

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*



Do you want Lone Star Mensa to continue as a local Mensa group?

We are having an ongoing problem getting volunteers to do the work required to keep our group viable. You've read about it over and over again in these pages. We've pleaded, we've encouraged. You're probably tired of hearing about it. And yet the problem persists, and in fact is getting worse.

The few people (and it's the same few people, year after year) willing to pitch in are over-burdened and under-appreciated—particularly Don Drumtra and John Neemidge. And to add salt to the wound, they are accused by some members of being cliquy!

I'm being a little facetious here out of frustration (and John and Don certainly wouldn't agree), but I think if we can't get the help we need, let alone attendance at LSM events, then why keep trying to keep this chapter alive? Maybe we should just dissolve the group and be done with it. You can all just be members-at-large, although why you'd even want to maintain your Mensa membership is beyond me. If you don't care enough to participate, what's the point?

There are many organizations that depend on volunteers committed to doing the work that needs to get done to keep their group viable. For an inspiring example of an Austin group called Mobile Loaves and Fishes, see [youtube.com/watch?v=38HU_seV30M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38HU_seV30M).

If you have any comments, I'd be glad to hear them. 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.

**"Science may have found a cure
for most evils, but it has found no
remedy for the worst of them all--
the apathy of human beings."**

- Helen (Adams) Keller

A MEMBER'S MEETING EXPERIENCE

Submitted by Lynn Herrick

Hey, you guys missed a fun meeting! (July Member Meeting)

I didn't think it'd really rain. Honest. It'd bluffed so many times, and I didn't want to miss the Mensa discussion.

I waited till 6:30 pm, when serious rain was imminent. Then I started writing a note to the rest of you: "You guys stood me up!" I was going to leave it with the librarian and grab the next bus. At least the evening wasn't wasted—I'd found a good place to get a Greek salad—East Side Pies, across from the library.

But as I started to leave, Ed Gordon and newcomer Ricardo Turullols –Bonilla came to the rescue. The librarian let us into the meeting room and we were the discussion.

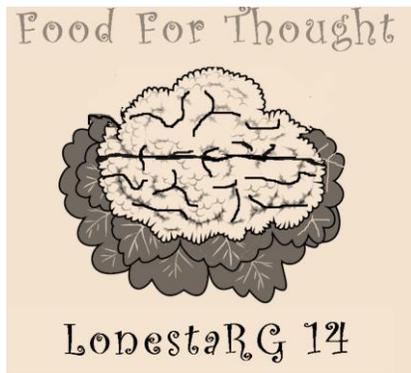
It turned out they were both authors. Ed was all enthused about his new philosophical autobiography Hineni: Here I Am. (Hineni means "I am here" in Hebrew.) It looked fascinating; but alas, after the Greek salad I didn't even have enough cash for a down payment on a copy.

Ricardo was just as enthused about his latest e-books: Dialogics (metaphysical, "From inside out!") and Universalization (metaphysico-political, "From outside in!") They're only available on-line.

Just as we were leaving Alan Neumann arrived, and gallantly umbrella'd me down the slippery steps to Ricardo's car.

We considered the meeting adjourned a little after 7:30 pm. The guys dropped me off at my building for a peaceful evening of Greek salad and writing up these minutes.

I don't blame those of you who stayed home. "It WAS a dark and stormy night..." But I wouldn't have missed it.



- 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 LonestarG 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 \$75 until Aug. 17th, \$85 walk-in, and single-day rates: \$25 Fri, \$45 Sat, \$45 Sun, \$15 Mon. 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 ism.us.mensa.org/events/rq. Send registrations to Patsy Graham, 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757-3124 (mensapats@att.net).

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec



We're just back from American Mensa's Annual Gathering, which was held in Reno, NV the first week of July. It's not too early to start thinking about attending the 2013 Annual Gathering, which will be just up the road in Fort Worth. There's an early-bird rate available through the end of July, so if you get this with a few days left in July, head to ag2013.us.mensa.org and sign up! And please don't forget our own RG, LonestarRG XIV, which will be held over Labor Day weekend in Round Rock-- we hope to see everyone there! To register, and for more information, head to lsm.us.mensa.org/events/rg.

