

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*
Volume XXXIX
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Editor: *Rose M. Berkowitz*
Managing Editor: *Don Drumtra*
Publisher: *Board of Officers*

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By Rose Berkowitz

Well, I asked and you answered. I am truly touched by the outpouring of support I've received from our members regarding this newsletter. (Please see the "Letters to the Editor" starting on page 10.) You told me that you enjoy and appreciate the effort I put into the ALG every month—and that's all I wanted to know. Thank you!

I'm always glad to hear from you. So please send your comments, ideas, essays, or whatever else you'd like to contribute to editor@lsm.us.mensa.org. No particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated.

SOUTH TEXAS EVENT—Y'ALL COME!

Submitted by Brian Bloch, Southern Area Event Coordinator

Are you far from Austin or San Antonio? Here's a Mensa event made for you.

I'm throwing an old-fashioned "Meet 'n Greet" on Friday April 6. 7:45 pm until whenever. Bring yourself, your partner and your smile to San Marcos. I'm supplying the munchies.

Here are directions:

- Take I-35 south to exit 202.

- Head southeast on Wonderworld Drive, which becomes Redwood Road at the Shell station.
- Go another ¾ mile, turn right into El Camino Real subdivision (you can't miss it),
- Then R, R, L, L, R, L, to the 2nd last house on the right, #265 Cordero Drive.

RSVP preferred but not essential. Brian Bloch, 512-878-8800.

PARTY!

THE CARVER LIBRARY—OUR NEW MEETING VENUE

By Don Drumtra, LocSec

The Carver Library is now the venue for both our monthly meetings and our board meetings. We selected it because of its great meeting room and the ability to reach it during rush hour from both north and south Austin during rush hour.

The Carver Library is located between 11th and 12th Streets East of I-35. This location allows direct access to the library from 183 and via FM 969 MLK and 12th Street. It is 4 miles from 183. and 8½ miles from 130 toll. So depending on how far away you live, you can bypass most of the rush hour traffic by jumping on 183 or 130.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Submitted by Rose M. Berkowitz, Editor

February



Our February monthly member meeting was very interesting. Lisa Oliver gave a presentation on “Death Care in America.” We’re expecting to be able to publish a profile on Lisa (pictured to the left) and perhaps a summary of the main points covered in her presentation soon.

March

The March meeting went well. We had a dozen attendees all together, including Bruce Elfant for a short time at the beginning. He is a candidate to replace Nelda Wells Spears (retiring as Travis County Tax Collector). We gave him a newsletter. We had two big pizzas from East Side Pies (they were delicious) and lots of soda. And best of all, the stories people shared were very interesting

April

JimAnn Oliver will be giving a follow-up presentation on “No Child Left Behind,” due to requests from interested

members at her previous talk on “Education in America” last December. She’ll also be covering “Youth and IQ” in terms of what IQ really means.

May

On May 14 we’ll be having another meeting of our SIG Discussion Group. Contact Rose with your suggestions for a topic and/or to volunteer to moderate the discussion. As mentioned above, the March discussion was a success and we need your participation to keep it going.

I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living.— Dr. Seuss

June

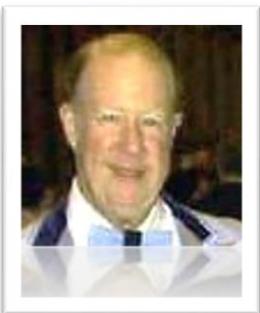
Our June monthly meeting will be something special. Zach Baumer, Climate Program Manager from the Office of Sustainability for the City of Austin will be giving us a very interesting presentation. More details next month. **Mark your calendars for June 11th, 6:45-8:15 pm at the Carver Library.** And bring your friends!

DON’S DIALECTICS—LEADERSHIP CRISIS

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

Have you heard? Lone Star Mensa is facing a **leadership crisis**. There have not been enough volunteers to serve on the 2012-2013 Board of Officers and no experienced volunteers who want to be our executive officers—LocSec, Vice-President / Secretary, or Treasurer.

How did this happen?



Our board consists of eight members elected to serve two-year overlapping terms. After their first year they become eligible, along with past elected officers (from anywhere in Mensa), to be the executive officers. The 2011-2012 term began with seven elected members—Crockett, Don, Helen, John, Jon, Linda, and Patty, with one vacant position, and Don, Patty, and Linda serving as our executive officers. Helen left the board last fall and Don, John, Linda, and Patty are completing their two-year terms at the end of March. This left the 2012-2013 board with Crockett, Jon, and six vacant board positions to be filled through our annual election process.

