

# *Armadillo Literary Gazette*

*A Publication of Lone Star Mensa*

*Volume XXXVIII*

*Number 1*

*January 2011*



*The Annual  
Holiday Party*

# Lone Star Mensa Officers - 2010

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

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<b>Testing Proctor:</b>	Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson, Mike McCormick, VeraLouise Kleinfeld Pfeiffer		
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<b>Symposia Publicity Coord.:</b>	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
<b>San Marcos Coordinator:</b>	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, parties, and activities.

<b>Arbiter:</b>	Ron Edelstein	512-491-988	aduana@mindspring.com
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## 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.

## Nomination and Election Committees:

<b>Chair:</b>	Janet Kres	
<b>Members:</b>	Paul Anderson, Michael Tolbert	
<b>Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)</b>	Roger Durham	RVC6@us.mensa.org

<b>Article Submissions:</b>	editor@lsm.us.mensa.org
<b>Calendar Submissions:</b>	calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org

## Don's Dialectics

### Opportunity to Say What You Want

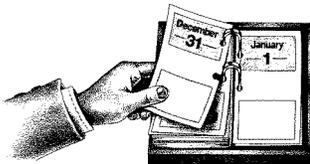
-by Don Drumtra, LocSec

In the November *ALG*, Rose Berkowitz commented on the lack of LSM member participation in many of our events. In the December *ALG* I followed her lead and commented on the apparent apathy shared by many members. Rose and I have received a few comments from members and plan to share them at the annual business meeting the second Wednesday in January at the library at Steck and Burnett. You might ask, So what? Well, here is the plan.

Since there will likely be new folks present, we will begin with introductions so that we all will know each other's names. This will be followed by a brief presentation on the latest initiatives of Mensa International and American Mensa to figure out what Mensa should be doing globally and at the national level. Then we will read some of the members concerns we have received and note them on the white board. Finally we will come up with ideas to resolve as many of the concerns as we can.

Where does this all lead? The LSM bylaws state that each incoming board will adopt a set of annual goals for LSM. The current board will take the recommendations we come up with at this meeting and provide the incoming board a list of recommendations that it can use in establishing its goals for 2011-2012. Does it look like a reasonable plan? Let us know what you think.

There is still time to provide input before the meeting and of course at the meeting. Here again are Rose's questions: 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? Email Rose at [rberkowitz@austin.rr.com](mailto:rberkowitz@austin.rr.com) with your thoughts.



## Notice of Annual Member Business Meeting

-by Patty Drumtra, V-P, Secretary

The LSM bylaws call for an annual member business meeting for the purpose of receiving reports, asking questions, and developing recommendations for the board. Our annual meeting for 2010-2011 is scheduled for 7-8:30 PM, Wednesday, January 12 at the meeting room in the North Village Branch Library, 2595 Steck Ave., Austin. It is southwest of the corner of Steck and Burnett. More information on the meeting is provided in Don's Dialectics and a tentative agenda follow:

- Introductions
- Agenda Approval
- Mensa Strategic Developments—Don Drumtra
- Discussion of input from members – Rose Berkowitz
- Additional input from members
- Development of Recommendations for to the Board

## Officer Nominations for 2011

-submitted by Janet Kres, Chair, Nomination and Election Committees

The following members are nominated for the Board of Officers:

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| ___Helen Siders_____  | 2011-2012 |
| ___Patty Drumtra_____ | 2011-2013 |
| _____                 | 2011-2013 |
| _____                 | 2011-2013 |
| _____                 | 2011-2013 |

Any member who wishes to nominate an additional member for consideration may submit a petition signed by ten members to [jmkres@sbcglobal.com](mailto:jmkres@sbcglobal.com) by Jan 8.

Nominees may provide brief candidate statements to the newsletter editor for publication in the February newsletter if they want.

Election procedures are provided in Article 12 of the LSM bylaws and specific dates for the 2010-2011 election cycle are provided in the Election Calendar 2010-2011; both are available on the LSM Website at

<http://lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/ASIEs/#CBL> and <http://lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/ASIEs/#CE> respectively. Additional balloting procedures will be published with the ballots.

## December Board Minutes

-submitted by Patty Drumtra, V-P and Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:02 PM, December 7, 2010, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX 78727. Attending were: **Ron Edelstein, Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, and John Neemidge.** The Board adopted without debate the agenda and the November minutes printed in the November *Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG)* page 3.

Linda presented the November 2010 Financial Report. She said we are in good shape, as usual, and we could consider spending more by increasing the number of pages in the the newsletter. The Board approved the Financial Report with debate.

Reporting by email for the Education Committee, Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chairman, announced that the 2011 Scholarship Judging Day will be January 29.

Don reported for the Symposium Committee that Mike Poole, New Member Coordinator, checked out a venue for a possible new, younger, group event and reported that it was not useful and that Helen Siders was planning the spring picnic and was looking at possible Saturdays in March and April. Ron and Linda reported that they have completed arrangements for the Christmas Party on Saturday, December 18 and plan to send out an announcement extending the deadline for reservations to attend.