One of the many things going on at every AG is a lot of Leadership Development activities. This year there was a special event -- the LocSec Leadership Summit, held Sunday after the AG proper ended. About 25 LocSecs (a/k/a local group presidents) got together with several National Office staff members, members of the AMC (American Mensa Committee, the elected leadership of American Mensa), and other nationally-active Mensans. We talked about the challenges faced by our local groups, things other groups are

doing well, and things they need help with; and exchanged ideas and learned about how we can all help each other make Mensa better for everyone

For everyone reading this: Have you been in another Mensa group, or a different organization, and seen something done well that we could learn from and adopt? If so, please send me a note and let me know about it!

One thing most groups face constantly is the need for more volunteers.

Members come and go, people get involved and then get tired and want a break, volunteers move to other groups, and so forth. Now, my goal here isn't just to ask each of you to volunteer; one of the many things we talked about was that, despite some examples to the contrary, that tactic often doesn't work. It's not too hard to understand why -- those of you who aren't active in the group aren't sure what the positions within the group really are, which ones take an hour a month and which take several hours a week, what help we really need, what the expectations are, and so forth. And being Mensans, we're pretty much all busy people with many interests and things to do. And I certainly can't blame anyone for not volunteering -- I was a member of Mensa for 8 years before attending a local group event, 10 years before taking any significant volunteer position, and 12 years before taking a local group office. That said, in the past 16 years I've held at least one and often several positions at a time in Lone Star Mensa, and I can

honestly say that being a member is far more rewarding when you're active and involved.

So my hope and my challenge to each of you who doesn't come to many, or any, group activities is this: let us get to know you. Write and tell me about yourself. Write a quick note to Rose introducing yourself; she always appreciates new contributors to the newsletter. Send a note to the LSM Chat List (if you're not on it, let me know) asking if anyone else shares an interest of yours. Come to a TGIT, drop in on a board meeting, come to a monthly meeting, and by all means come to our LonestarRG. Come to meet us, come to have a good time, but even more, come to let us get to know you. Think of us as a bunch of friends you just haven't met yet; that's what we think about you.

And -- this isn't just my opinion, we know this from member surveys -- members who get involved (as event attendees, as forum posters, as SIG members, not necessarily just as volunteers) are much more satisfied with their Mensa membership than members who don't.

Jump in -- the water's fine, and we're all waiting to meet you!



MEMBER MEETING

Submitted by Rose M. Berkowitz, Editor

Meeting Venue

Don't forget: The Carver Library is 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.

August Meeting

A SIG Discussion Group meeting is planned. Come "share your stories" in poetry, prose, short stories, lyrics, flash fiction, oral history or just plain talkin'. This is not a critique group—it's a listenin' and swappin' stories group ... just for the fun of it! You're also welcome to just come and listen.

This is an opportunity to get to know other members of our group better. Just pick a topic and don't be afraid to open your heart, and to listen with an open mind. You may be surprised to find how much you have in common with your fellow members!

FROM THE RVC—REPORT FROM THE AG

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



I'm having to write this quickly, as the deadline has come and gone and I'm still trying to catch up after nearly a week in Nevada. The Annual Gathering in Reno was surprisingly well-attended, with nearly 2,000

members and guests registered, and a good time was generally had by all, although the venue this year left something to be desired. The two hotels somehow couldn't find enough meeting space to accommodate us, so Hospitality was relegated to a free-standing building in the next block. Not the next block from the hotel, mind you, but the next block from the casino. Our hotel rooms were at least another block away, and two blocks for some of us.

At the meeting of the American Mensa Committee, we heard an update on our new marketing program, which includes a number of exciting developments, which you'll hear more about in the coming months. Several task forces were appointed to work on revisions of our national by-laws to address various perceived shortcomings in our organizational structure, and a new pricing methodology was adopted for Life Member dues, which will make Life Membership slightly less expensive for younger people, but slightly more costly for older

folks. Notice was given that a general dues increase will be on the agenda at our September meeting.

