

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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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'm ba-a-a-ck! My heartfelt thanks to Ron Edelstein for doing such a great job filling in for me while I was ill. (Not only did I have surgery on both eyes, but two days later I came down with pneumonia and was hospitalized for a week.)

A lot has been happening lately (discussed throughout this issue)—a major change being that we have a new LocSec, John Neemidge. He's going to be a busy man, since he and his wife Geri are also once again co-chairing the Lone Star Mensa regional gathering to be held again this year over the Labor Day weekend. I know he'd appreciate any help or ideas you feel moved to offer, either for the group in general or for the RG.

Also, I have to brag a little. Here's a great news article about an effort I'm proud to say my son-in-law, Allen Bergeron, is spear-heading for the City of Austin: ***A Well-Deserved Honor Flight***, at statesman.com/opinion/insight/a-well-deserved-honor-flight-2396860.html. Here's a picture from the trip:



All day long, kids came up to our WWII Veterans to tell them thank you. It was an honor to take our first 25 local WWII Veterans from the Austin area to see their Memorial built in gratitude for their service and sacrifices. – Allen Bergeron

As always, I'd be glad to hear from you. So please send your comments, ideas, essays, or whatever else you'd like to contribute to the ALG Editor. No particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated.

NOTE: To RSVP for an LSM member event or for more information, see the Contacts list on page 14 for contact data.

*Whenever people say "We mustn't be sentimental," you can take it they are about to do something cruel. And if they add "We must be realistic," they mean they are going to make money out of it. – **Brigid Brophy [Lady Levey]***

BREWERY TOUR & BEER TASTING!

Submitted by Geri Neemidge

Saturday July 21 1:15 pm
Jester King Craft Brewery
13005 Fitzhugh Road, Austin



Let's meet at the brewery at 1:15—there is a tour at 1:30. The \$10 fee covers parking, entrance and access to the brewery grounds, a spot on any of the tours, and a souvenir glass for tasting.

Jester King Craft Brewery is located at 13005 Fitzhugh Road in unincorporated Austin, approximately 18 miles southwest of downtown. Heading west on US-290, continue 5.3 miles past the TX-71 split, turning right at the light for Fitzhugh Rd., just before the Chevron Station. Follow Fitzhugh Rd. 2.9 miles passing signs for Fitzhugh Ranch and Long Branch Valley on the right, and then Ceres Park on the left. The brewery entrance is at 13187 Fitzhugh Rd., 0.3 miles west of the main entrance for Ceres Park. RSVP to Geri Neemidge.

First Day of Summer Fun

mensaforkids.org/school_template.cfm?showPage=educational_activity_plans.cfm

When summer comes, there is more time to play and explore. The activities shared below are a blend of colorful art projects and some ideas for an outside activity – bubbles.

This series of educational activities was designed to simultaneously entertain and challenge gifted youth in their time outside of the school setting; however, the activities may be easily shared and enjoyed by older people as well. Programs may be scaled up or down depending on number of attendees, desired level of complexity, etc. Sample materials are included with most plans.

The Mensa Foundation has a strong commitment to supporting educational outreach and social stimulation for gifted young people everywhere. For more information on this and all of the Foundation's programs, visit www.mensafoundation.org



[Following are some sample activities from the web site. Go there for more suggestions.—Editor]

Activity plan: Challenge Night

Kids and grown-ups alike will have fun with a variety of building and code-breaking challenges.

- [Challenge Night Samples](#)

Activity plan: Character Tea Party

Mensans of all ages will enjoy this activity, which involves dressing up as your favorite character from a book and getting together for a little afternoon refreshment. It's not complicated to do, and it's inexpensive, too.

- [Character Tea Party Samples](#)

Activity plan: Duct Tape Bonanza

A duct tape activity is a natural for Mensans — it's fun, it's creative and it's smart.

- [Duct Tape Bonanza Samples](#)

LONESTAR XIV: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Submitted by John Neemidge, RG Co-Chair

LonestarRG XIV: Food For Thought is two and a half months away, and this is your chance to sign up early and save! LonestarRG is Lone Star Mensa's annual Regional Gathering. It'll be held in Round Rock over Labor Day weekend, Aug 31 - Sep 3, 2012. We hope you'll join us and share in the fun!

Registration is \$65 until July 13th and \$75 until Aug. 17th. Children 9-17 half price, 8 and under are free..

Scheduled programs include presentations on urban agriculture, nutrition, aquaponics, backyard chickens, the culinary arts, and other foodie topics.