Don moved that the Annual Member Business Meeting required by the bylaws be added to the 2011 calendar as the January membership meeting. His suggested a presentation of Mensa plans for the future and discussion of Lonestar Mensa members' participation and goals for 2011 and 2012. The board adopted the calendar change with debate (ASIE 2010-30).

Don moved to thank the Mind Games Bid Special Committee and particularly its Chairman, Patsy Graham, for their work in preparing and submitting our unsuccessful bid to host Mensa Mind Games 2012 and to dismiss the committee. The motion passed without debate.

Don moved to reconsider the date of the July 2011 board meeting because of its potential conflict with board member attendance at the Annual Gathering and the Alaska cruise. The board decided that any revision of dates after March

would be best left to the 2010-2011 board. The motion was defeated.

The next monthly board meeting will be 6 PM, Tuesday, January 4, at the Edelstein's home.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.



### SynRG 2011: Connections

**Connect with the world around you!** Join us for a fun-filled weekend connecting with your fellow Mensans, and explore how the many connections that exist in the modern world – the internet, social media, the global economy, and within nature – affect our lives.

Registration is \$ 70 until April 1<sup>st</sup>, \$80 thereafter. Kids 17 and under half price, kids under 7 free.

Download a registration form at our website:

[www.gcmensa.org](http://www.gcmensa.org)

Hotel info: Crowne Plaza Brookhollow, 290 & Pinemont. \$73 s/d/t/q. Suites also available. Call 713-462-9977 and ask for the Mensa rate!

For more info contact Chris & Patty Williams at [rgchair@gcmensa.org](mailto:rgchair@gcmensa.org).

## Scholarship Essays Judging Party

Saturday, January 29th 1:00 PM until finished

Claudia Harbert's home

4 Forest Mesa, Round Rock 78664

Phone 512-238-0205

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

RSVP when you decide, so we'll have some idea of how many to expect.

Use [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com) or call for directions. Near the Dell Diamond.

## LIES

-by Rose M. Berkowitz, [rberkowitz@austin.rr.com](mailto:rberkowitz@austin.rr.com)

I'm so tired of being lied to! It sometimes seems to me our whole society is built on lies.

And the lying starts early. We tell our children the policeman is their friend, even though we know that there's only a fine line between the police and criminals. (Just look at the way police are portrayed on most TV shows—how they lie, play tricks, intimidate, break laws, make deals, etc. on shows like **Law and Order**.)

We tell our teenagers they are bad if they don't abstain from sex, when we know the drive is more powerful during adolescence than at any other time, and we know that we didn't. We tell them marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol or tobacco, when we know that the opposite is true. We tell them that if they finish school and work hard, they'll be successful, when we know that what it takes to get to the top in business or politics is connections and lack of a conscience.

We talk about how obesity is a major problem in this country, and spend billions of dollars on weight loss schemes, all the while building more fast-food restaurants and developing ever-more-complicated, larger-sized snacks, desserts, and beverages.

And then there's the marketing/advertising industry. Their sole function is to figure out how to make us want things we don't need (and that may even be harmful to us in the long or short term) by lying to us. They study our psychology, they figure out our hot buttons, they overwhelm our defenses. They won't stop until every conceivable surface on and above the planet is covered with ads. Just in the last few years we've been forced to endure:

- Commercials played on screens above urinals.
- Commercials packaged with school programs.
- Spam and pop-up ads on our PCs
- Telemarketers on our cell phones and other hand-held devices\*.
- 30% of every TV and radio program reserved for ads.
- 50% and more of every newspaper and magazine devoted to ads\*.
- Commercials being run before the show in movie theaters.
- Big buildings, and sporting and entertainment events renamed for sponsors.

I've read that the Bush administration wanted to sell all the

exhibits in the Smithsonian to the highest bidder. So each item would have borne a plaque with the name of its sponsor.

Double-speak has far outdistanced anything predicted in books like **1984** and **Brave New World**. Corporations don't fire workers who've built up their pay and benefits and bullshit-detectors too high so they can replace them with workers without these attributes. Oh no, they "down-size," or "out-source," or "off-shore." People are urged to "check with their doctors" about medications without even saying what they're for. They try to convince us it's normal to pop a pill for every conceivable "condition," even though the list of possible adverse reactions is worse than what the pill supposedly treats.

Politicians promise whatever they think the voters want to hear, and then after they get into office go ahead and do whatever they want, and no one holds them responsible. The corporate-controlled media routinely feed us mega-doses of pabulum (a la' the Kardashians, celebrity gossip, etc.), rather than meaty issues—and then they tell us they've done "studies" to show that's what we really want. (Is that what *you* want? I don't think so.)

I'd like to yell out my window "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it any more!" But who would listen? Isn't there any way to make this stop?



