

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*
Volume XXXVIII
Number 8, August 2011



Editor: *Rose M. Berkowitz*
Managing Editor: *Don Drumtra*
Publisher: *Board of Officers*

EDITOR'S CHOICE

By *Rose Berkowitz*

According to the latest local group statistics from the National Office, LoneStar Mensa is ranked 29th out of 132 total groups, with 562 members out of a total of 50,016. Here are the top 10:

Rank	Count	Group Name	Newsletter
1	2110	Greater New York Mensa	MPHASIS
2	1964	Chicago Area Mensa	ChiMe
3	1945	Metropolitan Washington Mensa	Capital M
4	1809	San Francisco Regional Mensa	Intelligencer
5	1562	Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa	L.A. Mentary
6	1139	Minnesota Mensa	MENSAGENDA
7	1113	Gulf Coast Mensa	InforMensa
8	1097	Boston Mensa	Beacon
9	1057	Mensa of Western Washington	ToteMs
10	1056	Mensa In Georgia	MOTS

Austin is such a dynamic city. I did an internet search, and here are some of our rankings:

- [#1 Best Place for Dating](#)
- [#1 Place to Live in Texas – Money Magazine](#)
- [#1 Place to Live, Work, & Make Movies 2008](#)
- [#1 Top Growth City \(U-Haul 2005\)](#)
- [#3 America's Smartest City](#)
- [#3 Great Place to Live – Life 2.0](#)
- [#3 of Best Cities for Jobs \(Forbes\)](#)

I think our group could do better than 29th place in American Mensa—don't you?

Please send your ideas and suggestions for improving our service to you, as well as any items for the newsletter, to editor@lsm.us.mensa.org. No particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Submitted by *Howard Prince, Director of Operations, American Mensa*

At the March AMC meeting, the AMC passed a motion regarding members who have not specified electronic vs. print for their Local Group communications/newsletters. Those who make no selection by September 1 will be considered "undecided" and will be distributed to the groups with the list of individuals who request to receive electronic communications.

To receive electronic newsletters, members must update their personal profile on the AML web site:

1. Select electronic distribution or not have made a selection on or after Sept. 1,
2. Have an email address on file with the National Office, and
3. Release email address within the organization.

If a member does not meet these criteria OR if a member selects print distribution, a label designating print distribution will generate for that member...The following flags will apply on reports and labels:

Code	Flag	Description
1	E	Receives electronic
2	P	Receives print
3	P-E0	Receives print, selected electronic, without or withheld email address
4	E-N	Receives electronic, no selection made
5	P-N	Receives print, no selection made, without or withheld email

The E-N indicates those who have not selected but have an email address on file and release their email address within the organization. The P-N indicates those who have not selected and do not have an email address on file with us, or who do not release their email address within the organization.

[Members can check the mailing label code to be sure your selection has been recognized by the national office computer (or if you have not selected). Note that if you do not make a selection, you might be receiving your newsletter electronically from October on.—Editor]

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Submitted By Rose Berkowitz, Editor

WHO All members (and their guests)
WHAT Austin LSM Discussion Group
Sit around a conference table, use talking stick method.
Bring your enthusiasm and topic ideas to brainstorm.
Bring something to write on if you wish to take notes.
Bring any beverage and/or snack you'd like.
(Be sure to clean up after yourself before you leave.)
WHEN Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 7-8:30 PM
WHERE Northwest Village Branch Library
512-974-9960
2505 Steck Avenue, Austin, TX
(near the corner of Steck and Burnet)

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Interim Program Coordinator

In July, Dr. Crockett Grabbe, board member, provided an insightful scientific analysis of the destruction of the twin towers on 9/11. His data suggests that there is more to the destruction than the press has led us to believe. 17 people attended and the discussion was lively.

If you'd like to suggest a topic or speaker, you may add it to the LSM Website at www.lsm.us.mensa.org. Click on Monthly Meetings, and then on Online Topic List.



FEATURED MEMBER BIO

Hi, My name is Susan Modelle Gibson.



I was born in Alpine, Texas, April 21, 1971. I prefer to be called by my middle name

because my family has called me that since I was a baby. My first name was my mother's and my middle name derived from an aunt and great-aunt on my mother's side.

The maternal side of the family descends from William Bradford, the first governor of Massachusetts and a passenger on the Mayflower. Most of my family lived in Marfa, Alpine, and Ft. Davis when I was growing up. It is a beautiful area and still the place I call home. Around the age of 5, we started moving around Texas and Oklahoma and ended up in Odessa, Texas the summer before my 4th grade year.