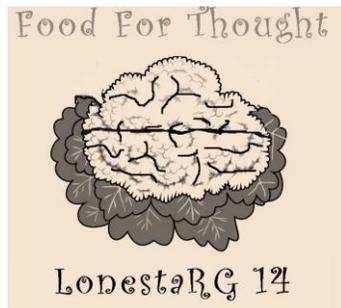
There'll be games, workshops, a Crockpot Potluck Jackpot contest, a Scholarship Dessert cook-off, the ever-popular Name That Movie, new and unusual tastings, a dance, and many other events. Our hospitality includes meals, soda, beer, wine, snacks, margaritas, desserts, and more.

Registration forms and online registration (payment via PayPal) are available at ism.us.mensa.org/events/rg, which also has pictures from last year's RG, hotel information, and preliminary program information.

We'll be at the Wingate Round Rock (the same hotel as last year). Call the hotel at 512-341-7000 and request the Lone Star Mensa Rate (\$85/night, which includes a hot buffet breakfast). The hotel is located at 1209 N. IH-35, at the intersection of IH-35 and US 79 in Round Rock.

This is LSM's biggest event of the year. Where else can you find a 3-day weekend full of interesting talks, activities, games, and more, along with food and drink, for only \$55? And all that in the company of many of your fellow Mensans. RG's are a lot of fun, and we're working hard to make this our best ever.

We hope you'll join us for a great weekend!



- Planned speaker topics include Urban Agriculture, Nutrition, Aquaponics, the culinary arts, and other foodie topics
- Abundant hospitality, with meals, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, margaritas

- Dance
- Many workshops
- Captivating company
- Crockpot Potluck and Scholarship Dessert Cook-off
- Tastings
- Games and contests
- Goodies and Prizes

Feed your head at LonestarRG the 14th! We're planning a great weekend, Friday August 31st - Monday September 3rd, with speakers on foodie topics, games and workshops, and plenty of tasty treats in hospitality. We'll again be at the Wingate by Windham in Round Rock.

Registration is \$65 until July 13th and \$75 until Aug. 17th. Children 9-17 half price, 8 and under are free. To register online via PayPal, get a printable registration form, or for more information as it becomes available, see the web page at <http://www.ism.us.mensa.org/events/rg>. Send registrations to Patsy Graham, 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757-3124 (mensapats@att.net).

A WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec



Hello fellow Lone Star Mensans. As I write this, we're a couple months into this year's officer terms, and still have a number of open officer positions, both on the board and in other areas. If you're interested in helping, and especially if you're interested in a board position, please let me

know; we'll be able to fill board positions by appointment starting in July. A big thanks to Angela Adams, who volunteered to be our Symposia Committee chair. The Symposia Committee is in charge of the Monthly Meeting, parties, and other social events.

We're also about two-and-a-half months out from LonestaRG XIV. Our next planning meeting is Thursday, July 12, at 6:30, at Central Market North (during TGIT). Everyone's encouraged to come help us plan this year's LonestaRG and get involved—we welcome your help and ideas! We also hope everyone will sign up for and

attend LonestaRG. We're hard at work planning a lot of great speakers and events for you. There'll be an ad elsewhere in this issue with information about registering.

Coming up even sooner is the Annual Gathering of American Mensa (or AG). Over 2,000 Mensans attend this yearly biggest-of-all-Gatherings. This year's AG is in Reno, July 4-8 (they're almost always over July 4th). It's late notice, but perhaps a few of you can join the Lone Star Mensans already planning to attend. Next year, the AG is much closer to home, just up the road in Fort Worth. If you can't make it this year, I hope you'll consider attending next year's AG!

We're trying to build a better Lone Star Mensa for all of you, but we need your help to do it! Please consider volunteering, but please also come to events, send us your thoughts, contribute to the Lone Star Mensa Chat email list (contact me if you need to get onto it), and in general, get active. The group is more fun for everyone as more people join in!

MEMBER MEETINGS

Submitted by Rose M. Berkowitz, Editor

New Meeting Venue

Don't forget: 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 easily from both north and south Austin, even during rush hour. Depending on how far away you live, you can bypass most of the rush hour traffic by jumping on 183 or 130.

Appointment

We are most pleased to announce that Angela Adams has volunteered to assume the role of Symposia Coordinator for our group. That means she will be responsible for finding speakers for our monthly membership meetings/SIG discussions, as well as for helping with any other LSM social events.

