

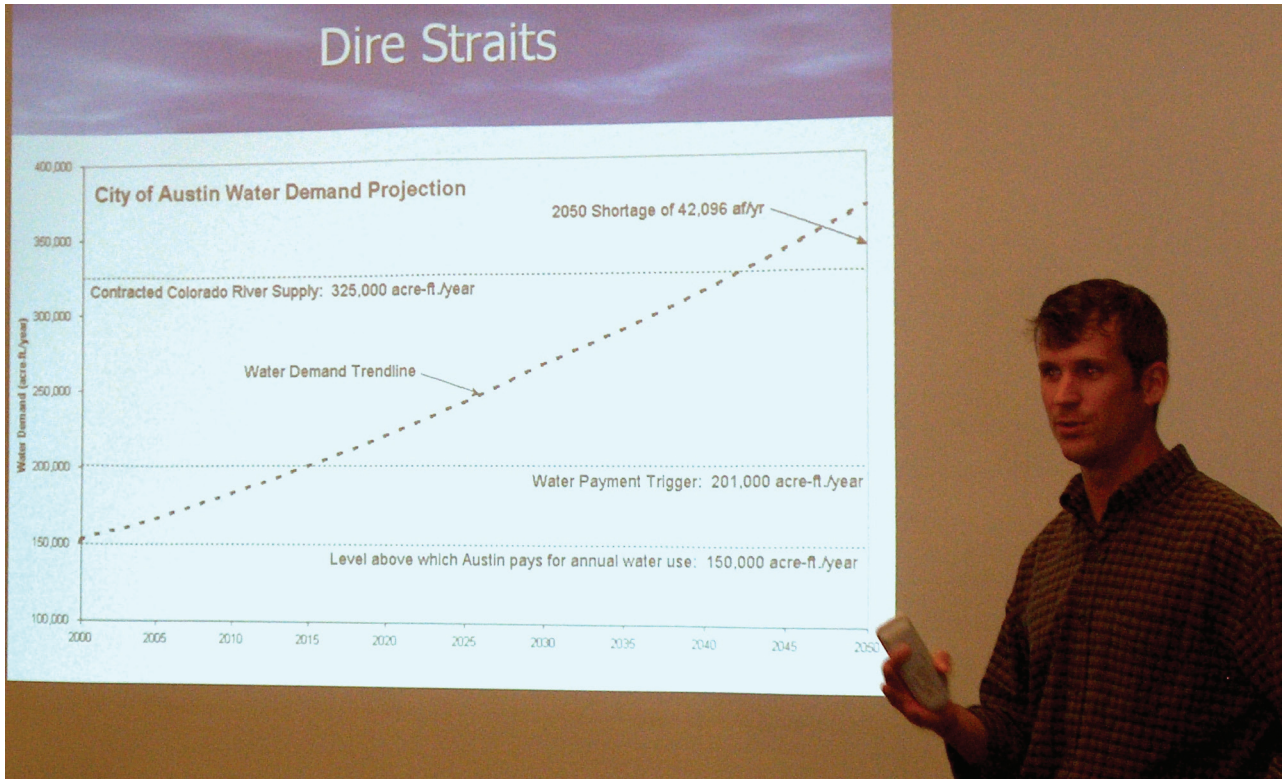
Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lone Star Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 11

November 2010



At October's General Meeting, Cole Newton explains the dire straits facing Austin in the future if we continue business as usual. The city is setting up a parallel water system in some locations to provide recycled water for golf courses and other high water users.



Lone Star Mensa Christmas Party -- Y'all Come!

New members! This is a great way to meet other members of your Lone Star Mensa family. Old members, see people you haven't seen since the last party!

Date: Saturday, 18 December 2010, Time: 6:30-9:00 PM, Place: Coffee-a-Deli Cost: \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children 3-10 years old, Children under 3 are free

Dinner will be buffet style, with turkey and the trimmings, veggies and Vnue's wonderful soups, tarts and dessert bars. Coffee, tea, soda, and Mensa wine and beer. (Please drink responsibly!)