Many people might know of my high school graduating class from the book and movie, **Friday Night Lights**. I was president of my high school choir and a member of the varsity tennis team--a sport I still love to play.

I was accepted to A&M University at Galveston my junior year in high school to study Marine Biology, but decided to attend junior college before transferring because like many, I was paying for college on my own. Also like many young people during this life-altering stage, I became focused on something entirely different from my course of study...love. I met my future ex-husband and father of my daughter.

A few years after having my daughter, Emily, I returned to school. It was then that I realized that even though I was a great student in mathematics and science, I had a greater interest in history, art and classic literature. I followed my heart and changed my major to English and minored in History. I am sure I have more mathematics and science courses under my belt than any other English major in history! I graduated from the University of

Texas of the Permian Basin and have not regretted my decision for any reason.

I began my forensics career prior to graduating from college at a private forensic toxicology laboratory. There I performed qualitative and quantitative analysis on urine, blood, tissue, organs, maggots--anything you can imagine that is somehow related to a death investigation.

I also worked as a private investigator. I am not a fan of surveillance. That's all I have to say about that!

I moved to Central Texas with a long-time boyfriend about eight years ago, and began working at the San Marcos Police Department as an Evidence Technician in 2005. It seemed law enforcement always called me back, no matter how much I fought it! There I became a latent print examiner and AFIS technician, as well as performing various other tasks dealing with evidence.

I came to the Austin Police Department in 2008 and I love it! I only work major crime scenes--homicides, sexual assaults, robberies, fatalities, any crime

committed against a person. The work does put a strain on my life, but I know that it helps the community become a safer place and if I need to sacrifice a little of myself for that, it is all worth it.

It seems to me sometimes people only see me for the work I do, but I just want to say that my job is only

what pays my bills. I still have passions for other things in life; travel, food, education, sports (Cowboys, Spurs and the Longhorns are my favorite), fashion, technology, music, you name it! I am planning on returning to college to either complete my undergraduate degree in science or start working

on my graduate degree in Liberal Arts.

There is much more to me than this short biography, but I hope it gives you a little insight into who I am. I hope to get to know each one of you. I am excited to begin this new chapter of my life by joining Mensa!

JULY BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Patty Drumtra, VP and Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6 PM, July 6, 2011, at the Home of Ron and Linda Edelstein. Attending were: **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, Ron Edelstein, Crockett Grabbe, and Claudia Harbert**, Scholarship Coordinator. Referenced written reports and ASIEs are available on the LSM Website. Paper copies are available on request. The board adopted the agenda as amended and the June 1 minutes, printed in the July 2011 Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), page 4, without debate.

The board received the following verbal officer reports:

- LocSec: Appointed Brian Bloch as Southern LSM Coordinator, and Jon Kurylowicz as Assistant Circulation Coordinator; the board confirmed the appointments; received no Member Concerns Action Plans Status changes; reported from the Annual Gathering that the fixed Local Group allotment may change to a variable one based on local group activities and that the Mensa Finance Committee may develop a common set of accounts for optional use of local group treasurers; (Don).
- Treasurer: With debate, the board unanimously adopted the 1st Quarter Financial Report (Linda)
- Senior Officer: Discussed the glossary of acronyms used in Mensa (Crockett)
- Education Committee: Essays of three of our four scholarship winners will be printed in the ALG, (Claudia).
- Membership Committee: Three potential Mensa members took the test June 4 and two are registered for July 16 (Patty for John Pfeiffer, Interim Testing Coordinator)
- Symposium Committee: Future regular monthly membership meetings are on schedule (Don).
- LonestarRG Committee: There are 49 registrations (Linda for John and Geri Neemidge, chairmen).
- Website Working Group committee (Don for Patsy Graham, Chairman):
 - The board accepted Rose Berkowitz's resignation from the committee without debate.
 - The board adopted Ron's amendment to a motion to confirm Kathy Blair Lawler's appointment to the committee. The board then adopted with debate the amended motion to delegate authority to the Committee

Chairman to make committee appointments and accept resignations from the committee.

The board members took the following action on items postponed from the June 1 meeting (Don):

- Agreed that the standard award name tag type letters will be navy blue on a white background.
- Agreed to use the status term "completed" for Member Concerns Action Plans Status Reports for satisfactory responses to member concerns, recommendations, and board plans.
- Postponed until the August 3 meeting:
 - Adopting criteria for resolution of Member Concerns Action Plans
 - Discussing terminology to replace ASIEs
 - Adopting goals for the 2011-2012 term.
 - Approving completed action plans

New Business

- Claudia asked for guidance on the RG Scholarship fund raiser raffle and auction. The board noted that we are a 501C4 organization that does not allow IRS deductions, that John and Geri Neemidge, LonestarRG 13 Chairmen, plan a different scholarship fundraising approach from the previous year's events, and that her concerns should be referred to the RG committee.