June Meeting

Our June monthly meeting was something special. Zach Baumer, Climate Program Manager from the Office of Sustainability for the City of Austin gave a very professional, interesting and informative presentation. He also provided a very well-designed brochure detailing the "*rethink/Austin*" initiative to all attendees.

Zach covered the following areas:

- Rollout of the new Sustainability Action Agenda, paired with the Rethink campaign for citizen action
- Overview of the new Green Business Leaders program, how it works, what's included, etc.
- Inside look at a new Corporate Sustainability reporting framework for the city of Austin.

For more details on any of these topics, or to download the brochure or the related spreadsheet of 150 specific projects the Sustainability office is currently coordinating, see their web site at austintexas.gov/sustainability. Very impressive!

July Meeting

This will be a SIG Discussion Group meeting. Topic and moderator will be selected by attendees.

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



Recently I asked all of you to suggest ways for Mensa to save money if you wanted to avoid repeated dues increases. At Gulf Coast Mensa's SynRG last month, Hugh Brown, of Lone Star Mensa pointed out that there

is a third option: increasing membership. We have a number of fairly effective programs for recruiting new members, but Hugh pointed out that we lose about 18% of our membership each year at renewal time, including a large percentage of our new members who fail to renew after their first year. He suggested that a major reason for this might be our failure to welcome new members and make them feel part of the group.

Now this may be understandable in a way. After all, many of us are in Mensa because we didn't fit in with our peer group earlier in life, and one consequence of that is a lack of social skills. However, while that may explain the situation, it doesn't excuse it. The one thing we all have in common is that we have demonstrated superior problem-solving skills on a test designed to measure just that. So, why can't we recognize the problem of failure to welcome new members and find a

solution? I suspect at least part of the reason is that we all think it's someone else's problem.

Many local groups have an officer with a title like "New Member Chair" or something similar, or perhaps your group's by-laws make the Assistant Local Secretary or some other officer responsible for new members. That leaves all the rest of us free to hang out with our friends and let the designated officer welcome the newbies, right? Well, no. If we want to grow and expand our membership rolls, all of us who attend Mensa events are going to have to make a concerted effort to recognize and welcome new members. I know it may take you out of your comfort zone, but remember that someone must have done it for you at some point, so please "pay it forward" and keep an eye out for opportunities to meet the new folks at every event you attend.

And as for those of you who have no local events to attend, well, that's another problem altogether. I'm still working on that one.

That's all for now, folks - I'm off to Nevada for the Annual Gathering and the Annual Meeting, plus a meeting of the American Mensa Committee. I'll be back next month with details of the AG and AMC meeting.

If you can keep your head about you when all about you are losing theirs, it's just possible you haven't grasped the situation.

- Jean Kerr [Bridget Jean Collins]



RESPONSE TO RVC COLUMN

By Marcie Everhart, Editor of *Mensokie*, Central Oklahoma Mensa

My career was spent in various marketing initiatives in Houston and Oklahoma. I have some thoughts to share with you regarding your latest column and Mensa's efforts to market itself (marketing being everything a company or group does to SELL its product).

Professional marketers don't guess and assume. They ask, test, and measure before making decisions and strategies, then developing programs. DO AN EXIT POLL when people leave Mensa, ASK why they are quitting. Jumping on one person's suggestion that the reason for an 18% loss of customer base is due to unwelcoming attitudes of those at the local level can antagonize those at the local level. Where's the basis? One person witnessing one incident one time long ago? There is science involved in marketing. I see you attempting to shoot moving targets in the dark with nothing to guide you but hearsay.

How to capture this vital market feedback? It doesn't have to be expensive. Email, online website receptacle-areas for feedback, an online poll, a place to record any verbal comments collected by phone workers or face-to-face comments from local workers, etc. If I were in charge of Mensa's marketing, I would be obsessed with nailing down why I'm losing 18% every year, which is probably negating the gains for the entire year. A Marketing Law: It is much cheaper and easier to keep existing customers than to get new ones.

The more illuminating question is why people join. I suspect many reasons. But, again, you need documentation (polls, surveys, etc.), not assumptions. Then it becomes obvious or at least clearer whether you have met, exceeded, or failed their individual expectations for their Mensa experience. Professional marketers are concerned with managing those expectations, and if they don't manage them well, they find themselves constantly having to re-sell the sale or losing customers, outright.