The only other matter of substance that came up in the AMC meeting was the approval of a bid to hold the 2016 AG in San Diego. That will follow Fort Worth next year, Boston in 2014, and Louisville in 2015. Other than that, the AMC meeting dealt mostly with appointments. Bob Bevard of South Texas Mensa, our Development Officer, was reappointed, as was Greg Timmers, our Director of Science and Education, and Brian Reeves our Communications Officer. Rob Salkin was replaced as Membership Officer by Beth Anne Demeter. Jeff Dommonge of Lone Star Mensa was reappointed as Assistant RVC for our region. Several motions had been submitted for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting, but were withdrawn when their sponsor was unable to attend.

On a personal note, I have submitted my application to the national Nominating Committee to seek re-election as your Regional Vice Chairman, and your continued support will be much appreciated. I have also agreed to serve as Hospitality Chair for next year's AG in Fort Worth, as the original Chair was forced to step down for personal reasons.

That's all for now. Don't forget Lone Star Mensa's upcoming RG in Round Rock, just north of Austin, over the Labor Day weekend, the North Texas RG in Dallas over Thanksgiving weekend, and the New Orleans RG the weekend after that.

JULY BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Scribe

The Scribe called to order the July regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers at 7:20 PM, Thursday, June 28, 2012 at the Central Market Café, 4001 N, Lamar, Austin, TX. Austin, TX. Attending were board members **Angela Adams, Don Drumtra, Crockett Grabbe,** and **Douglas Yee** and guests **Patty Drumtra, Bill Morita,** and **Jean Morita.**

The board elected Don as Chairman pro tem, adopted the agenda, and adopted the minutes of the May regular board meeting as printed on page 7 of the June 2012 issue of the *Armadillo Literary Gazette*. The minutes, agenda, referenced written reports, and any 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:

- Bookkeeper: The board adopted the June 30 and first quarter financial report.
- ComComm: The July newsletter went out on schedule. Rose Berkowitz has resumed her role as newsletter editor.
- MemComm: Four out of five registered candidates tested on June 16. The next test date will be in July and a session is scheduled for the Regional Gathering.
- LonestarRG 2012 Committee: Don reported that RG committee met June 14. A budget was approved and planning is progressing. The next committee meeting was scheduled for July
- 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.

The Board took the following actions:

- Adopted a motion to change the primary addresses of the bank accounts to drumtra@aol.com and 3206 Twilight Trl., Austin TX 78748.
- Adopted a motion to delete Linda Edelstein as a signer for LSM checks.
- Reviewed the list of LSM name tags for new officers.
- Reviewed the list of LSM alias changes for new officers.

Announcements:

- The next regular monthly Board meetings are scheduled for 7:30-8:30 PM Thursday, August 2 and September 6 at the Carver Branch Library.
- The next regular membership meetings are scheduled for Jul 9, Aug 13, and September 10, 6:45-8:15 PM at the Carver Branch Library. The August meeting is a discussion forum.
- The next RG Committee meeting is scheduled for 6:30-8:00 PM, July 12 at Central Market North.
- The next test session is scheduled for July 23 at Central Market North.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD COACH/TEACHER?

By JimAnn Oliver

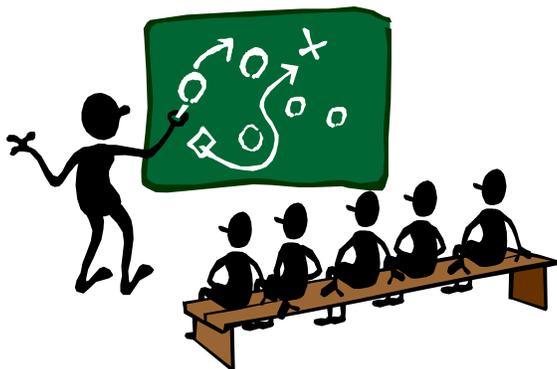
Although this was a response to a letter in the letters column in the Mensa magazine, it is more a story/article than a letter. It is a true story.