Announcements (See the newsletter and calendars for more detail.)

- The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 6-7 PM, Wednesday August 3 at Ron and Linda Edelstein's home (Patty).
- Future Monthly Meeting topic and dates are available in the newsletter and on the Website (Don).

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

APPOINTMENT

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Officer Coordinator

The Communications Chairman has appointed Jon Kurylowicz as Assistant Circulation Coordinator. His first task is assembling and mailing the paper copy of the August newsletter. Please join me in thanking Jon for volunteering.

POETRY CORNER

Hi Rose,

I'm a new (old) member, and have taken to writing some poetry. Some of my verse is in the form of a Groom, which was used by Danish polymath Piet Hein. So here are a few of my Texas Grooms—Tom Hadden

Einstein

It's energy which equals to
The unit mass (we all do fight),
Times constant C, up arrow (two),
Not to exceed the speed of light.

Form follows Function

Form follows function
without much compunction.
Still, it must be in place
for beauty and grace.

Alcohol

I'd like to refrain
from taxing my brain
With the evil effects
alcohol interjects.

Friendship

Friendship must be nourished so
that it can thrive, persist, and grow;
For without the care of heart and mind,
this gift will wither on the vine.

Dear Ms. Berkowitz,

I am submitting to you a few of my poems for consideration for the Armadillo Literary Gazette. I really adore writing poetry. I hope that you will consider them suitable for the newsletter.

Mrs. Scherrer from FRED Mensa magazine suggested that I send them to you. I really appreciate your taking the time to read them.

Isabella Taylor, Age 10

www.isabellart.wordpress.com (to read more of my poems :)

Ars Poetica

A poem is your silk
To embroider your stories upon
Stitch by stitch at a time
Each thread shrieking with memories
Of
Pain and suffering
Joy and happiness
In this whirlwind of emotion
And the spoken
To fill their eyes
And find a new light
To look upon
Our brown boxed world
Where poetry
Is the only break
From the restraints
Of
Ourselves

Bird of Paradise

A bird colored to take ornamental flight
Royally born with a fan-like crown
Blue arrows piercing a burning ochreous heart
As wings spread in hopes of paradise
But the glossy green holds down any attempt of escape
Even by purple canoe
While the heat of the African sun continues to fuel this passion to soar
Like Icarus winging up into the sky
Those dreams will also die deep within the delusion of feathered journey

In the teetering woods

In the teetering woods
night hangs like a sash
around the waist
so velvet smooth
as it engulfs
bittersweet darkness

Here, thoughts are suspended
in a traffic of delusion
until light deems
its actuality
the piercing dawn
shifts its gaze

Until
you can stumble into nightfall
again to find yourself
in the teetering woods

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

Submitted by Douglas Yee



		9	3		5	2		
						6		9
2								
4						9	3	
			3				1	2
1					9	5		4
3	2		9		4	8		
			1	6				
	6			2	3			7

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, and every 3x3 square.

WINNING REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS

Submitted by Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Coordinator

This year for the first time the Austin area had two scholarship winners at the regional level, meaning that these essays scored higher than most of the essays from AR, OK, TX, and NM! Here are the wonderful winning essays:

2011 Regional Scholarship Winner

Grosswirth-Salny Scholarship

Kathryn Bowman

Kathryn Bowman is beginning her second year at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

I am becoming a doctor and a medical researcher in order to improve human lives by integrating the care of my future patients with scientific study that can lead to improved therapies for infectious diseases. In pursuit of this goal, I engaged in years of undergraduate research at the College of William and Mary, followed by a full-time research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, before entering medical school in 2009. I am currently a second-year medical student at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

My interest in medicine and science was refined by my experiences in international travel, research, and interactions with a variety of healthcare systems. My interest in medicine stemmed from small veterinary tasks caring for horse injuries as a young equestrian. However, I realized my calling was in human care during a high-school trip to Haiti, when we stayed at the hospital compound Zanmi Lasante, founded by Dr. Paul Farmer. After that, I became enthralled with the idea of working on infectious disease. This field offers ample opportunity to translate pathophysiological understanding into therapeutics which can save lives both in the United States and elsewhere the mortality of infectious disease is much greater [sic]. My interest in global medicine drew me on a medical aid trip with fellow students to run a free clinic in rural Ghana. During college, I spent 2 years in a neuroscience laboratory doing immunological mapping of circuits in the brain controlling temperature homeostasis. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from the College of William and Mary, I entered a year-long research fellowship, the NIH Academy, at the National Institutes of Health, working in the Vaccine Research Center on a HIV vaccine trial to help boost the immune system of individuals already infected with HIV. The experience inspired me and I returned to the same lab the summer after my first year in medical school. I will be second author on a paper to be published within the next 6 months detailing the results of our study.