There will be a mystery gift drawing. If you wish to participate, please bring a WRAPPED gift to put under the tree, value not more than \$20.00. It can be new or gently used, store bought or homemade. Rules will be the same as the last two years. You will get a ticket at the door with your number on it. When your number is called, you may either choose a gift from under the tree or take one that someone else has already chosen. Any gift "captured" twice before is ineligible for recapture.

Please RSVP to Ron or Linda Edelstein at 512-491-9881 or ledelstein@mindspring.com before 5:00 PM, Tuesday, 14 December. We need to give a head count to our caterer so she knows how much food to prepare. There is a limit on space, no more than 40 people, so if you don't RSVP, the party may be full when you get there.

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
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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

LonestaRG 2011 Committee

Co-Chairs: Geri and John Neemidge

Members: *Facilities Vacant, Hospitality Vacant, Hotel Vacant, Payments Vacant, Photographer Vacant, Programs Geri Neemidge, Publicity Vacant, Registrar Patsy Graham, Security Vacant, Tastings Vacant, Testing Vacant, Treasurer Andrew York, Raffle & Donations Coordinator Vacant*

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



Tea -- The Charleston Tea Plantation is the only tea plantation in North America

Don's Dialectics – RG Fun for All

-by Don Drumtra, LocSec

You missed a great party if you did not attend the LonestarRG in early September. There were great speakers, great games, great hospitality, and great conversation. A few of us shared stories into the wee hours of the morning. With the exception of the scholarship raffle and auction, this RG was to be a money loser. Projected registration revenue was low and projected costs were high so that all our overall budgets projected a loss. We could have increased registration, cut program costs, cut food and at hospitality, and let the beer run out, but the committee decided to keep registration at the low rates established last fall, fund a great RG for those who did attend, and cover the loss from our general treasury. Well, as I write this, it looks like we did not have a loss. Although the final report is not complete, it looks like there were enough last minute registrations, and enough small cost savings that revenue slightly exceeded expenses providing positive funding for the 2011 RG. How did this happen? Who made this happen?

Well, all of us who participated played a part, particularly the RG committee members. Thanks to John Neemidge and Robin Beatles of the hotel who worked together to set a reasonable price for the facilities we used while still providing great room rates for the guests. Thanks to Andrew Edelstein and his many volunteers who ran hospitality providing good food and still while remaining under budget. Thanks to Jane K. Thompson who managed registration and Patsy Graham who manned the registration desk throughout the RG. Thanks to MaDiana Diaz for the coffee tasting; thanks to Chris and Patty Williams for the Chocolate Tasting; and thanks to Ron Edelstein for the cheese tasting—all three were under budget. Thanks to Linda Edelstein for the excellent programs. Thanks to John and Geri Neemidge for the super games, Margaritas, and the movie quiz. Thanks to Charles Wilson and Mike Tolbert for conducting Mensa tests for prospective members. Thanks for Helen Siders for coordinating the Scholarship Raffle and Auction and to Claudia and Artemis Harbert for assisting; it was the best ever. A big thank you to Ron and Linda Edelstein for Chairing the RG committee and all the volunteers who helped make the RG a success. And finally, thanks to all who attended without whom the RG would never have happened. Check out Geri's RG photos on Facebook.

Is that all? No, the fun continues. John and Geri Neemidge hosted their annual Halloween party--thank you both. Mike Poole is hosting our November General Meeting—thank you Mike. The third TGIT and Seal and Label will be on Tuesday in November because of Thanksgiving. And Ron and Linda Edelstein are building a lot of interest in our Christmas Party in December. Check the calendar for the specific dates and other activities that other folks are setting up.

Rose's Ramblings

Dear Fellow Lonestar Mensans,

I've been a member of this chapter now for over a year. I was a member of Central New Jersey Mensa before that for over 20 years. I have to say I'm mystified. The two experiences are like night and day.