I feel compelled to respond to Michael Gorman's yearning for examples of truly good coaches who never obtained even a modicum of fame. My husband, Estil Oliver, was not trained as a coach and had never even

played either football or basketball; but he was a Mensan and a true educator and lover of young people at heart. When his little small-town school (where he taught advanced chemistry, biology, and physics) wanted to start those two sports at the junior high level, every single coach scorned the assignment of working with such young and ignorant students. When the students who had so eagerly awaited their chance to

learn the games brought their tale of woe to Estil, he volunteered to spend a year getting the teams started.

The first day he presented these guidelines:



1. Everyone who has come out would be playing equal time in each game. "We are here to learn, and experience is a very important part."
2. Any time anyone wants out of the game for a while for any reason, just say so. You can go back in when you decide you're ready.
3. No one will ever discourage, deride, or make fun of anyone else. We are a team and we will all work together to support our efforts.
4. Our goals for the year are to learn the game and to have a good time.
5. We will spend the first few days studying the rule book and getting an understanding of how the game is played.

He stated he knew the games only as an observer, and they would all learn together and have a good time together.

The first football game was a disaster. One boy came off the field with tears running and lips trembling. "Mr. Oliver, they're trying to hurt us out there!" Estil put his arm around the boy and said, "Get a drink and cool off and take a break." The boy was soon ready to go back in, still shocked but wiser. When the game was over the boys apologized for their poor playing and the terrible score. "That's all right, boys," Estil said. "Just keep your thoughts on our goals. We are here to learn and to have a good time. I'm proud of you for your support of one another and for hanging in there for the whole game!"

In the bus on the way home, the boys got in the back and discussed the situation. Soon they came up to the front, where Estil was driving, and their chosen spokesman said they had all discussed it and decided they were going to get tough and they were not going to lose another game. Estil said that was fine, but win or lose, they would be winners if they achieved their goals: learn the game and have fun. They never lost another game.

Fifteen boys went out for basketball season--some of the same who were in football--and true to his word, all the kids played equal time in every game. The season was a repeat of football, except they did not lose even the first game. They worked their hearts out, winning by wide margins. Their understanding of teamwork and their pride in themselves soared as they won by large margins. Estil's main coaching advice was often, "Remember the rules, stay alert, work with the team, play clean, and have fun!" Wow, did they ever have fun!

Every student had several followers and the crowds swelled (and the door receipts increased) as the season went on. People of the little community were so struck by these neophytes that they drew attention away from the high school games (coached by the persons who had rejected working with THEM). Estil cautioned them that crowing would be rude; but they could not be blamed for being amused and delighted. At the end of the season the team signed up for the county tournament where Estil was told that official rules stated only twelve players could be signed up. "Well," he drawled, "I have always rotated all my boys every game; but if you force me to choose only twelve I promise you I will keep my very best boys on the floor and beat other teams so badly that your school, which is expecting to make money off this tournament, will not have people even bothering to come. Everyone following basketball in the county knows we can make it a very uninteresting game if I cut back to my top players." The committee conceded, because they knew it was true. (Of course, the team won the tournament; but they made a point of keeping the games interesting by mostly not playing the best team members. The whole team thought this was grand that the "weakest" members got such glory.)

As far as I know this was the only time in Oklahoma that a basketball team was given tournament permission to field more than the official number of players, and that the coach played the poorest players the most in the games.

At the end of the year a school closer to where we lived offered Estil a coaching job at a big salary increase. (He had been paid nothing at Lexington for coaching--just his regular teacher pay as before.) He turned them down flat because, as he said to me, what they wanted was a coach who would WIN GAMES, and he loved being a TEACHER and guide to young people. He refused to focus on winning and did not care about it; to do so would take all the fun out of working with the boys, and the school board and administration would feel justified to put pressure on him to "win". Furthermore, he would not turn his back on his state-winning science students.

Needless to say, each of the regular Lexington coaches was asking the superintendent to choose HIM to coach the junior-high teams for the coming year!

In 2001 ex-students of Estil's from all over the United States gathered for his funeral, even though he had been retired for several years. Some had been in his program for gifted students, and an astounding number had gone into science-related professions—inspired by his love of it and his joyous teaching.