As a second-year student at UT Southwestern, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to delve deeply into my medical training. I am the Development Chairperson for the Seldin Society of Internal Medicine, which hosts speakers to introduce medical students to various specialties in internal medicine. From running a station at our health fair to presenting my research at conferences, I am continually exploring various aspects of medicine that will further elucidate my path. I intend to graduate with an MD with Distinction in Research in 2013, after which I will pursue an Internal Medicine Residency and Infectious Disease fellowship.

My long-term career goals involve clinical practice in infectious disease, likely at a major academic center, which will allow me to translate what I learn from my patients into research questions in the laboratory. I recognize that this balance is a delicate one; the time it takes to properly care for my patients will challenge the time I have to explore the scientific side of their illness. However, I believe that this balance is critical to the future of medicine in order to develop effective therapies that offer cures rather than simple palliation of symptoms.

2011 Regional Scholarship Winner

Kuhnel Scholarship

Alicia Morgan Lyles

Alicia will be studying for a Master's of Science in Urban Planning at Columbia University in New York City.

With the Mensa Scholarship, I aim to pursue a master's degree in urban planning. I am confident my past accomplishments in Houston and European cities demonstrate that I will be successful in the field. The valuable experiences in various urban centers lead me to conclude that dynamic planners can revitalize communities. Planning acts as a mirror that can be used to raise questions and prompt re-evaluations of quality of life within enclaves. I aspire to be part of a profession that creates communities that offer better choices for how people live. My past accolades serve to reassure the scholarship committee that the funding will support the academic and professional goals of a future successful planner.

My senior year at Rice University I had 2 profound encounters that solidified my interest to attend graduate school and become a certified planner. First, I spearheaded an honors thesis project that assisted Houston's historic Second Ward neighborhood in responding to the potential pitfalls of gentrification. New development plans created tension among the long-time residents and the real estate developers eager to bring new energy to a neighborhood on the periphery of the city's vibrant downtown. My year-long assessment was instrumental to

aiding El Centro de Corazón, a Second Ward nonprofit organization, in arranging town hall meetings and participatory planning sessions for residents to express their opinions on the growth occurring in the area. As a result, residents and developers were more able to agree upon changes that better suited both parties' interests.

The Second Ward endeavor motivated me to take on an additional urban planning project that was on a larger scale and collaborative in nature. I assisted Dr. Michael O. Emerson, Co-Director of Rice University's Institute for Urban Research, in overseeing a critical project that assessed the amenities Houston's Hermann Park offers to 6 million residents a year. The team I led surveyed 500 visitors' opinions of Hermann Park, the Houston Zoo, Miller Outdoor Theater and the Hermann Park Railroad. Currently, the Hermann Park Conservancy cites the findings when writing local, state and federal grant proposals. I found it rewarding to be part of an interdisciplinary research project that enhances the quality of resources available to individuals residing in the fourth largest city in the country.

Finally, because my both projects [sic] were academically sound and yielded positive results, a committee of Rice University scholars awarded me a \$15,000 grant to study planning within an international context. I was one of 10 students across campus awarded the grant every year. I traveled to 9 major European cities interviewing inhabitants about their perceptions of local growth and methods for advocating change. After visiting many countries and meeting people of diverse backgrounds, it is clear that there is a need for planners to approach challenges as opportunities to assist communities in preparing for growth in a progressively urbanizing world.

My previous achievements demonstrate that I have the nascent qualities of a capable planner who is personally and professionally invested in pursuing a career in planning. After I graduate with my master's, I hope to work at a firm that specializes in a collective practice among urban planners, landscape architects and architects. This opportunity will facilitate a broad perspective when approaching real-world planning projects. Undoubtedly, the Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarship would support my endeavors and help me become an influential planner.

GHOST STORY

By Rose M. Berkowitz



It was the 4th of July weekend, 1991. Howard and I had been married about a week earlier. I joined Mensa in 1987, and got Howard to take the test and join in early 1988, during Central New Jersey Mensa's Snowball RG, which I chaired that year at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton.