Last November our Nomination Committee called for volunteers to fill the six vacant positions on the board. Out of our over 600 members, no one was willing to serve. During the Christmas party, John, Aaron, and Douglas petitioned to be on the board and were subsequently elected.

Then, early in 2012, Jon advised the board that he would not be able to serve after the end of March. Only Crockett and John were eligible to be executive officers, and both had commitments that prevented them from serving as executive

officers. The net result was a 2012-2013 board with four elected members—Aaron, Crockett, Douglas, and John—four unfilled positions, and no one to be LocSec, V-P, or Treasurer.

So what happened to all our old Board Members?

Two years ago some members expressed concern that LSM was being run by a clique of old members who had held the elected leadership positions for years. These members said we needed new blood in our leadership—folks with new ideas. The board and other officers agreed, so we nominated and elected new members to the board—Jon and Crockett last year, and Aaron and Douglas.

What do we need to do?

We need at least four of you—from our over 600 LSM members—to volunteer to fill the four vacancies on the board. At least three need to be past elected officers (from anywhere in Mensa) willing to serve as the three LSM Executive Officers.

When we have volunteers, we will use the special election process in the bylaws to elect them to office. I can only hope that you care enough about LSM that you will take the initiative and send your name to Rose at editor@lsm.us.mensa.org.

MEMBER CONCERNS/ACTION PLANS STATUS REPORT

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

A flurry of activity since my last status report completed work on several action items and began work on others. By March 8, work had begun on 41 of the 47 action plans, or 87 percent. Of these, 37 or almost two-thirds of the action plans are reported as completed. More than half of these still need board approval but the super progress is the important thing. The goal the board set was completion and approval of half of the action plans by the end of the term (April 5). Depending on board approvals, it looks like our goal will be met. Highlights include:

Newsletter

Rose's reformatting the design and content on the newsletter will be complete with this issue. Of course change is inevitable and necessary as the desires of the members and content change. In the March issue Rose asked us all to tell her how she is doing. The results so far are very complimentary as you can tell from some of the letters Rose has included in this issue. Be sure you provide her your opinion at editor@lsm.us.mensa.org.

Website

Douglas has volunteered to be our Webmaster and functional positions have been identified to provide the content so he can keep the site current. There has been a delay in the design effort while we search for a web-design volunteer to help out. So although there is still much work to be done, the site has been kept relatively up to date and minor changes to the design are being made to improve usability.

Clique

Last year, members expressed concern that the organization has been run by a clique that is reluctant to make changes. As may be seen in the Dialectics, appointment of new blood on the Nomination Committee, new board members, new members in other officer's positions, and new members on the RG committee, should dispel any concern that we have a clique now. The problem now is finding volunteers for the board and other vacant officer positions.

New Members

With the appointment of Patsy as New Member Coordinator, we now have someone who will provide care and feeding of new members. You will be seeing socials for new members on a more regular basis than before. These are not just for new members; current members should come and welcome the new members and help them understand what a great organization we have.

Monthly Meetings

Our new format of alternating between discussions and presentations has become more stable as we settle into our new location in the Carver Library. Most importantly, the board changed the rules so that we can tap into the wealth of speakers we have within LSM who want to share their knowledge and experiences with others. Lisa Oliver is an example. If you missed her presentation on Death Care, you missed insight into how most families get trapped into high cost services that they might need or want.

Check out the details

The latest status report is available directly at www.tinyurl.com/7b97d7s or indirectly through the standards tab (look for the Member Concerns in the contents page) or through the Officers-Board tabs under the March meeting. Please provide any thoughts you might have to the editor@lsm.us.mensa.org this year.

But it is unfair to thrust new members into executive officer positions when they do not have time to serve or do not have the training necessary for them to succeed. So the board and LSM are faced with a new fiscal year with only enough volunteers to fill half the board positions and no experienced volunteers to serve in the executive officer positions.

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



A current topic of discussion among the members of the

American Mensa Committee is the question of how to fill a vacancy in the office of Regional Vice Chairman. For all other AMC members, the process is simple: If an office becomes vacant the other AMC members simply elect a replacement to serve until the next election. For the first four decades or so of American Mensa's existence, the same procedure was followed for RVCs, but a few years back our legal counsel advised us that this is not allowed by the corporate laws of New York, which govern our operations.

In the following two national Mensa elections, proposals were put on the ballot to provide a new method of choosing a replacement RVC, either by holding a special election, or by allowing the Local Secretaries of the affected region to make the choice; but although both proposals received a majority

of the votes cast, neither one was approved by the two-thirds vote necessary to pass an amendment to our by-laws. Other possibilities have been raised, but so far none appears likely to get the required two-thirds vote. The result is that if there should be a vacancy in the office of RVC, the remaining AMC members will elect a non-voting representative for that region, who will have all the privileges of an AMC member except the right to vote.

