

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lone Star Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 10

October 2010



Don't Jump! At the surprise field trip after the September general meeting, Jill Mayfield explains to members (from left) Mike Poole, Michael Tolbert, Ron Edelstein, and Nick Ireland, the subtleties of water treatment. The brown grassy area behind the members is part of a parking lot that serves as a filter to clean runoff water before it enters the settling pond in front.



Lone Star Mensa Officers - 2010

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

LocSec:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
Vice President:	Patty Drumtra	512-291-0361	drumtrapa@aol.com
Treasurer:	Linda Edelstein	512-491-9881	ledelstein@mindspring.com
Past LocSec:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Senior Officers:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
Communications Chairman:	Charles Wilson	512-220-6175	lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Rachael Stewart	512-496-8725	bookbird@yahoo.com
Proofreaders:	LocSec, Past LocSec, Communications Chair, John & Geri Neemidge		
Webmaster:	Charles Wilson	512-220-6175	lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
Media Coordinator:	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
Elist Coordinator:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
Web Contact:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
Education Chair:			
Scholarship Coordinator:	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205	mensascholarships@gmail.com
Gifted Children Coordinator:	Michele Vaughan	512-388-5970	lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com
Membership Chairman:	Frederick Goertz	512-569-1758	fgoertz@gmail.com
Testing Coordinator & Proctor:	John Pfeiffer	512-525-3507	johnpfeiffer@att.net
Testing Proctor:	Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson, Mike McCormick, VeraLouise Kleinfeld Pfeiffer		
New Member Coordinator:	Mike Poole	512-326-1459	mike_poole@sbcglobal.net
Symposia Chair:			
Symposia Publicity Coord.:	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
San Marcos Coordinator:	Gloria Fortin	512-754-8956	fortin_associates@hotmail.com
This committee is all about arranging for fun at local gatherings. The committee needs someone to get speakers for and arrange our monthly meetings and someone to arrange picnics, parities, and activities.			
Arbiter:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Ombudsman:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Records Manager & Archivist:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
Liaisons for Colloquium 2011:	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
LonestarRG 2011 Committee			
Co-Chairs:	Geri and John Neemidge		
Members:	<i>Facilities Vacant, Hospitality Vacant, Hotel Vacant, Payments Vacant, Photographer Vacant, Programs Geri Neemidge, Publicity Vacant, Registration Patsy Graham, Security Vacant, Tastings Vacant, Testing Vacant, Acting Treasurer Patsy Graham, Raffle & Donations Coordinator Vacant</i>		
Lots of help is needed at the RG. Please let John or Geri know if you can spare some time to volunteer.			
Mind Games 2012 Bid Chair:	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141	mensapats@att.net
Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)	Roger Durham		RVC6@us.mensa.org

Article Submissions: editor@lsm.us.mensa.org

Calendar Submissions: calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org

Angel Oak,
South Carolina



Don's Dialectics – Just Tell Someone To Do It NOT!

-by Don Drumtra, LocSec

I have suggested that members who wanted to become active in Lone Star Mensa activities should volunteer—we should just do it. Occasionally, however, I hear something that some folks might consider a corollary: “Just tell someone to do it.” It usually comes in the form of someone complaining to me about someone or something they disagree with: “You are LocSec, why don’t you just tell someone to do it?” It may be followed by the statement, “We elected you to be in charge; so just tell someone to fix it!” It is the same thing, as just do it isn’t it? Well, no—it does not work that way.

Some folks apparently think that the LocSec, as Chairman or President of the board, has all sorts of authority over others. Some perhaps think that I can just tell someone to do something and it will be done. Well, that is not what I have experienced in the other volunteer organizations I have had the pleasure of working with, nor has it been my experience in Mensa. In LSM, the real authority to get things done lies not with the LocSec or committee chairs but with the coordinators—the volunteers who actually do the work. These are the members who arrange the picnics, the Halloween and Christmas parties, the speakers for the general meetings, the scholarship reviews, the programs for our children, and other wonderful events like the RG we just had. Coordinators work with each other in four groups or teams of similar functions called standing committees to share ideas, experiences, and financial resources: the Communications Committee or ComComm, the Education Committee or EdComm, the Membership Committee or MemComm, and the Symposia Committee or SymComm. But if all the work is done by coordinators, why do we need committee chairs or the board?

The most important job of the standing committee chairs do is to help make the coordinators jobs easier by providing help and resources when they need it. Second, by understanding what the coordinators do, the chairs help coordinate the activities of the team members to reduce duplication and to help them make better use of the team’s resources. Third, the chairs represent the coordinators by working with the elected officers of the board (who represent all members) to decide how LSM resources should be allocated and what common procedures are needed for LSM as a whole (like procedures for reimbursing members for the money they spend on

LSM activities). Finally, the LocSec has the administrative job of helping the board function. That is why I am called a Local Secretary, rather than a Boss. In the February *Dialectics*, I wrote about coordination and frameworks. In that context, the role of the board and the LocSec is to coordinate the activities of the standing committees, and to maintain LSM frameworks. It is not our job to tell folks what to do—it is our job to make it easy for them to just do it.

