything he can find about filmmaking. Some of the essays made us laugh, some were exciting, and some had some sad aspects.

Each of our judges read and assigned points to 30 essays. Then each judge read the 10 highest-scoring essays from the group they hadn’t yet read. We had lots of food and each other’s company, to make it a peaceful and relaxing afternoon doing something mentally stimulating with friends. What a fine way for a Mensan to spend an afternoon!

Please consider signing up to judge next year! The party is on a Saturday afternoon in late January or early February. In true Densa fashion, I always get worried at some point that I have scheduled the party on Superbowl Sunday; but of course, that can’t happen with a Saturday party! The party is similar to a Superbowl party, though, with the cold winter outside, the food, and winners at the end.

This year, two judges who couldn’t attend the party judged the essays from home. Gloria and Ron Fortin saved the day by judging the essays from home, when we had an emergency combination of an overload of essays and a slight shortage of judges. Thanks, Gloria and Ron and the judges at the Judgment Day Party: Barbara Wilson, Jim Mangum, Vera Louise Pfeiffer, and John Pfeiffer. Please thank our judges when you see them; they provide an important service for Lonestar Mensa!

What's Happening in March?

Boear Meeting

1st Wednesday

Wednesday, March 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.

Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

Wednesday, March 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 Thursday

Thursday March 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, March 11 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, March 18 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, March 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, March 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 Thursday (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, March 25

6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Cafe, Austin

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin

(512) 206-1020

Join the TGIT Group and help seal and label the newsletter. Prospective members welcome. See TGIT for directions.



The Lubbock Windmill Museum

-photo by Walter Stewart

Upcoming in April

April 7: Board Meeting

April 14: Membership Meeting

April 8: TGIT North

April 8: 'Dillo Deadline

April 15: TGIT South

April 17: Games Night

April 22: TGIT North

April 22: Seal & Label

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The *Amadillo Literary Gazette* is the official publication of Lone Star Mensa. Mensans who are not members of LSM may subscribe for \$10/yr for paper copies or \$5/yr for electronic copies. 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
	<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
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	29	30	31	<i>April</i> 1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Excomm Meeting	8 TGIT North <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	9	10