Now there are two ways of looking at this situation: some of my colleagues on the AMC argue that simply having a voice at AMC meetings satisfies the most important requirements of regional representation, and it is true that in my three years on the AMC I have never seen a motion which passed or failed by one vote, so in practice perhaps just having someone present to speak up for the region's members is sufficient. On the other hand, there is a question of principle involved: if I pay the same dues in Oklahoma as a member across the state line in Kansas, but the Kansas member has a voting representative on the Board of Directors and I don't, doesn't that

devalue my membership in some way?

For now, there seems to be a strong preference on the current AMC in favor of the status quo, and in a way I find that understandable. After all, we've tried twice to get you, the members, to approve a new way of solving this problem, and both of our proposals have been rejected. Perhaps that indicates that you're all happy with the current system. Consequently, in the absence of a strong protest against the non-voting representative arrangement, I don't see any change happening. On the other hand, it may be that most of you aren't aware that I would effectively disenfranchise you by resigning my office, or by moving out of the region, which would have the same effect. Do you care?

You have elected me to represent you, and it is my intent to do so to the best of my ability, but I have to know what's important to you and what isn't. If this is something you think we need to pursue further, please contact me at rvc6@us.mensa.org, or by mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238

If a conservative is a liberal who's been mugged, a liberal is a conservative who's been arrested. - Tom Wolfe



Council of Indian Chiefs who negotiated with General Miles

OFFICER NEWS

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

Vacancies

Board Members: Our most critical vacancies are those in our senior leadership—Four board members, three of whom need to have experience in elected officer positions to serve as LocSec, Vice-President / Secretary, and Treasurer. To avoid the heaviest rush hour traffic, Board Members are scheduled to meet 7:30 to 8:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month at the Carver Library between 11th and 12th Streets east of I35. See Don's Dialectics on page 2 for more information. To learn more or to volunteer, email Rose at editor@lsm.us.mensa.org

NomComm and ElectComm: A special election is required to seat members on the board. We need a Committee Chairman and two committee members for each committee. However volunteers may serve on both committees.

Email or call Don at drumtra@aol.com or 291-0315 to volunteer or learn more.

Continuing Officers: If you are currently serving in an officer position and have not let Don know that you do not wish to continue in the position, you will be automatically nominated to continue to serve in the same position. Appointments will be made at the April 5 board meeting.

RG Chair: The opportunity is still open for you to lead the 2012 RG. Previous RG chairs are hard acts to follow, but you can count on help from your Mensa friends and colleagues—particularly the Past Chairs: John, Geri, Andrew, etc.) Two volunteers have already come forward to serve on the committee: Patsy Graham as Registrar and Don Drumtra as Treasurer, subject to their

appointment. Email John at john@neemidge.net to volunteer or learn more.

Resignations

Jon Kurylowicz has resigned from the Board, effective with the end of his term on March 31st. His term as Circulation Manager is also up at that time, so Don Drumtra will be assuming those duties for the time being.

Linda Edelstein will be resigning as Treasurer as of May 1st, after doing a wonderful job for LSM.

We thank them both for their service.

Eclectic Eats Host: Since Aaron Rabushka has moved to another group, we're looking for a new host for our monthly "Eclectic Eats" get-together. If you would enjoy meeting your fellow

Mensans for an affordable, enjoyable dinner and lively conversation, if you appreciate introducing friends to a variety of food styles, this is the job for you! Contact Rose Berkowitz for more information, and let's get the ball rolling. Bon appetit!

Installations

I am happy to report that there were no challenges to the nomination and election process so the new board members, Aaron Legare, Douglas Yee, and John Neemidge have officially been elected and will assume office at the board meeting on April 5.

Congratulations to our new board members and a big thank you to

Crockett, our current board member, who will begin the second year of his two-year term on April 5. I will also serve on the board as acting LocSec until such time as we elect a new permanent LocSec. I will then assume the roles of Executive Advisor / Past LocSec.

For their first activity, the new board members attended the last meeting of the current board. Their first official board meeting will take place the first Thursday in April. They will be looking at the things the incoming board should do at their first meeting to begin their term.

Again, congratulations to all new board members, and best wishes

for the future. I look forward to working with you to do great things for Lone Star Mensa.

Webmaster Appointed

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Douglas Yee as LSM Webmaster, effective March 12, 2012, with confirmation from the Communications Committee. Douglas will be working closely with Patsy Graham to implement the redesign and to maintain our LSM web site. I know we can look forward to some exciting and innovative enhancements. Please give him your full support and any input or corrections for the Website.

APRIL FOOL'S!