The morals of this story are:

1. Coaches should be held to the same pay scale as other teachers regardless of their "win" record. The focus of the public schools should be on TEACHING; that's what they're there for! Coaches are not doing something more valuable than any other teacher is.
2. Every student who shows up for a class (including athletics) must be given an equal opportunity to learn.

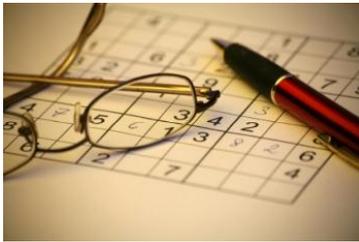
3. Teachers who are abusive to students in any class or any form should be relieved of working with students. Abuse has never created a good learning atmosphere nor furnished leadership skills conducive to successful human, job- or life-relationships.
4. If a teacher/coach does not love what he/she is teaching and respect and care about the students, he/she should find another form of employment.
5. A lot of money could be saved by cutting the competitions with other schools at least in half. Better yet, have only scrimmage games.

All good teachers are coaches and all good coaches are teachers. All good coaches/teachers require of themselves and their students good manners, good sportsmanship, respect for others, and good effort. All students deserve to be taught at the level and pace where they can be successful. All schools should be composed in such a way that these goals are attainable.

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

By Douglas Yee



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

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

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 to 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.

POETRY CORNER

BETWEEN TWO RIVERS

Even my pain is beautiful.
Even the desolation of a great desert,
A slag heap,
A mountain pulled up and pulled down,
A pile of bodies in a mass grave in a field.
Don't look away.
A little bird sings sweetly in a little tree,
Waiting for spring,
While a storm is on its way.
Who knows what tomorrow will bring?
But still beauty fills the air,
And always will.

- Rose M. Berkowitz



LET'S SHARE!

By Rose Berkowitz

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. To get you started, here are some of my favorites:

The Geek's Guide to the Galaxy
Kurzweil Accelerating Intelligence
Jinni – Watch What You Wish For
The Splendid Table

geeksguideshow.com/
kurzweilai.net/
jinni.com/
splendidtable.publicradio.org/

YOU THINK ENGLISH IS EASY??

Going around the Internet

- ❖ The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
 - ❖ The farm was used to **produce produce**.
- ❖ The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
 - ❖ We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
 - ❖ He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.
- ❖ The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
- ❖ Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.
 - ❖ A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
 - ❖ When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.
 - ❖ I did not **object** to the **object**.
 - ❖ The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
- ❖ There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.
 - ❖ They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
- ❖ The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.
- ❖ A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** line.
- ❖ To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
 - ❖ The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.
- ❖ Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting I shed a **tear**.
- ❖ I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.
- ❖ How can I **intimate** this to my most **intimate** friend?

REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Submitted by Claudia Harbert, Lone Star Mensa Scholarships Coordinator

Lone Star Mensa is proud to congratulate regional winner Emily Finkelstine, from Austin. Emily will study in the UT Liberal Arts Honors program. You can see from her essay why it was a winner.



WINNER PLANS GLOBAL CAREER

By Emily Finkelstine

My ultimate dream is to major in International and Area Studies and to use this degree to pursue a career either as an advocate for human rights or as a facilitator of improved infrastructure in the developing world. The possibilities are endless—I have considered launching a shelter for refugees in Sudan, initiating a system that increases the availability of clean water in rural China, or even working to free victims of human trafficking and providing resources to help facilitate their psychological, physical, and social recovery. Honestly, at this point I am not exactly sure where my career will take me or what I will be doing, but I do know that I am called to serve struggling populations abroad and that I will not settle for anything less than a career that allows me to make a true, measureable difference.

In preparation for such a career, I chose to enroll in a special program within my high school called “The Academy for Global Studies (AGS).” AGS is a small learning community within my high school that provides students with core classes that encourage the development of global perspectives, as well as an awareness of international issues. As a part of the AGS curriculum I was provided with the opportunity to investigate one of the issues I am most passionate about—Stopping modern-day slavery—as part of a major research project. During this research endeavor, I partnered with ten other students and one advisor in order to arrange numerous interviews in the Washington, DC area and to organize the group's findings into a website, along with a presentation to members of the local community. Our research included interviews with representatives from the Bulgarian Embassy, the Italian Embassy, the State Department's

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and a non-profit called Free the Slaves.