I sense a lack of organization, focus, and direction in national marketing efforts. What's the message? Because there isn't one, customers (existing and potential members) make up their own in their head.

I think the best thing you can do at this point is just find out why people RENEW with a simple survey, asking members to rank in order of importance benefits (reduced Geico insurance, local speaker meetings, AGs and RGs, national magazine, local newsletter, bragging rights, the cool mug, whatever). What's important to them? What matters?

Consider that it might be offensive to suggest local groups are at fault for member loss when they receive only 15% of the \$63 dues to provide benefits locally. (The national organization gobbles up 85%, and I wonder if that many people interact with national and its benefit package, whatever that might be. We should ask and find

out, though, and spare ourselves the time-wasting bickering with no basis in fact.) It appears that "national" is whipping that poor, starving, "local" nag to death, thinking that's going to get them there in style, lol.

Also, please consider that it might be offensive to members to experience dues increases because national can't control its spending or doesn't want to (which I wonder is the REAL problem in this scenario).

I remember an awesome economics class in my MBA program during which I saw many real-life, charted examples of the substitution theory and "avoidance" consumer behavior. Politicians thought they could raise taxes on widgets to increase their tax revenue (instead of cutting spending). People "avoided" the new tax by "substituting" something else for the widgets or getting widgets from someplace else ("substituting" out-of-country widgets). (You also see this when people drive further to get cheaper gas or drive over the state line for tax-free shopping day.) The net result was decreased overall tax revenue. (It's funny how many times politicians make this mistake over and over...well, not that funny.)

By raising member dues you *could* decrease your overall revenue. The right price is the price the market will pay, not the price you arbitrarily want it to be. Cut the spending, not your nose to spite your face.

[I invite our members to write and tell us what you think about this.—Editor]

JUNE BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Scribe

The April regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 7:45 PM, Thursday, June 7, 2012 at Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3, 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX. Attending were Angela Adams, Don Drumtra, John Neemidge, and Douglas Yee. The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the May regular board meeting as printed on page 3 of the June 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:

- **LocSec:** John thanked Angela for volunteering for the board and emphasized the need for other LSM members to serve on the board.
- **Treasurer:** The board adopted a revised budget, the Full Treasurer's Reports for April and May, and a standing rule to allocate all CD interest to the scholarship escrow while interest rates are low. Expectations for testing revenue were lowered (see below).
- **ComComm:** The June newsletter went out on schedule. Rose Berkowitz reported that she will be able to resume her role as newsletter editor with the July issue.
- **MemComm:** Patsy Graham reported that she has been sending letters to all new members via email and snail mail if email is not available. Austin Meyer and Michael Tolbert reported they have set up testing dates on June 16 and September 1 at the RG with possible dates in between. The board discussed the problem of no-shows without

resolution. There were no objections to an advance payment approach.

- **LonestarRG 2012 Committee:** John reported that RG planning is progressing without significant problems. The board authorized John to sign a three-year contract for the current venue with appropriate withdrawal clauses. The next committee meeting was scheduled for 6:30-8:00 PM, Thursday, 14 June, at Central Market North.
- **Website Working Group:** Patsy and Douglas Yee reported that Douglas will be working with the designer to build one or two prototype websites for board consideration.
- **Mind Games Committee.** Patsy reported that the call for proposals will be sent to local groups in July after the AG.
- **Action Plan Status:** The latest report is posted on the Website.
- **Appointment:** The board confirmed John's appointment of Angela to the board as Chairman of the Symposia Committee.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meetings were scheduled for 7:30-8:30 PM, Thursday, June 28, at Central Market North, and August 2, At the Carver Branch Library.
- The next regular monthly meetings are scheduled for 6:45-8:15 PM, Monday, June 11, with a speaker and July 9 with a discussion topic, at the Carver Branch Library. Potential topics looking for presenters and discussion leaders are available on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

"It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished— unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets."