By Amanda Lacy and Dave Miller

Amanda Lacy and Dave Miller met last fall at a Mensa meeting. Amanda was born totally blind. but thanks to an innovative free program called "the vOICE" (available at www.seeingwithsound.com), Amanda is now able to convert small black-and-white images taken with a digital camera into sound files, and for the first time "see" the shape, outline and texture of objects.



The system is very crude, so Dave began to work with Amanda, looking at ways to improve the program. Initially Amanda had limited skills when it came to visualizing 3-D shapes. Then Dave built

her a box illuminated with Christmas lights along the edges. The box and the numerous outdoor Christmas light displays they visited at Christmas allowed Amanda to make rapid progress in understanding the "sound" of particular three-dimensional spaces and objects. Soon Dave realized that Amanda's acute sense of hearing, combined with the vOICE system, opened up the possibility that she might be able to "see" enough to drive a car.

They began to experiment. Because Dave's car has a manual transmission, the first step was teaching

Amanda how to use the clutch and gearshift while guiding the car (very, very slowly) using the traditional "tap tap tap" of the white cane. She proved to be a natural at coordinating the clutch and the transmission, but the cane system didn't work very well at all for the "where to aim the car" part



For example, she simply had to hit the brake and stop when an Austin Transit bus came up next to her and made too much noise for her to hear the tapping of the cane.

Of course Amanda doesn't have a learner's permit, so much to Amanda's annoyance Dave insisted that they move the next step to the Texas School for the Blind parking lot, where they began to



practice with a camera on the dashboard and the vOICe interface.

When the car is actually moving, Dave is in the passenger's seat. There are still huge problems—Amanda can see high contrast scenes best so, nighttime driving is a problem and we have not yet come up with a solution that allows Amanda to use mirrors. And a late-night I 35 experiment almost turned into a disaster. Traffic around Austin is getting much, much worse.

So far the State of Texas is unwilling to make reasonable accommodations and issue a learners permit to totally a blind beginner, but the recent proposal to allow Google's unmanned vehicles to be tested on Texas roads opens up the possibility that Amanda might qualify under an unmanned vehicle provision—a good start, but clearly not the sort of accommodation that the Americans With Disabilities Act will eventually require as vOICe-like programs improve. We'll keep you posted.

MARCH BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Patty Drumtra, VP and Secretary

The March regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 6:15 PM, February 29, 2012 at Ron and Linda Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin TX 78727. Attending were **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, Linda Edelstein, Douglas Yee, Crockett Grabbe, and Rose Berkowitz.**

The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the February regular meeting as printed on page 3 of the March Armadillo Literary Gazette. The minutes, agenda, referenced written reports, and other documents related to the meeting are available on the LSM Website. Paper copies are available on request.

The board received the following officer reports and took the following actions:

- Treasurer: The board unanimously approved the February monthly Treasurer's report.
- ComComm: Rose Berkowitz requested help in selecting issues of the ALG for Newsletter Awards.
- EdComm: Michele is planning a kid's day at a farm. Claudia's committee has finished the scholarship essay judging.
- Membership Committee: Patsy Graham is planning a Membership event near Mother's Day.
- Symposium Committee: We continue to look for good speakers for our monthly meetings.
- LonestaRG 2012 Committee: Patsy reported no new registrations for RG 2012.

Action Plans: Rose has been conducting a survey on membership thoughts about the changes she implemented in the newsletter.

New Business:

- The board accepted the resignation of Jon Kurlyowicz from the board as of March 31.
- It was the sense of the current board that a member participating in a regular board meeting by telephone or other electronic means should be counted in determining a quorum for conducting business. However, board members should be physically present when they are able. Future boards should make their own interpretation.
- It was the sense of the current board that a member's participation in a board meeting via electronic means should be counted in satisfying their minimum board meeting attendance requirements. Future boards should make their own interpretation.
- The board approved supporting the Armadillo Literary Gazette submissions for the annual national newsletter awards.
- The board approved the ComComm purchase of website design software not to exceed \$450, using ComComm equipment replacement funds.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meeting (the first meeting of the 2012-2013 board) is scheduled for 7:30-8:30 PM, Thursday, April 5 at the Carver Branch Library.
- The next regular monthly meetings are scheduled for March 12 and April 9, 6:45-8:15 PM at the Carver Branch Library. The March Meeting will include pizza and soda. Potential topics looking for presenters are available on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge Douglas Yee's contributions this past year. Every month he submits a challenging sudoku puzzle for our readers, and I know many of you look forward to solving it. So thank you very much, Douglas! - Editor

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

By Douglas Yee



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

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.