We decided to spend our honeymoon at Mensa's Annual Gathering, which was being held at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City MO. The AG typically draws about 2,000 people from all over the U.S., and even some international members. This year was no exception. There was the usual wide assortment of interesting speakers and activities, and the always-popular hospitality suites—kept stocked with a nice variety of beverages and munchies by volunteers. Conversations flowed, games were played, music was made, and strangers became friends. Howard and I had a great time participating in the Mensa Home Companion skit written by Dan Gilmore.

On Friday morning we decided to check out the hotel's swimming and sauna facilities. There was a separate elevator that took us and a few other Mensans, including

our friend Peggy Scherbina, to the pool area. As we were getting off the elevator, suddenly there was a man's voice screaming "Help me! Help me!" Everyone on the elevator heard it, and we immediately started looking for the source of the scream, to try to help. We searched up and down the corridors off the elevator and in the pool area and locker rooms, and found no one. Still concerned, we pushed the intercom on the elevator and contacted hotel security. They searched, but also found nothing. It was a complete mystery.

Later that day we were talking to some people in the hospitality suite, and found out that ten years earlier, in July 1981, the hotel had been the site of a tragedy. Where there was now a separate elevator, prior to the accident there'd been three walkways instead, going from one side of the lobby to the other, the middle one connecting to a nightclub where people had been dancing. That walkway had collapsed, some say due to faulty engineering, taking down the one below it as well. 111 people had been killed just where the elevator was now located.

I'm convinced that what we all heard that day were the screams of a ghost—someone who'd died there while waiting for help that didn't get there in time. I'll never forget the chill I felt when I heard that desperate, disembodied cry.

WHAT IS THIS LONESTAR RG (AND WHY SHOULD I CARE)?

By John Neemidge, Co-Chair

You've likely been seeing ads for LonestarRG for a few months, unless you're new to the group or have missed the 'Dillo. I'm hoping to convince you that you should sign up now and join us Labor Day weekend.

So, just what IS LonestarRG? It's our group's annual Regional Gathering (RG). RGs are conventions held by local Mensa groups. They combine speakers, workshops and activities, games, food, drink, usually a dance, and whatever else the hosts add to the event.

During this LonestarRG you'll have a full weekend of things to see and do. Listen to speakers, take part in workshops, play games, do puzzles, or just get to know fellow Mensans. Interact in a group, a few at a time, or one on one. Friday night we're having Minute to Win It and some other "get-to-know-you" activities, an outing to a Round Rock Express game, and likely a bat-watching outing to the Round Rock bat bridge. Saturday night is the Zombie Prom. Sunday night we're having a Name That Movie game and a sing-along jam session. Monday morning we'll have a speaker and some prizes.

We'll have speakers on Vampire Literature (one on classical, another on modern), Forensic Entomology, Fantastic Fest (and horror movies in general), and Haunted House Special Effects. Dinosaur George, a hit at last year's LonestarRG, will be our Monday morning speaker. Workshops include the Tarot, Flower Arranging, Self-Defense, Sugar Skull making, Thriller dance lessons, and zombie makeup. We'll have a blood drive on Sat.

RGs run on food and drink as well as activities. We generally have snacks, veggies, chocolate, and other munchies out all day and night. We plan five meals

(Friday dinner, Saturday and Sunday lunch and dinner). We'll have soda, water, beer, wine, and margaritas (with and without alcohol) out as well. All of that is included with your registration, as is the Chili Pepper Tasting.

Speaking of registration, rates are currently \$70 until August 19, \$80 until August 30 or at the door. We do offer day rates -- \$20 for Friday, \$40 for Saturday or Sunday, \$15 for Monday. Children 9-17 are half price; 8 and under are free.

We welcome children (ours will be at their 10th LonestarRG this year); most events are fine for children, and we have a kids' room where they can watch movies or play games together. We do not provide supervision but the room has a huge window and it is located in the same space as the other convention rooms--so the kids are nearby and easy to check on.

Bring your friends, too! We're having a Mensa admission test on Sat. morning for anyone interested in joining.

The RG will be held at the Wingate by Wyndham / Williamson Conference Center in Round Rock. We use the entire second floor of the Conference Center. It's a great location -- one of the best we've ever seen for RGs -- and easy to get to (located at IH-35 and US 79). Hotel rooms are \$85/night, and include a hot buffet breakfast.

This year's LonestarRG will be the Thirteenth. We (your co-chairs, John and Geri Neemidge), have been looking forward to this for quite a while-- we love Halloween!

We really hope you'll join us for this -- Lone Star Mensa's biggest event of the year!