In New Jersey the chapter was quite active. The calendar was full of events, members participated. Special efforts were made to welcome newcomers. Get-togethers were full of puns, of singing, of wonderful pot-luck dishes. I made many friends there, many of whom I still keep in touch with via phone and email. Several of my friends called me from a collating party/BBQ just last weekend to say how much they missed me and my late husband.

When I moved to Austin, I expected to find something similar—maybe even better. After all, Austin is the “live music capital of the world.” People here strive to “Keep Austin Weird” and Austin is heralded as a center of progressive thought.

Yet there seems to be little interest in Mensa among its members here. I don't mean to offend anyone—it's your choice how you spend your time. But again, I'm mystified. Why bother renewing your membership every year if you're not interested in participating?

And I ask you—why not? Why does it seem that most of you don't care to make the effort to get to know more people in Lonestar Mensa? Don't you enjoy spending time with other like-minded people that are at your same level of intelligence? Wouldn't you like to see more, and more varied, events on the monthly calendar?

I've been writing this column now for several months, but I have no idea if anyone is reading it, let alone enjoying it. I've asked for your input, but received none. I'd really like it if some of you would get back to me at rberkowitz@austin.rr.com and give me some feedback, or some ideas of things you'd like to see me write about. I need a reason to continue putting in my time and effort.

And I encourage you to take the initiative and come up with some ideas for calendar events. I'm somewhat disabled and can't drive, so I can't be the one to make the first move. But someone out there must have a guitar or a karaoke machine and be willing to lead a sing-along, someone must know of a good, reasonably priced restaurant or tavern in a convenient location where we could gather on a Friday night to tell stories or have a punning contest, someone must have access to a clubhouse with a movie theater where we could eat popcorn and watch a great old classic.

Come on guys! Let's make Lonestar Mensa the envy of the other groups.

--Rose Berkowitz

November Meeting

Speaker: Austin Partners In Education

-submitted by Mike Poole

Like many people, I have become increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of our nation's education system. It's bewildering to think our country is now ranked 25th in the world in mathematics proficiency and 21st in Science. I'm not a teacher. But I recognize the importance of an educated workforce in maintaining our standard of living compared with the rest of the world. I wanted to get involved locally but didn't know how.

Then a friend told me about Austin Partners In Education (austinparkers.org). They are a non-profit alliance between Austin Independent School District and the Austin Chamber of Commerce that coordinates volunteers to help instruct and mentor in schools. We are called "Classroom Coaches" in APIE parlance. There are a number of different programs ranging from 2nd grade to high school seniors. One thing they all have in common is addressing the pressing needs of students right in our own neighborhoods. Last year 850 local professionals helped thousands of kids through the training and coordination of APIE.

I chose the College Readiness program. I volunteer 45 minutes each week for 15 weeks to help high school seniors achieve college level proficiency in mathematics so they are not required to take remedial courses when they enroll in college.

The programs are so interesting and varied I thought other Mensans would enjoy hearing about it. Paige Elijah, will speak about Austin Partners in Education at our next Member Meeting on November 10th at the North Village Branch Library on the SW corner of Steck and Burnet. See the *What's Happening in November* section for more details. I hope you will be able to attend the discussion.



Partners In Education

Welcome back to

Mensa and Lone Star Mensa

We missed you

Terri M Carl * Daniel Bryan Harvey
Stephen Shannon Janes * Maud Ann Reddehase
Jason Wallace

Welcome New Mensa Members to Lone Star Mensa

Brandon D Anderson * Christian Jackson
Michael P Meyer * Kelly E Seigler
Mark Spillers * Audrey D Webb