In other news, it has recently been shown that 17 is the minimal number of starting clues required for a valid sudoku:

youtu.be/MlyTq-xVkJQE

POETRY CORNER

By Tom Haddon

Not for April Fools, but I hope it appeals to some. Inspired somewhat by Shakespeare's Hamlet (Polonius advising his son Laertes) and my distaste for these ridiculous "Reality" shows on TV:

LIVE TRUE

We search for authenticity
and truth
in our reality,
But often this can lead us down
a path so wrong
we act the clown.

To avoid becoming blue
when all the world
comes down on you
This one thing be sure to do:
For yourself and God
live true.

By Rose M. Berkowitz

HOWL

I want to howl my pain to the heavens,
Disappear for the lack of your love.
The last rose of summer is withering away,
Starving for the essence of life.
Time heals all wounds, they say.
But what do they say about absence...?
Irony and paradox—
These are my faithful companions.
Bleak prospects, undoubtedly,
With a universe and eternity to fill.
Is it any wonder, then,
That madness would be preferable?



**Wars damage the civilian society as much as they damage the enemy.
Soldiers never get over it- Paul Fussell**

THE WOMEN OF WORLD WAR II

From a Russian website found by Ron Edelstein

The link below takes you to a web site with priceless 69-year-old Kodachrome transparencies, taken with 4 x 5 inch film and a Large Format ASA 25 camera and lens that document the contributions of women (as well as men) to the Allied victory. They were the unsung heroes of the day. Without Rosy the Riveter the war no doubt would have lasted longer.

Take time to look at the faces in the pictures and think about the people. WWII aircraft and ships flown and sailed by men—built by women and ferried to the front by women pilots, who flew everything the U.S. built! Let's hear it for the WASPs, WAVES and SPARS (Women Air Force, Women sailors and Women Coast Guard)!

These photos are great, not only for their historical value, but for their quality, too.

pavel-kosenko.livejournal.com/303194.html?thread=22669914



FIND MORE OF MENSA ON THE WEB

From www.us.mensa.org/connect/mensa-on-the-web/

American Mensa provides and supports many official Internet communities: the Local Group, SIG and Mensa Foundation Web sites; AML's online Community; chat rooms; and elists.

Supplementing those services, members have created many other unofficial online Mensa-centric communities. As part of AML's ongoing efforts to make it easier for members to interact socially and

intellectually, we are providing links to many of these unofficial sites and services.

Please note that, by using the links provided, you acknowledge that you may be leaving the American Mensa Web site. While American Mensa does review the links to verify fit with this service, we do not maintain content of the linked pages. Please surf with care

PROCTOR WEBINAR

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

This is a great opportunity for any LSM member who might be interested in proctoring in the future.

American Mensa's next Proctor Certification Webinar will be on April 12, 2012 at 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. ET/ 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. CT/ 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. MT/ 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. PT. The Webinar will count for BOTH of their Proctor in Training test session viewings. They will only have to be observed to finish their certification. I encourage any current or potential Proctors in Training to register at the link emailed to all LocSecs for this Webinar. Contact me for the link.

General Store



Taken in 1917 or 1918 by Harris & Ewing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I read the newsletter every month. I enjoy it!

I'm wondering if the replication of what was a print medium into an electronic medium loses something in the translation, though. Should we be focusing on new media tools to create an engaging presence? Something more interactive than a newsletter?

Rob Shook

I want you to know that I read your newsletter every month. I live in Georgetown, and can neither afford nor bring myself to drive the distances that it would take for me to be an active member. When I was a member of North Texas, I was board member, twice,

secretary, and New Members person for six years. You don't know how much I miss it.

Jane Thompson

I just read the recent armadillo with the note for feedback. While I don't have too much to contribute, I did just want to say that I am a recent member of the group and I do read the entire newsletter and enjoy them. It is nice for me to hear from officers to learn more about what the group does, the spotlights on interesting people, and the jokes at the end are nice too. So if nothing else, I am a fan and hope you keep up the good work.

Thanks,

Justin Jones

Although it may not always show, we're still out here reading & enjoying the ALG.

Alan Crudden
Life Member

Rose, you have done a fine job with the Armadillo Literary Gazette. The last two issues were very good, and much improved over what I had seen in the past several years.

I moved here from the Chicago area in 2007, and as a member of Chicago Area Mensa I was accustomed to reading and enjoying "ChiMe" each month, for news, features and other Mensa stuff. Initially, ALG lagged far

behind. You have made it a horse race...well done!