- Francois Marie Arouet de Voltaire

STRANGE CHANGE

by Ron Edelstein

We will continue with another discussion of the "strange change" that has flowed through our nation's pockets and purses over the two-and-a-third centuries of our Republic. In our modern world we are so accustomed to seeing the same coins year after year that only us "old-timers" remember anything different from the Lincoln cent, the Jefferson nickel, the Roosevelt dime, the Washington quarter dollar or the (now rarely seen) Kennedy half dollar—what we refer to as the "dead presidents." At one time there were NO dead presidents on our coins. Lincoln was the first actual person to be portrayed on a U.S. coin when the Lincoln cent appeared in 1909, on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Twenty Cent coin

During the late 19th century the silver interests wanted to sell more silver to the government, since the world market for silver had declined somewhat. Also, throughout the first part of the century, until 1857, foreign coins were legal tender in the United States alongside the U.S. Coins. The predominant coins in circulation were the Spanish and Mexican coins in the Southwest. The American dollar was originally based on the Spanish 8 *real* coin, famous in literature as “pieces of eight.” So the corresponding fractions also worked well with the U.S. Dollar, such as 4 *reals* equaled a half dollar and 2 *reals* (two “bits”) equaled a quarter dollar. It broke down after that, with the 1 *real* being worth 12½¢ and a ½ *real* being worth 6 ¼¢.

Unscrupulous shop keepers would take a 2 R coin in payment for something worth 12-15¢ and give a dime back, keeping the difference for themselves. 2 ½¢ doesn't seem much now, but in those days it was half of a full lunch in a bar, including a beer! Someone thought a 20¢ coin would somehow help even that out. It didn't, and the series only lasted for two years, 1875 and 1876. Proof-only versions were issued in 1877 and 1878 for collectors, but none for circulation. One of the problems was that the 20¢ coin was only slightly smaller than the 25¢ quarter dollar and had a very similar design—a mistake that was repeated a century later with the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin. The 20¢ coin had a diameter of 22mm and the quarter dollar was 24.6mm, a nearly indistinguishable difference. The other difference was that the 20¢ coin had a smooth edge and the quarter was reeded.



Twenty Cent Coin



Quarter Dollar coin



The Little Half Sisters

Another coin with a much longer life was the half-cent coin. It was among the first coins issued by the new U.S. Mint in 1793, and continued up until the major coin reforms of 1857; by which time it had lost so much of its purchasing power that it was discontinued at the same time as the 1¢ coin was reduced from a big bronze piece about the size of a half-dollar down to the 19mm size with which we are familiar today.

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

By Douglas Yee



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

June

(reprinted due to error)

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

July

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-xvkQE

POETRY CORNER

I DIDN'T NOTICE

Global Warming, a
Global Warning

- Troy Cushing



"One delusion is as good as
another."

- Rose M. Berkowitz



LET'S SHARE!

By Rose Berkowitz

Here's an interesting web site:

The Moth—True Stories Told Live, themoth.org/

You need iTunes in order to listen to the stories. You can also submit your own.

If you have a favorite web site that you'd like to share with your fellow Lone Star Mensans, send the link to me with a brief description and I'll publish it in a future newsletter.

WHAT THE HECK IS HELL'S MENSANS?

By Geri Neemidge

Hell's Mensans is a special interest group (SIG) of Mensa. It is known as the party SIG. The group's motto is: "*A Hell's M's party is any party, large or small, where everyone participating in or affected by the party has good memories the day after.*" Hell's M's members are known for doing lots of volunteering at regional gatherings (RGs) and the Annual Gathering (AG). Without all their volunteer help these gatherings would be impossible to run.

You do not need to be a Mensan to join—non-M family members and friends are welcome to join. There are over 80 Hell's M's chapters you can join. The Lone Star Mensa chapter is number 67 and it is called "LoneStar Hellapeños." I also started a chapter especially for (but not limited to) children, number 79, "Minion." There is a very special chapter called Party Animal. In order to belong, you must be voted in. Party Animals are chosen at gatherings when 10 or more Hell's M's vote. This

person is selected from all the attendees at the RG as the person who helped the most people have a good time. If a person is selected as a Party Animal at three RGs, they are made members of the "Party Animal Hall of Fame" and are not eligible to be chosen again. Our chapter LocSec, John Neemidge, is in the Party Animal Hall of Fame. Many AGs also have special chapters which members can join after volunteering a certain number of hours. This year's minimum is six hours to be eligible for the End of Time AG chapter.

I hope you will consider joining Hell's M's, and if you are already a member, please sign up to volunteer for our RG, LonestarRG, over Labor Day weekend. It's an awesome party—but really difficult to pull off without a LOT of help.

For more information and a membership application, please visit the SIG website at hellsms.com.

ADMISSIONS TEST HELD

Submitted by Austin Meyer, Testing Coordinator

Lone Star Mensa offered a testing session Saturday, June 16th on the UT Austin campus. Registration began at 9 am with testing starting promptly at 9:30 am. For this session there were 5 available seats. If potential members let me know they wanted to be registered for this session, I sent them more information. Also, they needed to let me know if (1) English is their first/primary language and (2) if they are over 18 years old. This information was important for the testing protocol.