So if you have an idea, if you have a problem to solve, if you disagree with someone, what should you do? I would suggest you talk first to the coordinator for your topic and explain your concerns. If you are not satisfied with the results, you can talk it over with the standing committee chair. If you are still not happy, you might want to discuss your concern with and explain your issue with one of the elected officers. We promise to listen. To do otherwise is a disservice to the volunteers who donate their time so that you can have fun. Better yet, volunteer to help or to be a coordinator, particularly if you see that a coordinator position is empty. Don’t tell some one to do it, volunteer to help them do it—just do it.

Picnic!!



We are throwing a picnic at Northwest District Park in north central Austin on October 2, home of some previous LSM picnics. Bring a dish to share for our potluck meal, your own main dish and your own beverage if you don’t drink ice tea. There will be a fired-up BBQ grill if you need or wish to cook. We will have plates, napkins, utensils, charcoal and ice tea. Bring your friends, family and leashed pet.

We will be using one of the long concrete picnic tables. You may want to bring a lawn chair. The park is shady, but sunscreen is always a good idea. There is a great children’s playscape near the tables. More details email Helen Siders at xlartemis@gmail.com or call Linda Edelstein at 491-9881.

It may be hot! We do not have an alternate place for extreme heat or rain. The picnic tables are well shaded and we will have fun.

Directions: Northwest Park is located between Anderson Lane and 2222 and also between Shoal Creek and Burnet Lane. Take the Anderson Lane Exit East off of Mopac (Loop 1). Turn right on Burnet Road, then right on Pegasus, left on Ardath.

October Program - City of Austin Water Plans for the Future

-by Don Drumtra, acting Program Coordinator

The October program wraps up our series with the City of Austin environmental activities. A representative of the Austin Water department will let us know what the City is considering for the future in terms of drinking water, waste water, storm water, and solid waste to accommodate the growing population of Austin.

It has been a great series and we are extremely grateful for all the speakers of the City who gave up their evenings to enrich our understanding of the City in which we live and or work. We have become better citizens through the knowledge we have gained.

Please join us for the final next exciting program 7 - 8:30 PM, the second Wednesday, October 13 at the North Village Branch Library on the SW corner of Steck at Burnet in Austin. See the "What's Happening" page for detailed directions.



Jill Mayfield, of Austin Water, at the September general meeting, pointing out various parts of Austin's new water treatment plant.

Welcome back to Mensa and Lone Star Mensa We missed you

Carol Anne Deese * Christopher Garza
James H Hord Jr * Michael G Jones
Chris Markey

Welcome New Mensa Members to Lone Star Mensa

Alan Baumann * Anthony G Cassano
Akshay Prabhu * Matt C Rhoads
Conrad Gordon Walton Jr * Laura Pointer Wilkerson
John Wilkerson * Douglas Yee
Maia E Young

Farewell to our Departures We will miss you

Marcus D Chance * Todd Pogue

Welcome to our new Arrivals to Lone Star Mensa

Jonathan Baumgardner * Patrick Buchanan
James K Corbin II * Hunter Gasaway
Brock Gascon * Brian Hoard
Kimberly A Mills

October: Happy Birthday!

- 1 Melanie G Gover
- 1 Robert Brian Holder
- 1 David Floyd
- 2 Sarah Flowers
- 3 John David White
- 3 Diane E Tominaga
- 3 Thomas M Spillman Jr
- 4 Karen M Werner
- 4 Joan C Dameron
- 4 Donna D Graves
- 5 Han-Wei Chen
- 6 Shaughn Simmons
- 7 Lawrence Patrick Marlin
- 10 Robert Allan Larson
- 10 Nina Jo Saint
- 15 Vicky Yvonne Spradling
- 16 Brett McKenzie
- 20 Tlaloc Espinosa
- 23 Michael Bennett McCormick
- 25 Audrey L Patton
- 26 Robert I May
- 28 W Andrew York
- 28 Kimberly R Chapin
- 29 David R Travis
- 29 Mary Frances Satterfield

From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, RVC of Region 6

A recent study by the National Office shows a disturbing trend: nationwide, only about half as many Mensa qualification tests have been given so far this year as were given by this date in 2009. This has unfortunate implications for the future of our organization, as testing is our primary source of new members, now that two of the most popular college tests, the SAT and the GRE, are no longer available for our use. A little investigation indicates that the reasons for the decrease are many and various, but here in Region 6 there seems to be a common denominator: not enough proctors.