Glenn Mautner

I saw your request for input on your work with the LSM bulletin. Then, it seemed (just kidding, now, not complaining!) you must have been targeting this old codger, Akins. You listed him, twice, under the 'member for 5 years' category. Maybe that's because I've actually been a member for over 10 years now, off and on. So 5 and 5 add up to at least ten. :-)

All in all, you produce a very interesting report - more so than some of those many years ago, back in the "using up valuable trees for paper" era.

Suggestion: Keep up the good work and, when you feel yourself getting discouraged, just count the complaints from any given issue, multiply that by 100 or so and you'll know how many folks really appreciate your work.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Akins

(I seldom use the middle 'E' in my name since it represents 'Edward' - which, I'm told, in jolly old English, means 'Guarder of treasure. Over the years I've discovered that treasures become so much more valuable when shared instead of guarded and/or hoarded.)

Nicely done! I just moved my membership to LSM from GCM and have only received a few newsletters but definitely enjoy them, pretty much read it all the way through. I'm aware of the effort required to make it look good as well, much appreciated.

Responding to your request for feedback. I enjoy the content. Hopefully I will come up with a contribution for review every so often.

Dennis Conine

In reference to the Editor's Choice in the literary gazette for March 2012, I do read the gazette; nearly every word of it. Even at times when I am terribly busy, I will save it to read later.

I appreciate all your hard work. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Tray Cushing

You asked.

I read it every month and keep them around. So much easier to be a pack-rat in the digital age...

Jeff Darco

Once again you've come up with an interesting newsletter.

I'd like to attend a few of the meetings, but I'm now 81 and, like most stereotypes, there is an element of truth in the "early hours" syndrome. I rarely go ANYWHERE at night any more.

I taught at the St. Edward's Graduate School of Management at St. Edward's for a few years, but finally, I gave it up since most of the classes were at night. I gave up performing as a Horn player in the "Band of the Hills" for the same reason. See: www.bandofthehills.org/

There is an element of truth in what Bette Davis said: "Growing old is not for wimps!"

Take care...

Tom Spillman

I read your message wondering if anyone reads your fine work. I do! Almost every word of it, and I usually enjoy it! I will try to come up with something to submit for publication one of these days, but until then I didn't want you to think your work went completely unappreciated.

Sincerely,

James Nicholopoulos

In response to your plea for comments about the newsletter: I have been a member of Lone Star Mensa since 1981, and I find your newsletters to be the most interesting, most attractive format, and best in all these years. Truly! Keep up the fine work.

Please take my words as sincere appreciation of all that you do.

Name Withheld by Request

I read every word and enjoy the newsletter immensely!

Maud Ann Reddehase

Yes, Rose, I actually read each monthly issue and look forward to it.

I may not participate as much as I would like to due to my other activities (work, work, and more work...) but I still feel connected to the local group. One of the things that helps maintain that connection is the effort you put into the ALG.

My favorite quote is from Theodore Roosevelt:

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the

strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat." (Theodore Roosevelt)

Don't give up. Your efforts are appreciated even if the rest of us aren't very good at telling you that.

Johnnie

In reference to the Editor's Choice in the literary gazette for March 2012, I do read the gazette; nearly every word of it. Even at times when I am terribly busy, I will save it to read later.

I appreciate all your hard work. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Tray Cushing

Yup..... read it every month, although I cannot honestly say that I read every word.

Lawrence Weinman

Yes, I do read the newsletter, but since it has gone digital only, I do not read as much of it as I used to. The problem is that I don't like sitting at the computer for too long reading newsletter (I like reading them in bed or bathroom, but it is too much problem to print out, I am too cheap). I like to read it over a time span. Maybe it can be printed out in several parts throughout the month. That is my opinion only.

Hans Weger

I don't know if I am one of those who you count on your 2 hands, but I read every word of the Gazette and I think you are doing a great job, so please stop worrying. Also, I am glad Patsy is now our

new member coordinator. It can be a real problem when we have new members who keep walking into walls, knocking over furniture, and being otherwise clumsy.

73,

Hugh Brown

I read virtually every American Mensa local group newsletter each month and I always am glad to see the email come through with the Armadillo Literary Gazette attached. It is one of the most readable and fun newsletters I get.

For that reason, I was amazed to read in your lead article that only a few of the Mensans you serve contact you about your newsletter. We all tend to get involved in our daily lives and forget to thank those who volunteer for us. I am certain your members do appreciate you, even when they don't take the time to voice it.

Keep up the good work!

Brian Reeves
American Mensa Communications
Officer

ROOT FOR THE GAZETTE!

By Rose M. Berkowitz, Editor

Thanks to all the positive feedback I received from our members regarding this newsletter (see above), I was emboldened to submit the ALG for the Publications Recognition Program (PRP). The PRP recognizes and rewards Local Groups and contributors for their activities in Mensa print and electronic media.