## From the RVC

It's hard to believe that 2010 is already over, and it's time to wish all of you a very happy New Year. I'm still recuperating from a very busy month in November, starting with the fall meeting of the American Mensa Committee in Fort Worth and finishing with North Texas Mensa's Regional Gathering, the annual Feast of Pleasures and Delights, over Thanksgiving weekend. The RG was enjoyable from beginning to end; I wish I could say the same for the AMC meeting. I'm already looking forward to Gulf Coast Mensa's RG in May.

Actually, the meeting in Fort Worth was very productive, with a lot of hard work being done by the AMC, your national Board of Directors. We discussed the report of the Governance Task Force that I talked about in last month's column, and began the long process of considering changes to our basic organizational structure based on the Task Force's findings. I'll go into more detail about that as specific proposals begin to emerge from our discussions.

I was disappointed, however, that the AMC decided, over my objection, to raise dues next year by \$4. This amount is what we projected to be necessary to carry us through 2013 without another increase, but I felt (and still feel) that an increase of this magnitude is unwise under present economic conditions. I did receive a commitment from at least one member of the finance committee to reconsider this increase if membership growth produces sufficient new revenue to make a lesser dues amount workable. Should you see fit to re-elect me this spring, I will be seeking appointment to the finance committee myself when the AMC is reorganized for the 2011-13 term.

Likewise, my proposal to restructure the process for disciplinary hearings failed to attract sufficient support, but it did succeed in getting the AMC members thinking about changes to the National Hearings Committee set-up, and I will be revisiting this subject in the coming months.

Speaking of changes, many groups recently went through local elections and have new officers taking over this month. My congratulations (or condolences) and best wishes to all of you who are newly elected to a leadership position in your local group. Please do not hesitate to contact me (rvc6@us.mensa.org) if I can be of assistance in any way.

*Roger Durham*

## Happy Birthday

Jimmie Lynn McDonald  
Navarro Quejada  
5 Jonathan Baumgardner  
8 Paul F Memrick  
8 Betty Knight Davis  
8 Benjamin Schrader  
9 Charles Wilson  
10 William C Neely Jr  
12 Steven C Adamo  
13 Maria M Crompton  
16 Rose M Berkowitz  
16 Maria Maegan Priscilla  
17 Rodney Appling  
18 Robert J Ely  
24 Derek Saunders  
25 Harry D Keirns  
25 James George Zimmerman  
26 Joseph L Rotunda  
27 Hans T Weger  
27 Matthew L Harris  
28 Brandon Westerheim  
29 Michael Huddleston  
30 Duncan Stewart



### Welcome New Mensa Members to Lone Star Mensa

Oliver A Bainbridge \* Michelle Benoit  
Cristen M Graham \* Christopher M Jackson  
Dayal Rajagopalan \* Julie N Walker

### Welcome to our new Arrivals Moving to Lone Star Mensa

Robert C Blankemeier \* Michael W Martin  
Rabin C Monroe \* Michael F Volpe III CPT

**Welcome back to  
Mensa and Lone Star Mensa  
We missed you**  
Ronald Wayne Holder Jr \* Dee Dee Yelverton

# What's Happening in January?

## Board of Officers Meeting

**1st Tuesday (except July)**

**Tuesday, January 4**

**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 or 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda. Officers are encouraged to attend and all members are welcome.

## Annual Member Business Meeting

**Wednesday, January 12**

**7:00 - 8:30pm**

North Village Branch Library  
2505 Steck Ave, Austin 78757

(572) 974-9960

See page 3 for details.

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

## 'Dillo Deadline

**2nd Thursday**

**Thursday, January 13**

**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, January 13 at Central Mkt North**

**Thursday, January 20 at Central Mkt South**

**Thursday, January 27 at Central Mkt North**

**Central Market Café**

**6:00-8:00pm**

Central Market North at Central Park

400 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 4 st 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/SR7 ) 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, January 27**

**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.

## Scholarship Essays Judging Party

**Saturday, January 29**

**1:00pm-done**

Claudia Harbert's Home

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

See page 4 for details.



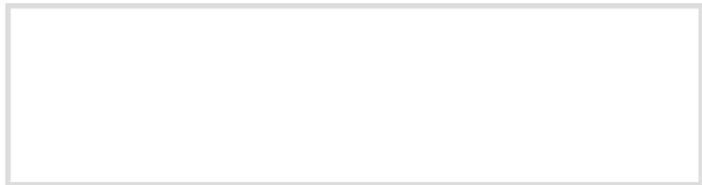
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**PUBLICATION NOTICES**

The *Amadillo Literary Gazette* is the official publication of Lone Star Mensa. Mensans who are not members of LSM may subscribe for \$ 0/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. Commerical: 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](mailto:calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org) by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						<b>January</b> 1
2	3	4 <b>Board Meeting</b>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 <b>Annual Mbr Business Meeting</b>	13 <b>TGIT</b> <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 <b>TGIT</b>	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 <b>TGIT</b> <i>Seal &amp; Label</i>	28	29 <b>Scholarship Essay Judging</b>
30	31	<b>February</b> 1	2	3	4	5