I hope to be able to provide future testing session information in time to publish it beforehand in this newsletter, as well as publicizing it via an email to the LSM distribution list.

ADMISSIONS TEST PROMOTION

Submitted by Julie Boone, National Office, Communications Coordinator

American Mensa was blessed with extensive media coverage in May, and the concurrent prior evidence promotion generated stacks of membership applications at the National Office. In an effort to maintain this momentum, another PE promotion will run through Aug. 31. Prospects are invited submit their test scores and membership applications postmarked before Aug. 31, and we'll evaluate it for Mensa membership for \$20. That's half the usual fee, and we accept scores from more than 200 tests!

Your interested friends, family members and group prospects can get more information at us.mensa.org/testscores, and then download the membership application at us.mensa.org/application. They should write "Summer '12" in the "Name of Special Promotion" box on the application. Remember the reduced rate for additional family members who join! Get more information about what American Mensa offers at us.mensa.org/join and at us.mensa.org/benefits.

STREAMLINING THE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by Jill Beckham, Foundation Director, jillb@americanmensa.org, 817-607-0060, x5509

Beginning this year, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation will undergo some changes designed to ease the distribution and collection of applications for the college scholarship program. No changes will be made in the judging standards or procedures, as each Local Group will still be responsible for judging individual applications as they have in the past.

However, to streamline the process and save on mailing costs, the Local Secretary will now acknowledge participation in the program via the American Mensa Web site at us.mensa.org/scholarshipsignup. Once the LocSec has designated a Scholarship Chair online, the Local Group's Scholarship Chair will receive a notification via email,

then reply with whether or not they will participate; a physical signature from the Scholarship Chair and LocSec will no longer be required for the Local Group to participate in the scholarship program.

Starting Sept. 15, applicants will be able to visit the Foundation's Web site, locate their Local Groups by ZIP Code, and fill out digital versions of the application, including cutting and pasting their essays into the system. From there, as all of the information will be stored electronically, Scholarship Chairs will be able to pull pre-coded PDFs of individual applications and essays that they can email or print and mail to their local judges. Scoring will be entered online, and Regional Scholarship Chairs will then be

able to pull winning applications submitted by the Local Group's judges for the regional scholarships.

The reasons behind these changes are three-fold: to simplify the entire application process, to make it easier for students to apply for the scholarships and, finally, as a cost-savings measure for the Foundation. No longer will LocSecs have to mail print forms to the National Scholarship Chair, and no longer will applicants have to print out and mail in paper copies of their applications and essays. Also, Local Groups will no longer have to use P.O. boxes or receive any physical mail in order to participate in the scholarship program. (Physical copies of the applications and essays will still be available upon request.)

TWO LOCAL STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Claudia Harbert, Lone Star Mensa Scholarships Coordinator

Each year, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation holds a scholarship contest. Lone Star Mensa participates by advertising the contest in our local area and collecting and judging essays by eligible students (who do not have to be Mensa members). LSM had another successful scholarship contest this year!

National Mensa promises us one local scholarship winner. This year that honor goes to **Kristin Young**, who graduated from Rouse High School in Leander in May. Kristin plans to study at Baylor University in Waco, majoring in Business and Marketing, with a minor in Human Resources. Read her winning essay

below to see her unusual plans. This year Lone Star Mensa also had a local essay win a regional scholarship! **Emily Finkelstien** from Stephen F. Austin High School won this award. Her essay will appear in next month's Armadillo Literary Gazette.

The 2012-2013 program will be starting slowly, with not much happening before the middle of September, when we send notices to the local high schools advertising the contest. The scholarship program is a wonderful community service that Mensa provides. If you are interested in helping this year (judge essays in January via PDF files and email), please email Claudia Harbert.



By Kristin Young

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP-WINNING ESSAY

If past performance is the best predictor of future success, then I believe that I have a great chance to succeed in life. I'm a 4.00 GPA student, Corps Commander in the Air Force Junior ROTC, and captain of my girls' flag football team. I've performed over 250 hours of community service and recently earned my Girl Scout Gold Award. I'm a very driven, goal-oriented individual with an outgoing personality whom others describe as a football fanatic. But most importantly, I have a burning passion for helping others. My future plans are shaped by the experiences of my past and the type of person that I am today.