New this year is a change to the judging that should bring new interest and involvement to the program! Newsletter Editors will vote for the "Editors' Choice Awards," and Webmasters will vote for the "Webmasters' Choice Awards." In addition, American Mensa members will get involved in the process through the "Members' Choice Awards" as voted on by current members.

You can vote starting April 1st at www.us.mensa.org/PRPVoting. To keep things fair, though, no member will be able to vote for his or her own group's entries.

The awards ceremony will be held at the 2012 Annual Gathering in Reno in July.

MEMBER NEWS (as of 02/29/12)

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

- 2 Bruce Wayne Jean
- 3 Mark Summers
- 5 Sean T Taylor
- 6 James Collins
- 6 John Morey
- 9 Sarah Graham
- 9 Timothy S Rupert
- 9 Diana M Wilbur
- 11 Michael Withers
- 13 Edwin J Rogers
- 14 Michael Lewis Drapkin
- 14 Jonathan Jones
- 14 Johnnie Ray Vaughn
- 15 Janet Stineman Kres
- 15 James L McShan
- 15 Tomas Medina
- 16 Christopher M Jackson
- 16 Brian Slone
- 17 Brian Bloch
- 17 David T Silvey
- 18 David J Burgett
- 18 Patricia Carolyn Dicuffa
- 21 Michael Hoffman Bossert
- 21 Rita Barker Christie
- 21 Susan Modelle Gibson
- 22 John Leslie Neemidge
- 23 Robin D Green
- 23 Nancy Hester
- 23 Stephanie Stoebe

- 24 Patricia B McCormick
- 25 Jonathan A Blair
- 26 Wes Davenport
- 26 Robert Thomas Palko
- 27 Diana L Brugman
- 27 Dr Dan B Dydek
- 28 David James White
- 29 Ted Alexander

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

- Louis E Carter
- Victoria Leonard
- John B Meadows Jr
- Timothy T Rueger
- Benjamin J Suchy
- Michael A York

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

- Shannon Huggins

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

- Robert C Blankemeier
- James 'Shaunak' Divine
- Dr James A Freeman
- Ada M Howard
- John D Moris
- Rex H Pendleton
- James Skinner
- Margaret Syverson
- Jason Wallace
- Linda Carole White

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

- CW3 William Allen Blackwell
- Maria M Crompton
- Robert Dan Manly
- Jerome Morris
- Garrett Smith



MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

- Henry Robert Hug MD

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

- Vladimir Garner
- Scott Jacobsmeyer



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

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

From www.us.mensa.org/AML/?LinkServID=1A6E3335-562F-4471-81FDD737A98DEF51



Many organizations say, "Our people are our most important asset." When we develop our volunteer leaders, we motivate and educate them so they will stick with us and, perhaps, take on more responsibility.

Ideally, every region will hold at least one leadership event each year. Funding for annual LDWs is available if the RVC follows guidelines and provides solid, useful training plans that will develop local group leaders.

When planning your leadership event, please review the Leadership Workshop Guide and these forms below first. For additional information regarding leadership workshops, pep rallies and the Leadership Development Program, please contact the Leadership Committee Chair.

LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of February 29, 2012

Newsletter

Editor	editor@lsm.us.mensa.org	Rose Berkowitz	467-4871
Emailing	epostmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Linda Edelstein	491-9881
Snail mailing	postmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Online	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Calendar	calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org	Rose Berkowitz	467-4871
Publicity	publicity@lsm.us.mensa.org	Paul Anderson	259-7824
Advertising		Vacant	
Photographer		Vacant	
Managing Editor	editor@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Publisher	recsecretary@lsm.us.mensa.org	Board of Officers	291-0361

On Line

Website Design	mensapats@att.net	Patsy Graham	380-0141
Website Maintenance	webmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Douglas Yee	288-0172
LSM Officers, contacts	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Board Meetings	recsecretary@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patty Drumtra	291-0361
Operating standards	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Email Lists	emailists@lsm.us.mensa.org	John Neemidge	310-7863
Facebook	facebook@lsm.us.mensa.org	Geri Neemidge	310-7863

Membership

membership@lsm.us.mensa.org	Fred Goertz	569-1758	
New Members	mensapats@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patsy Graham	380-0141
Renewals	membership@lsm.us.mensa.org	Vacant	
Testing	testing@lsm.us.mensa.org	Austin G. Meyer	971-3123
Awards	membership@lsm.us.mensa.org	Vacant	
Officers	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315

Education

		Vacant	
Gifted Children Programs	giftedchildren@lsm.us.mensa.org	Michele Vaughan	388-5970
Scholarships	scholarship@lsm.us.mensa.org	Claudia Harbert	238-0205
Financial Outreach		Vacant	