I have further worked to familiarize myself with global perspectives and vehicles for change regarding topics like human trafficking through my involvement with my school's chapter of Model United Nations, as a member for two years and president for two additional years. In Model United Nations students attend conferences at which they represent a country and communicate that country's point of view regarding heartbreaking and controversial global issues. In addition to learning about these issues through Model United Nations, I have also begun to take action toward change through my volunteer work as the advertisement and media coordinator for a local nonprofit called Zao Ministries, which supports orphanages in Uganda and India.

To equip myself for a global career, I have also been learning Mandarin Chinese for the past four years. In fact, the summer after my sophomore year I was awarded a scholarship by the National Security Language Institute for youth to study in Guangzhou, China for seven weeks. Through this incredible experience and all of the other opportunities I have had to begin pursuing my dreams throughout my high school career, I have learned how to interact with and truly care about people from other cultures. Though the skills I have learned throughout this process are important, I think that the most vital thing I have gained is a passion for the world's underserved, under-resourced populations, and ultimately I think it is this passion that will propel me to success.



- I changed my iPod name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. But he says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- His girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity and I can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- The report said I had type A blood, but it was a Type-O.
- A dyslexic man walks into a bra.
- PMS jokes aren't funny, period.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- Class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.
- Energizer bunny arrested. Battery charged.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- How do you make holy water? Boil the hell out of it.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- Velcro - what a rip-off!
- Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.
- Venison for dinner? Oh deer!
- Earthquake in Washington obviously government's fault.
- I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
- I do not enjoy computer jokes. Not one bit.
- Be kind to your dentist. He has fillings, too.

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS*

- 1 Hugh Brown
- 1 William J Worthington IV
- 2 Aleta Ann Wallace
- 3 Eugene LaMar Guyon Jr
- 3 Betty L Wolverton
- 8 Rudy S Apodaca
- 9 Allen E Boyles
- 9 Jerry Dike
- 10 Alan Baumann
- 12 Kyle Patrick May
- 14 Keith R Babola
- 14 Ronald E Garner
- 17 Terrence R King
- 19 Lisa Mather
- 19 William D McCarty
- 20 Robert C Blankemeier
- 20 Michael E Legatt
- 20 Elizabeth M Petit
- 20 James B Robinson
- 20 Julie N Walker
- 22 Ann C True
- 23 Zachary R Calvert
- 23 Matthew C Lawrence
- 24 Paula Blessing Beard
- 25 Kenneth Hester

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

Lauren Aung

Emily Caperton
 Jeffrey Evans
 Alessia Frouman
 Sonika Kiehler
 Dylan Kimble
 Sarah Narvaez
 Rock Phillips
 Jeremy Polansky
 Siddharth Potluri
 Lindsey Tipton
 Ryan Vazquez
 Phoebe Wooste

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

David Michael Crumbliss
 Kyle Patrick May
 Aaron Rabushka
 James Michael Rauch

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

Karen Marie Cupp
 Anand Narayanan

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

K Gordon A Bowers
 Robert M Gaffaney
 Kenneth J Heldenfels
 Cassandra Cher Joy
 Amanda MacLennan



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBER FOR 25 YEARS

John B Chambers

MEMBER FOR 10 YEARS

Eugene J Monta

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Duncan Stewart

**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

First, Rose, welcome back from your medical leave.

In the July ALG you invited comment on the article written by Marcie Everhart of Central Oklahoma Mensa. My comment is that it looks a lot like the e-mails I sent to you when you sought comment/suggestions/whatever from the LSM membership, back in late 2010. Marcie has raised the same questions about "market feedback", reasons for joining Mensa and the expectations of those new members. Organizational focus, message and value received: these seem familiar as well. To LSM's credit, issues were addressed (you had a lot to do with that) and you took on the editing of ALG in another good move. So it looks like we have taken some of the right steps that Marcie advises the RVC and AML to take.

On a different note, I liked the front page article and photo about the Honor Flights coming to Austin. However, that quote by Voltaire on page 7 was quite a different look at those veterans honored on page one. I think the term "dissonance" may apply here. As Adjutant of the American Legion Post in Georgetown, I have a few other, more colorful terms that might be applied.