My ultimate career goal is to become a marketing executive with a professional football team in Texas, and to use a significant portion of my earnings to help disadvantaged youth—particularly young Hispanic women. In order to reach this goal, I gave careful thought to what college I wanted to attend. After researching dozens of schools, I selected Baylor University as my first choice. Its business school is among the top 5 in the nation, and Baylor has a strong Christian foundation, which is consistent with my values. Baylor's sports marketing program has won national recognition because of the quality of the curriculum, guaranteed internships, and really strong relationships with every major and minor league sports team in Texas. In fact, although they cannot guarantee a job after graduation, the program has placed 100% of graduates so far. I applied to Baylor during early admission and have already been accepted. In order to increase my chances of reaching my goals, I have already started looking at a second internship and professional networking opportunities. Interning at two different companies will give me more options for full-time employment once I graduate. I am currently pursuing internships with both the Houston Texans and the Dallas Cowboys.

Once employed, I know I will have to work very hard in order to be successful and progress in my career. Beyond having a great work ethic, good attitude, and delivering results, I plan to learn from others. I will listen to feedback, follow the advice of my managers, and seek out mentors who can help guide my development. At some point while working I plan to attend graduate school to get my master's degree. I believe that having some work experience before attending graduate school will allow me to be a better student and employee at the same time. I have a long-term view, as I know I won't reach my career goals overnight. I plan to start helping others with my very first job. For example, I intend to return to Annunciation Maternity Home where I earned my Girl Scout Gold Award and mentor young women who are in a crisis pregnancy. I will also use my professional network to help me establish a scholarship at Annunciation to help young Hispanic women improve their lives.

I know that I will be successful because of my inner drive and determination. Beyond that, I have sought advice from many others in creating my career plan. I've leveraged my strengths and passions, while choosing a college that offers a path to reach my goals. If success is a journey, I feel great about where I've been and where I'm going.



By Lisa Van Gemert, Gifted Youth Specialist, Mensa Foundation

Dear AG Parents,

We wanted to make sure you knew about the AG Youth Programming offering at the AG that requires registration. If you register before June 1st, we can guarantee your choice of T-shirt size (see below). Please note that there are other activities and events for children - these are the only ones that require pre-payment.

The AG Youth Programming offers two days of structured programming for children ages 4 - 12. The programming divisions are Mini Ms (ages 4-7) and the Junior Ms (ages 8-12), which will be supervised by teachers. Offering two full days of fun-filled programming on Friday and Saturday, the Mini Ms and Junior Ms will include a summer-camp-type mix of cerebral and kinesthetic activities, providing variety, challenge and the

opportunity to develop peer relationships and build skills. Although learning will be happening, the emphasis will be on fun, because the youngest AG-goers are on vacation, too!

A materials fee of \$10 per child per day is required for both the Mini Ms and the Junior Ms. Those registering for both days at \$20 will receive a complimentary Young Mensan AG T-shirt. You may add the AG youth program to an existing registration, or include it as part of your overall registration process.

Those who register for both days before June 1st may email their child's T-shirt size to GiftedYouth@mensafoundation.org. The sizes are: youth small, medium, large, extra-large, and adult small and medium. After June 1st, the shirts will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with no guarantee of

availability. The T-shirt will also be available for purchase from Fox Imaging for individuals not participating in the Mini Ms or Junior Ms or for those registering for only one day.

Visit ag2012.us.mensa.org and select Youth Programming from the Programs menu for more information and details. If you still have questions, please email GiftedYouth@mensafoundation.org.

See you in Reno!

Thanks,
Lisa

Email me: LisaV@americanmensa.org
Call me: 817.607.5578
Get resources:
[pinterest.com/brightkids](https://www.pinterest.com/brightkids)
connect: [linkedin.com/in/lisavangemert](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisavangemert)
mensaforkids.org
mensafoundation.org



"There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book."
- Marcel Proust

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS*

- 3 Ryan A O'Connor
- 3 Richard Sabel
- 6 Arval W Bohn
- 8 Brandon D Anderson
- 8 Allen Pooley
- 8 David R Posh
- 8 Jimmy D Roberts
- 12 Randolph Christopher Small
- 13 Ashley Marrow
- 14 Melodee Ann DuBois
- 15 Richard Blankenship
- 15 Craig S Jepson
- 16 Sharon Leal
- 18 Jonathan D Finley
- 19 Coylene Turlington
- 20 Kenneth Farr
- 24 Sandra L Hense
- 25 Michael G Dennis
- 25 Timothy A Goldenburg
- 25 John P Harvey
- 26 Todd L Shaw
- 26 Michael F Volpe III CPT
- 27 Joseph A McMillen
- 29 Maj Rodney B Corona Ret
- 29 Dr James A Freeman