Gatherings and Events

		Vacant	
Monthly Programs		Vacant	
RG Registrar	mensapats@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patsy Graham	380-0141
RG Speakers	lsrg13@nneemidge.net	John and Geri Neemidge	310-7863
TGITs		Vacant	
Games Night		Vacant	
Chess Night	cmvc95@yahoo.com	Douglas Yee	288-9172
Eclectic Eats		Vacant	
Picnics and Parties		Vacant	
Southern area Events	southernarea@lsm.us.mensa.org	Brian Bloch	878-8800

Disputes

ombudsman@lsm.us.mensa.org	Ron Edelstein	491-9881
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Reimbursements

treasurer@lsm.us.mensa.org	Linda Edelstein	491-9881
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S.I.G.H.T.

	Vacant	
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Everything else

locsec@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	380-0141
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* Experienced members who've worked with the National Office (NO) and the American Mensa Committee (AMC), and can help members navigate both.

APRIL CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Board Meeting	6 South Austin Party!	7 Passover Begins 
8 Easter 	9 Member Meeting	10	11	12 ALG Deadline Chess Night, TGIT-North	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 TGIT-South	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26 TGIT-North Seal & Label	27 Arbor Day	28
29	30					

See the online calendar (www.lsm.us.mensa.org/events/calendar.html) for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes. Online calendar inputs may be posted at any time. Calendar input for the printed calendar is due by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

Mensa Admissions Testing ?????

For time, location, and details contact Austin Meyer at 971-3123 or austin.g.meyer@gmail.com.

Board Meeting 1st Thursday

April 5, 7:30-8:30 pm

South Austin Party!

April 6, 7:45-whenver

See page 1 for details.

Member Meeting

2nd Monday

April 9, 6:15-8:45 PM

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday

April 12, Midnight

Submissions due to editor@lsm.us.mensa.org.

Chess Night (with the TGIT-N group) 2nd Thursday

April 12, 6-8 PM

Bring your chess sets if you have them. Hosted by Douglas Yee.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-North)

2nd & 4th Thursdays

April 12 & 26, 6:00-8:00 PM

Meet us at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. Look for the Mensa table sign.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursdays

April 19, 6:00-8:00 PM

Come join the South Austin group for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday

April 26, 6:00-8:00 PM

Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

UPCOMING IN MAY

May 3. Board Meeting
May 10, Chess Night, ALG Deadline
May 10 & 24, TGIT-North
May 14, Member Meeting
May 17, TGIT-South
May 24, Seal & Label

EVENT DIRECTIONS

Board and Member Meetings

Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3
1161 Angelina, Austin
512-974-1010
Between 11th and 12th Streets, east of I-35. This location allows direct access to the library from 183 and via FM 969 MLK and 12th Street.

TGIT-North, Chess Night, Seal & Label

Central Market Café North at Central Park
4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin
512-206-1020
4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin
512-206-1020
East of N. Lamar between 38th and 44th Streets; on the south side of the store.

TGIT-South

Central Market Café South at Westgate Mall:
4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin
512-899-4300
On the south side of the S. Lamar access road (the south access road of I-290/SR71) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trail. Enter on the east side of the store, by the statues of fruits and vegetables.

Send undeliverable copies or change of address to:

AMERICAN MENSA LIMITED
1229 CORPORATE DR W
ARLINGTON TX 76006-6103

PUBLICATION NOTICES

The Armadillo Literary Gazette is owned by American Mensa Limited and is the monthly official publication of Lone Star Mensa.
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Submissions of all types are encouraged. The deadline is the second Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email (preferred) 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, unless restricted by the author.
Calendar inputs may be submitted at any time and will normally be published online within three days and in the next month's printed calendar if received before the cut-off date. The cut-off date is the second Thursday of the previous month.
Advertising may be accepted subject to space limitations. Lone Star Mensa members may submit 2 non-commercial ads per year at no charge, limited to 4 column line maximum. Publication dates are subject to editor's discretion. Business-card-sized ads (2" x 3") are \$10 for one month, \$25 for three months, and \$40 for six months. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. Ads must be camera-ready, accurately sized, and should be submitted via email in Microsoft Word (preferred, DOC or DOCX), JPG, or PDF format. The deadline for ad submissions to the newsletter editor is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline. Publication may be delayed due to space limitations and may be edited to meet publication standards.

Newsletter submissions may be sent to
editor@lsm.us.mensa.org
Calendar submissions may be sent to
calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org

The editor's snail mail address is
Rose Berkowitz, 10610 Morado Cir Apt 922,
Austin, TX 78759-5554



Armadillo Literary Gazette

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