Now this is not true of every group, by any means. Our largest groups generally have plenty of proctors available and are doing lots of testing. Our smaller groups, however, generally have only one active proctor, at most. This is a two-fold problem: first of all, if one person is doing all the testing in your group, they can easily get burned out or discouraged, and gradually decrease the testing frequency in your area until your group isn't doing any testing at all. Second, if your group's only proctor dies, fails to renew, or moves out of the area, there is no one left to train another proctor, and in a region the size of ours, the nearest proctor in a neighboring group may be hundreds of miles away.

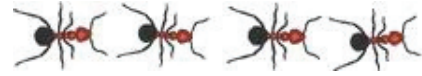
"Why is this a problem?" you may ask. Well, for two reasons. One is that, without a source of new members, a small group may just wither away as it's long-time members move, lose interest, or die off. The second reason is that the testing program can and should be an important source of funds for your group.

Right now, two groups in our region are without a proctor. One of them has a volunteer who is willing to train as a proctor, but getting someone there to do the training is going to require a real effort. American Mensa is working on a program to alleviate this problem, by providing on-line proctor training that will replace some of the personal instruction that is now required, but that alone, while very helpful, will not solve the problem unless we have some volunteers willing to be trained. That, of course, is where you come in, especially if you belong to one of our smaller groups.

If you have earned a degree from an accredited four-year college or university, and are willing to give about two hours a month to your local Mensa group, please contact your group's LocSec or Testing Coordinator

and volunteer to become a proctor. No experience is required, although testing experience will substitute for some of the required training, and it's really very easy. You'll have fun and help your group at the same time. Thanks!

Roger Durham



September Board Minutes

-submitted by Patty Drumtra, Board Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:38 PM, September 7, 2010, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX 78727. Attending were: Ron Edelstein, Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, John Neemidge, Charles Wilson, and Helen Siders. The Board adopted without debate the agenda and the July and August minutes printed in the September Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) page 8 and 7 respectively.

Don appointed John and Geri Neemidge RG co-chairs for LonestarRG 13. The board unanimously confirmed the appointment.

Don announced that Helen gave him all Circulation Manager records that she could find in her house, agreed to turn in any other records she might find in the future, and to remove membership records from her hard drive. Helen confirmed these agreements.

Linda presented the August 2010 Financial Report. The Board approved the report with a correction.

Charles reported on three ComComm topics:

- Restructuring the Website: the ComComm planned to advertise for a Webmaster who could assume expanded duties, and in the interim to act as Webmaster, to assist Website content coordinators in making minor Website design/organization changes. He recommended that the Website rehosting not be considered until the NO had completed their server software upgrades and could let us know what services would be available to local groups in the future.
- Newsletter Article Control: the ComComm planned to establish positive article control with response to submitters and work on the structure of the newsletter. All submitters should use the editor and calendar email addresses for their submissions.
- Newsletter Circulation: the ComComm considered

the concerns and recommendations of Helen Siders and reported that it would update circulation coordinator instructions, train the coordinator backup to assume circulation duties, and add members to the ComComm as needed.

The board accepted the report and its recommendations and reaffirmed that the ComComm could add members to its committee as needed provided they were not designated LSM officers.

Charles also reported for the MemComm that there were four tests administered at the RG and the next scheduled test is on Mensa Testing Day October 16.

Linda reported for the RG Committee that the RG was a success. More detail and financial reports would be given at the next meeting.

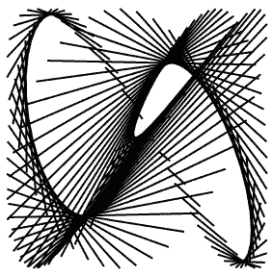
John reported the status of the 2011 Electronic Gaming Colloquium,

Helen Siders verbally submitted and the board accepted her resignation from the board effective Sept. 7, 2010.

The next monthly board meeting will be Tuesday, October 5, at 6 PM at Ron Edelstein's house.

Helen announced the Fall picnic will be Saturday, October 2.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM



Interesting Web Sites

-by Rose Berkowitz

Here are some useful and/or interesting sites I've found recently on the web. If you know of any others you'd like to share with our LSM community, please send me the links at rberkowitz@austin.rr.com and when I have enough saved up I'll publish them in another column.

.....
This site runs continuous humorous and satirical videos:

<http://www.theonion.com/video/congress-announces-plan-to-hide-nations-porn-from,17243/>

(I knew about The Onion, but I didn't know it had this

feature. Funny!)

.....
Here's a new service YouTube is offering, that works kind of like Pandora but for videos:

The "Leanback" option picks and successively plays high-demand, high-definition videos without needing a remote: **<http://www.youtube.com/leanback>**

.....
For fans of old-time radio mysteries. These ran in the 70's and are free to download: **http://www.oldtime-radiofans.com/template.php?show_name=CBS%20Radio%20Mystery%20Theater**

They're introduced by E. G. Marshall, and feature people like Ann Meara, Mandy Patinkin, Tony Roberts, Robert Mitchum, etc.