MEMBER CONCERNS/ACTION PLANS

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

In June and July work was begun on three more action plans, bringing the number of plans being worked on to 21 of 44 or 48 percent. Six items are awaiting board approval. See the full status report at www.lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/ASIEs/#GI.

Action plan highlights include:

- ASIEs, which have been confusing to some folks and symbols of formality and bureaucracy to others are being replaced by LSM Operating Standards or LOS, some of which will be converted to guides and approved by the standing committees and chairmen—Plan No. A4.
- Crockett Grabbe provided the board the second draft of the glossary of terms for new LSM members—Plan No. A5.

The board has drafted a set of criteria for considering work on an item satisfactorily completed. The criteria will be finalized at the August board meeting.

LonestaRG the 13th
September 2-5, 2011



- *Planned speaker topics include Horror Movies, Haunted House Special Effects, Dinosaurs, Forensic Entomology, and Vampire Literature*
- *Lots of workshops, including Self-Defense, Tarot, Sugar Skulls, Thriller Dance Lessons, and Zombie Make-up*
- *Sing-along Jam Session*
- *Zombie Prom*
- *Minute To Win It*
- *Abundant hospitality, with meals, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, margaritas*
- *Chili Pepper Tasting*
- *Blood Drive (or are they really vampires???)*
- *Games and Contests*
- *Goodies and Prizes*
- *And much more!*

LonestaRG XIII is certain to be a (not too) scary good time for everyone! Co-chairs Geri & John Neemidge are planning a giant Halloween bash, LonestaRG style. Come haunt the Wingate with us and have a devilishly delightful time!

Registration is \$70 until August 19th, \$80 until August 30 and Walk-in. Children 9-17 half price, 8 and under are free. Send registrations to Patsy Graham, 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757-3124 (mensapats@att.net). To register online via PayPal, get preliminary program information and schedule, or for more information as it becomes available, see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/events/rg>

Our RG hotel is the Wingate By Wyndham, at the intersection of IH-35 and US-79 in Round Rock. Our room rate is \$85/night and includes a hot buffet breakfast. For reservations call 512-341-7000 and ask for the Lonestar Mensa rate.

Name _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please don't list my name and city/state on the RG web site attendee list.

Please don't include me on the list of attendees made available to RG-goers.

Please use paper mail (not email) for RG updates and correspondence.

Names for Badges: 1. _____ 2. _____

 3. _____ 4. _____

Registration is \$70 through Aug 19, \$80 until Aug 30. Half off for children ages 9-17 (children 8 and under are free).

Number of adults: _____ @\$ _____ = \$ _____

Number of children: _____ @\$ _____ = \$ _____

Are you interested in volunteering for any of the following?

Hospitality _____ Prepare Food _____ Registration _____

Solicit Donations _____ Bring Games _____

Speaker Assistant _____ Logistics/Purchasing _____ Other _____

Send registrations to Patsy Graham, 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757-3124, or register online via PayPal at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/events/rg/>. Make checks payable to "Lonestar Mensa RG".

Lone Star Mensa
2011-2012 Financial Report and Tables
 April 1 - June 30

Our revenue continues to be a bit lower than budgeted, due to nonrenewing members. We currently have about 130 fewer members than we did before March 31. Expenses have nothing unusual to report this month. Several registrations for RG 2011 have been received and deposited. In addition to those deposited in the checking account, the RG treasurer reported having received one \$50 check he has not yet deposited, and there is \$488.34 in the PayPal account for 11 registrations (and another \$96.60 for a registration PayPal has questions about for some reason - John Neemidge is handling this). There are currently 49 or 50 registrants, but 2 will be transferred to 2012.

Lone Star Mensa
Table 1. 2011-2012 Program Activity Analysis Summary
 April 1 - June 30