Farewell to our Departures We will miss you

Jody Farquhar * Kyle Patrick May

Welcome to our new Arrivals to Lone Star Mensa

Pathikrit Bhowmick * Jonathan A Blair
Kevin Michael Smith

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 William Gerald Baker
2 Ross H Toungate
4 Jeffrey David Johannigman
5 Alvin Bennett
8 Susan Marie Shaffer RN
9 Paul W Roeber
10 Michael G Jones
10 Joseph Kalapach
11 Kelly Williams
15 Tiana Endicott
15 Douglas Perret Starr PhD
15 Michael C Wheeler
16 Scot R Courtney
16 Jackson E Crosley
17 Paul R Albers
17 Peter Anthony Crossley
18 Ron Edelstein
18 Kyro J Rear
18 Audrey D Webb
19 Mark Fortress
21 Jennifer Burgess-Capoccia
21 Ron Fortin
21 Tristan Meredith Waitt
22 Brian Cruver
23 Susan R Sides
25 Kelli M Adam
27 John Fortkort
27 Catherine Garza
28 David Allan Smith
29 John R Pfeiffer

From the RVC

-by Roger Durham, RVC of Region 6

At the meeting of the American Mensa Committee this summer at the Dearborn AG, a motion came up to instruct the Finance Committee to place a motion on the agenda for our November meeting to increase dues next year by a sufficient amount to avoid the necessity for another increase for at least two years. The motion was strictly “pro forma” – in order to increase dues the matter has to appear on the agenda at two consecutive AMC meetings. No dollar amount was specified. It was explained that the motion does not have to pass both times, it just has to appear on the agenda. That being the case, we had no hesitation about postponing the matter to the November AMC meeting, at which time we will know more about our financial condition for the 2010-2011 membership year. Now the November meeting approaches, and an actual dues increase looms. Expenses have been cut, but that’s not enough.

Now, let me say first that there is really no question about the need for a dues increase. Our membership numbers do continue to grow, but not at a sufficient rate to offset even the negligible amount of inflation we are experiencing. Dues have not been increased since 2008, and if we want to keep up with inflation until 2013, an increase of just over 6% will be necessary. Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, that translates to a dues amount of \$63, starting in April of next year. Logic and foresight dictate approval of a reasonable increase at this time.

However, logic and foresight sometimes have to take a

backseat to reality, and the reality is that many of our members are having a great deal of difficulty in justifying a payment of even \$59 under the current economic conditions. We are losing, not just inactive members, but local group officers in some places, who say they just can’t afford to keep up their memberships any more. What a slap in the face it would be to those who are struggling with un- or under-employment, if we demand that they dig into their pockets for even more money next year!

Consequently, I will not be voting for a \$4 dues increase at this time. I realize that every dollar we don’t increase the dues means \$60,000 we will have to cut out of the budget, but think of it this way: every \$60,000 we need takes only 1,000 new members if we increase the dues by a nominal one dollar to \$60 instead of the current \$59.

But here’s the rub: if we plan to rely on membership growth to balance our budget, we’re going to need some help from you, the members. So, here’s a chance to put your money where your mouth is – would you rather pay another \$4 a year for your Mensa membership, or would you rather get serious about recruiting new members? If I ask the AMC to reduce the increase to \$1 and give it a year to see if we can grow our way into prosperity, will you demand that your local group increase your testing program and publicity efforts? Will you actually go out and invite your family and friends to join? Or, like the minister who reminded his congregation that the Bible prohibits adultery, have I “done quit preaching and gone to meddling”?

Roger Durham



LonestaRG 2010 Scholarship Financial Report

-submitted by Don Drumtra, RG Treasurer

Raising money for scholarships is one of the primary goals of LSM RGs. This year the Scholarship Program received \$353.17, a new record. Here are the details for 2010 and previous years:

Year	Raffle	Auction	Distribution	Donations	Total
2010	\$227.00	\$60.00	\$66.17		\$353.17
2009	139.00		28.00	\$10.00	177.00
2008	53.00	35.00	90.24		178.24

The results would support an increase in the annual scholarship awards to \$450 for 2011 and 2012. Integration of raffle activities with other RG activities continues to improve. Donations could perhaps be improved by adding a donation line on the registration form. Many thanks are due Helen Siders, Claudia Harbert, and Artemis Harbert for their work in coordinating this year’s scholarship activities. This report was submitted to the RG Chair and Board per paragraphs 6d and e of ASIE 2007-10-1. The board adopted this report on October 5.

In School for the Next 2 Years?