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

- Lawrence Falli
- Kenneth Farr
- Ryder Senko

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

- Elizabeth A Collins
- Eugene LaMar Guyon Jr

- Brietta M Perez
- Michael F Volpe III CPT

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

- Susan Theresa Brown
- Ronald D Lambert
- Cynthia Anne Layne
- David A McCrae III
- Phillip B McWilliams
- Kevin Louis Rochester
- Andrew M Rooke
- Tara Elizabeth Todd
- William O Vanecek
- Curt L Warnock

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

- Kathryn Bennett
- Pathikrit Bhowmick
- John Paliwoda
- Jennifer D Rider
- Brian Slone
- Michael A Yor



***JULY
ANNIVERSARIES***

MEMBER FOR 40 YEARS

Robin D Green

MEMBER FOR 30 YEARS

*Alan Gerard Crudden
Keith Wilson Loring
Jimmie Choate Parker*

MEMBER FOR 25 YEARS

Michael Kenneth Makuch

MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

*Fred G Deats III
John Leslie Neemidge*

MEMBER FOR 15 YEARS

Robert E Shook III

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

*Kathryn Bennett
Rabin C Monroe
Chloe Werth*

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am responding to the "writing assignment" the Bulletin editor presented for the month. The Bulletin editor poses interesting topics. (Example: September: Describe your best brush with fame.) It just occurred to me that through the newsletter our members might be encouraged to participate in this and send a copy of their responses to our own newsletter. I, for one, would be very interested in reading others' comments from among our own membership.

I know you are always looking for good ideas for the newsletter. Thank you, thank you, for all your work; I read it cover to cover. It is a very important link for people like me who live at some distance and can't attend events very often.

[If you like JimAnn's idea, let me know. Then I'll publish the first question in our August issue and see what kind of response we get from our members.—Editor]

JimAnn Oliver

LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of June 30, 2012

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Education

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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

Monthly Programs	angsu@hotmail.com	Angela Adams	263-8780
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	aduana@mindspring.com	Ron and Linda Edelstein	491-9881
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

	drumtra@aol.com	Don Drumtra	291-0315
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S.I.G.H.T.

		Vacant	
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Everything else

	locsec@lsm.us.mensa.org	John Neemidge	310-7863
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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.

JULY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7
8	9 Member Meeting	10	11	12 ALG Deadline Chess Night TGIT-North RG Planning Mtg	13	14
15	16	17 Eclectic Eats	18	19 TGIT-South	20	21 Brewery Tour & Beer Tasting
22	23	24	25	26 TGIT-North Seal & Label	27	28
29	30	31				

See the online calendar (ism.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.

Board Meeting

(Moved due to AG)
June 28, 7:30-8:30 pm
 Central Market North
 (See TGIT-N directions below)

ANNUAL GATHERING
July 4-8, Reno, Nevada

Member Meeting

2nd Monday
July 9, 6:15-8:45 PM
 SIG Discussion Group

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday
July 12, Midnight
 Submissions due to Editor.

Chess Night (with the TGIT-N group)

2nd Thursday
July 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
July 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. An RG planning meeting will be held during TGIT-N on the 12th.

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, July 17, 2012
6:30 pm
 Shanghai Restaurant
 6718 Middle Fiskville Rd
 Austin, TX 78752
 RSVP to Patsy Graham.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday
July 19, 6:00-8:00 PM
 We will meet at the Bistro 420, across from the adult beverage section, near the center of the store. English fare is

planned. Prospective members welcome.

Brewery Tour & Beer Tasting

Saturday July 21 1:15 pm
 Jester King Craft Brewery
 13005 Fitzhugh Road, Austin
 Join us for
 RSVP to Geri Neemidge.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday
July 26, 6:00-8:00 PM
 Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

UPCOMING IN AUGUST

Aug. 2. Board Meeting
 Aug. 9, Chess Night, ALG Deadline
 Aug. 9 & 23, TGIT-North
 Aug. 13, Member Meeting
 Aug. 16, TGIT-South
 Aug. 23, 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
 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.

Send undeliverable copies or change of address to:

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

PUBLICATION NOTICES

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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.mens.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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