Programs	----- Summary Year to Date -----				----- Summary by Quarter -----	
	2010 Budget		3 months	%	3 months	
	12 Months	3 months	Total		Apr-Jun	
Membership Program						
Total Revenue	\$ 720.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 283.00	157%	\$ 283.00	
Total Expenses	720.00	180.00	174.82	97%	174.82	
Communications Program						
Total Revenue	3,900.00	975.00	976.30	100%	976.30	
Total Expenses	3,900.00	975.00	813.69	83%	813.69	
Symposia Program						
Total Revenue	1,200.00	300.00	300.00	100%	300.00	
Total Expenses	1,200.00	300.00	30.00	10%	30.00	
Education Program						
Total Revenue	480.00	120.00	120.00	100%	120.00	
Total Expenses	480.00	120.00	-	0%	-	
Common Activities						
Total Revenue	200.00	50.00	37.50	75%	37.50	
Total Expenses	200.00	50.00	15.40	31%	15.40	
All Programs						
Total Revenue	\$ 6,500.00	1,625.00	1,716.80	106%	1,716.80	
Total Expenses	6,500.00	1,625.00	1,033.91	64%	1,033.91	
Total Programs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 682.89		\$ 682.89	
LonestaRG						
Total Revenue	\$ 4,700.00	-	-	0%	-	
Total Expenses	4,500.00	-	-	0%	-	
Total Disbursements	200.00	-	-	0%	-	
Undistributed Rev and Exp						
Total Revenue	\$ 694.00	173.50	111.84	64%	111.84	
Total Expenses	755.88	188.97	-	0%	-	
Total Undistributed	\$ (61.88)	\$ (15.47)	\$ 111.84		\$ 111.84	
Net Revenue	\$ (61.88)	\$ (15.47)	\$ 794.73		\$ 794.73	

	Date Bought	Item	Cost	Serial No.	Custody
LSM	2006 Sep 8	ALG Software	\$481.32		Rachael Stewart
Equipment	2007 Jun 9	Projector	\$499.99	EMP 54 - J3VF71731TL	Don Drumtra
	2005-2006	Testing material	\$37.50	5 take home tests	Don Drumtra

Lone Star Mensa
Table 2. 2011-2012 Balances Analysis Summary
 June 30

	Apr 1	Jun 30
Members (Apr 30)	515	
Rank (Mar 31)		29
RG Registrants 2010/2011/2012		34/0
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ -	\$ -
Checking Account	4,155.64	4,873.03
Certificates of Deposit	23,679.50	23,722.51
Less Funds and Obligations	(18,000.00)	(18,000.00)
Accounts Receivable	-	-
Interest Receivable (Allocated)	-	151.99
Prepaid Postage	314.30	189.92
Prepaid RG 2012	-	-
Prepaid RG 2011	281.75	281.75
Prepaid Take Home Tests	37.50	37.50
Other Prepaid Expenses	-	-
Total Current Assets	\$ 10,468.69	\$ 11,256.70
Long Term Assets		
Scholarship Endowment	7,000.00	7,000.00
Education Fund	8,000.00	8,000.00
RG Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00
Equipment Acquired Value	981.31	981.31
Less Equipment Expensed Value	(952.57)	(977.32)
Other Long Term Assets	-	-
Total Long Term Assets	\$ 18,028.74	\$ 18,003.99
Total Assets	\$ 28,497.43	\$ 29,260.69
	2011 RG Spent \$281.75	
Liabilities and Appropriations		
Accounts Payable	\$ 434.76	\$ 195.54
Scholarships Escrow	\$4,195.42	840.36
RG Escrow 2012	-	-
RG Escrow 2011	\$5,625.42	965.00
RG Reserve	1,192.92	1,192.92
Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation	498.75	534.00
Other Liabilities and Appropriations	-	-
Total Liabilities and Appropriations	\$ 3,931.79	\$ 3,840.32
Net Assets		
LonestaRG Net Assets	24,565.64	25,420.37
Total Net Assets	\$ 24,565.64	\$ 25,420.37
Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	\$ 28,497.43	\$ 29,260.69
Balance sheet check sum	0	0

Accounts Payable		Uncleared Checks	
Quik Print	\$ 195.54		
John Neemidge	-		
Helen Siders	-		
Don Drumtra	-		
Other	-		
Total	\$ 195.54	Total	\$ -

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6
7	7	9	10 Membership Meeting	11 ALG Deadline Chess Night, TGIT-North	12	13
14	15	16 Eclectic Eats	17	18 TGIT-South	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 TGIT-North, Seal & Label	26	27
28	29	30	31			

See the online calendar for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes to calendar items. Online calendar inputs may be submitted at any time.

Calendar input for the printed calendar is due by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Wednesday

August 3, 6:00-7:00 PM

Home of Ron and Linda Edelstein
1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX
Contact the Board Secretary, Patty Drumtra, to get an item on the agenda. Officers are encouraged to attend and all members are welcome.

Monthly Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

August 10, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Northwest Village Branch Library,
512-974-9960
2505 Steck Avenue, Austin, TX
Near the corner of Steck and Burnet
8200 N x 2505 W on the Austin city grid

ALG Submissions Deadline

2nd Thursday

August 11, Midnight

Article and calendar submissions are due by midnight on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Chess Night (with the TGIT group)

2nd Thursday (canceled or moved on holidays)

August 11, 6-8 PM

Central Market Café North
Have a go at beating the previous winner, or just watch and learn. Bring your chess sets if you have them. Hosted by Douglas Yee. See the TGIT entry for directions.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (North)

2nd & 4th Thursdays

6:00-8:00 PM

August 11 and 25

Central Market Café North at Central Park:

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX,
512-206-1020
East of N. Lamar between 38th and 4th Streets; on the south side of the store.