Win a Scholarship!

-submitted by Claudia Ellis Harbert, Lone Star Mensa Scholarships Chair

The scholarships contest for 2010-2011 has begun! Contestants write an essay about their educational dreams and plans. Submit your essay following the instructions on the application form, and you will be eligible for a local award, a regional award, several other general awards, and possibly some subject-related awards.

Enter to win, or tell your family and friends who are in an educational program beyond high school. The only qualification is that you need to be enrolled in a degree program for 2011-2012. In addition, Mensa members can enter a separate contest for members only (you can use the same essay for both contests). The deadline is January 15, 2011. Get the details and download the application(s) at <http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships>.

Not going to school these days? If you'd like to help with the scholarships program, please send an email to our local chair, Claudia Harbert: mensascholarships@gmail.com. You can help by sending out announcements about the program, by posting posters about the program, or by judging. If you know of any place where a one-page downloadable poster announcement would reach potential scholarship applicants, please email to get a copy of the poster. Judging the essays will be in late January – early February. If you would like to be notified when the judging begins, please email.



October Board Minutes

-submitted by Patty Drumtra, Board Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:12 PM, October 5, 2010, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX 78727. Attending were: Ron Edelstein, Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, John

Neemidge, and Helen Siders. The Board adopted without debate the agenda and the September minutes printed in the October Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG) pages 5 and 6. .

Linda presented the September 2010 Financial Report. She said the Regional Gathering came in under budget and over revenue for a profit of \$661.75 at this point not including scholarship revenue from the raffle and auction. The two CDs are up for renewal. The Board approved the Financial Report.

Don reported for the ComComm that the US Postal Service is changing rules for mailing the newsletters. The AMC has appointed a committee to decide the best approach to implement the new rules within AML. No decisions have been made. On-line newsletters were discussed.

Don also reported for the EdComm that the Scholarship amount can be increased due to the proceeds of the raffle at the RG. As RG Treasurer, Don presented the LonestarRG 2010 Scholarship Report showing that the raffle, auction, and distribution resulted in \$353.17. The board adopted the report.

Don reported for the MemComm that the next Mensa test is scheduled for 16 Oct. We have 15 candidates signed up to take it.

The board ratified a defeated vote taken by E mail to buy beer for the October 2 picnic. Members can bring their own preferred beverages.

Appointment of nomination and election committees will be needed for the 2011 elections. Don asked for board member advice on the appointment of the members of the Nomination and Election Committees for the 2011 board elections. Five board member positions will be available, four for two year terms and one for a one year term beginning April 2011.

Ron moved to schedule the Christmas Holiday Party on December 18 at 6 PM at Coffee A Deli similar to last year. The motion passed. Don moved that the General Monthly meeting for December be rescheduled to coincide with the party (ASIE 2010-22).

The Board thanked Helen Siders for all the work she did to organize the picnic October 2.

The next monthly board meeting will be Tuesday, November 2, at 6 PM at Ron Edelstein's house.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM

What's Happening in November?

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Tuesday (except July)

Tuesday, November 2

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, November 10

7:00 - 8:30pm

North Village Branch Library

2505 Steck Ave, Austin 78757

(512) 974-9960

Speaker: Paige Elijah of Austin Partners in Education

See the article on page 4 for more information.

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

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursday

Thursday November 11

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, November 11 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, November 18 at Central Mkt South

Tuesday, November 23 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.

Seal & Label

4th Tuesday (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, November 23

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.



Upcoming in December

Tuesday, December 7 Board of Officers Meeting

Thursday, December 9 TGIT North

Thursday, December 9 Dillo Deadline

Thursday, December 16 TGIT South

Saturday, December 18 Membership Meeting

Saturday, December 18 Holiday Parth

Tuesday, December 21 TGIT North

Tuesday, December 21 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 2nd Thursday of each month. Submissions may 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 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, 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
	November 1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Member Meeting	11 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 TGIT South	19	20
21	22	23 TGIT North Seal & Label	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30	December 1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	10	11