.....
This site says it's a "taste engine" for TV shows and movies: **<http://www.jinni.com/>**

It can interface with Netflix and several other similar services, and offers a more in-depth way of setting up recommendations for you, based on various characteristics such as mood, plot, and topic. You can search using your own words.

.....
Would you like to know what other people are saying about the medications they take? **<http://www.askapatient.com/>**

- You can also:
- Add a rating for your medicine or look at ratings and comments from other patients.
 - Find information about all prescription drugs currently approved by the FDA, along with many over-the-counter medicines.
 - Find the best sites for further drug information, patient rights, and legal help:
 - Add your comments about a medication.

.....
Wolfram/Alpha is a computational knowledge engine: **<http://www.wolframalpha.com/index.html>**

You can enter just about anything you want to calculate or know about, and it will present you with a comprehensive analysis. Be sure to watch the video introduction first--it's amazing! <http://www.wolframalpha.com/screencast/introducingwolframalpha.html>

What's Happening in October?

Picnic

Saturday, October 2

4:00pm

Northwest Park, Austin
7000 Ardath St

See page 3 for details.

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Tuesday (except July)

Tuesday, October 5

6:00-7:00pm

Home of Ron and Linda Edelstein

1439 Dapplegrey Ln, Austin 78727

Contact the Board Secretary, Patty Drumtra, at drumtrapa@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, October 13

7:00 - 8:30pm

North Village Branch Library

2505 Steck Ave, Austin 78757

(512) 974-9960

See the article on page 6 for more information.

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

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursday

Thursday October 14

Midnight

Email: lonestar.mensa.webmaster@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: lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com and bookbird@yahoo.com.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

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

Thursday, October 14 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, October 21 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, October 28 at Central Mkt North

Central Market Café 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market North at Central Park

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78756 (512) 206-1020

Central Market South at Westgate

4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78745 (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 who appear smart.

Memorial for Former LSM Member Steve Harsch First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin

Saturday, October 16, Howson Hall 2:00pm

4700 Grover Ave., Austin TX

Kelly Wagner will be hosting a memorial for Steve Harsch on Saturday, October 16, 2 pm. The church is at 49th and Grover.

Games Night

3rd Saturday

Saturday, October 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.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, October 28

6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Cafe, Austin

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78756 (512) 206-1020

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

LSM Mustelid Mansion Halloween Party

Saturday, October 30

7:00pm

The Neemidge's

1807 Messick Place, Round Rock, TX (512) 310-7863

Come celebrate Halloween with Geri and John at our annual Halloween Party! As always, we'll provide sandwiches and snacks, soda, and Geri's famous witches' brew; please bring something (beverages, side dishes, snacks, treats, etc) to share. Costumes are encouraged, and we'll have a costume contest, but you're also welcome to come as you are. Bring your friends and family and join in the fun!

Upcoming in November

Tuesday, November 2	Board of Officers Meeting
Wednesday, November 10	Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 11	TGIT North
Thursday, November 11	Dillo Deadline
Saturday, November 10	Games Night
Thursday, November 18	TGIT South
Tuesday, November 23	TGIT North
Tuesday, November 23	Seal & Label

Armadillo Literary Gazette -- October 2010

PERIODICAL Postage Paid at
AUSTIN, TX

Permit #554-650

POSTMASTER:

Please send change of address to:
ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE
c/o American Mensa, Ltd.
1229 Corporate Dr West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103
MONTHLY
PUBL OFFICE: 3206 Twilight Trail, Austin,
TX 78748-2608

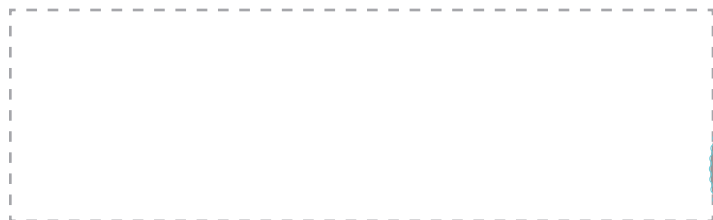
PUBLICATION NOTICES

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 2nd Thursday of each month. Submissions October be by email (ASCII/text/.txt/.rtf format preferred) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity October be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter October 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 October 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, accurately sized, and should be submitted electronically in JPG or PDF format. 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.



See the online calendar for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes to calendar items. Online calendar inputs may be submitted at any time. Calendar inputs for the printed calendar are due to calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

2010 Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					October 1	2 Picnic
3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Member Meeting	14 TGIT North <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	15	16 Harsh Memorial Games Night
17	18	19	20	21 TGIT South	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 TGIT North <i>Seal & Label</i>	29	30 Halloween Party
31	November 1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5	6