Meet us at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. Look for a Mensa sign or folks with Mensa shirts who appear smart. ☺

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (South)

3rd Thursdays

August 18

6:00-8:00 PM

Central Market Café South at Westgate Mall:

4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX,
512-899-4300
On the south side of the S. Lamar access road (the south access road of I-290/SR7) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trail. Enter at the northern door, by the huge statues of fruits and vegetables.

Come join the South Austin group for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. For questions call Helen (799-6985).

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 PM

Taj Palace, 6700 Middle Fiskville Road
(<http://www.tajpalaceaustin.net>,

512/452-9959. (The Taj is located next to the Galaxy 10 Cinema just east of Highland Mall, rather than the General Cinema mentioned in their directions.) Come join us for some late-summer sensual indulgence. Recommended by Rose Berkowitz, the Taj serves mouth-watering Indian food featuring a plethora of options for carnivores and vegetarians alike (even a vegetarian buffet). Please provide your own transportation. RSVP by Sunday, August 14 to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com

Seal & Label

4th Thursday (moved on holidays)

August 25, 6:00-8:00 PM

Central Market Café North

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX, 512-206-1020

Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter. See TGIT notice above for directions.

UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2-5, LoneStarG 13

Sept. 3, Mensa Admissions Test

Sept. 7, Board Meeting

Sept. 8, Chess Night, ALG Deadline

Sept. 8, 22, TGIT-North

Sept. 14, Member Meeting

Sept. 15, TGIT-South

Sept. 20, Eclectic Eats

Sept. 22, Seal & Label

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LonestaRG Registrar	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141	mensapats@att.net
Regional Vice Chair (RVC)	Roger Durham*	214-349-4521	RVC6@us.mensa.org

* Experienced members who've worked with the National Office (NO) and the American Mensa Committee (AMC), and can help members navigate both.

AUGUST MEMBER NEWS *(as of 06/30/11)*

Happy Birthday—Born Mensans!

- 1 Hugh Brown
- 1 William J Worthington IV
- 3 Betty L Wolverton
- 5 Audrey Diane Aucott-Meyers
- 7 Cory D Stout
- 8 Rudy S Apodaca
- 9 Allen E Boyles
- 9 Michael P Meyer
- 10 Alan Baumann
- 14 Keith R Babola
- 14 Ronald E Garner
- 18 Jennifer D Rider
- 19 Lisa Mather
- 19 William D McCarty
- 20 Michael E Legatt
- 20 Elizabeth M Petit
- 20 James B Robinson
- 20 Julie N Walker
- 22 Ann C True
- 23 Zachary R Calvert
- 23 Matthew C Lawrence
- 24 Paula Blessing Beard
- 25 Pathikrit Bhowmick
- 25 Keith Wilson Loring
- 25 Kenneth V Mosher II

- 25 Laura Pointer Wilkerson
- 26 Patrick Buchanan
- 27 John R Strohm
- 28 Lucille S Russell
- 28 Beth Shields
- 28 W Randall Strahan Jr
- 28 Steve Young
- 30 Helen Ruth Siders
- 30 Harinath Thummalapalli
- 31 Kimberly A Michalik

New Members—Welcome!

- Scott A Brondel
- Tim Brown
- Steven Hansen
- David Hillis
- Ronald A Rieke
- James Roberts
- Dylan Winters

Just Moved In—Hi Neighbor!

- Michael Hoffman Bossert
- R Dennis Conine
- Josh Martin
- Todd Pogue

Farewell—We'll Miss You!

- Rodney Appling
- Eugene LaMar Guyon Jr
- Emmanuel Nick Ireland
- Michael F Volpe III CPT
- Philip A Watson

CONGRATULATIONS!

Member for 30 Years

David Bousher
Robert Allan Larson

Member for 10 years

Michelle Chlada

Member for 5 years

Philip Nicholson

Note: We can't acknowledge your birthday if you've restricted that information in your member profile. To check, log in to the AML web site

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Submission Information: Submissions of all types are encouraged. The deadline is the 2nd Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email 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: Lone Star 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 ads (2" x 3") 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 Word (preferred), 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 to the newsletter editor is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

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



If you receive this on paper, you might need to act THIS MONTH to receive paper issues from October on! See Newsletter News, page 1.

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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