Overall, the ALG is way better than it was, as I have noted in recent e-mails. Keep up the good work.

Glenn Mautner

Your efforts for the ALG are really evident; the publication is much, much better. Between that, the Mensa Weekly Brainwave and the Mensa Bulletin it keeps me busy reading -- good stuff.

Since so many of us Sun City people are gone over the hot summer, our monthly group is on summer hiatus and reconvenes in September. We have three subjects so far proposed for September: the Higgs boson / Creation, brain neuroscience, and the exponentially increasing rise of the robots....

Joe DeBell

Lone Star Mensa

Table 1. 2012-2013 Program Activity Analysis Summary

April 1 - June 30

<u>Programs</u>	- - - - Summary Year to Date - - - -				By Quarter-	
	2010 Budget		3 months		3 months	
	<u>12 Months</u>	<u>3 months</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Apr-Jun</u>	
Membership Program						
Total Revenue	\$ 420.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 30.00	29%	\$ 30.00	
Total Expenses	420.00	105.00	-	0%	-	
Communications Program						
Total Revenue	3,600.00	900.00	900.00	100%	900.00	
Total Expenses	3,600.00	900.00	572.50	64%	572.50	
Symposia Program						
Total Revenue	1,200.00	300.00	300.00	100%	300.00	
Total Expenses	1,200.00	300.00	30.00	10%	30.00	
Education Program						
Total Revenue	480.00	120.00	120.00	100%	120.00	
Total Expenses	480.00	120.00	-	0%	-	
Common Activities						
Total Revenue	180.00	45.00	45.00	100%	45.00	
Total Expenses	180.00	45.00	-	0%	-	
All Programs						
Total Revenue	\$ 5,880.00	1,470.00	1,395.00	95%	1,395.00	
Total Expenses	5,880.00	1,470.00	602.50	41%	602.50	
Total Programs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 792.50		\$ 792.50	
LonestaRG						
Total Revenue	\$ 4,700.00		-	0%	-	
Total Expenses	4,500.00		-	0%	-	
Total Disbursements	\$ 200.00		-	0%	-	
Undistributed Rev and Exp						
Total Revenue	\$ 304.20	76.05	53.74	71%	53.74	
Total Expenses	-	-	-	0%	-	
Total Undistributed	\$ 304.20	\$ 76.05	\$ 53.74		\$ 53.74	
Net Revenue	\$ 304.20	\$ 76.05	\$ 846.24		\$ 846.24	

Lone Star Mensa

Table 2. 2012-2013 Balances Analysis Summary

June 30

		<u>Apr 1</u>	<u>Jun 30</u>
<u>Members</u>		515	553
<u>Rank</u>		29	28
<u>RG Registrants 2011/2012/2013</u>			34/51/27
<u>Assets</u>			
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash		\$ -	\$ -
Checking Account		6,133.37	6,893.41
Certificates of Deposit		23,830.32	23,855.75
Less Funds and Obligations		(18,000.00)	(18,000.00)
Accounts Receivable		-	-
Interest Receivable (Allocated)		-	-
Prepaid Postage		427.33	348.55
Prepaid RG 2012		139.26	184.26
Prepaid RG 2013		-	-
Prepaid Take Home Tests		37.50	37.50
Other Prepaid Expenses		-	-
Total Current Assets		\$12,567.78	\$ 13,319.47
<u>Long Term Assets</u>			
Scholarship Endowment		7,000.00	7,000.00
Education Fund		8,000.00	8,000.00
RG Fund		3,000.00	3,000.00
Equipment Acquired Value		981.31	981.31
Less Equipment Expensed Value		(1,051.57)	(981.31)
Other Long Term Assets		-	-
Total Long Term Assets		\$17,929.74	\$ 18,000.00
<u>Total Assets</u>	2012 RG Spent \$184.26	<u>\$30,497.52</u>	<u>\$ 31,319.47</u>
<u>Liabilities and Appropriations</u>			
Accounts Payable	<u>Spending limit</u>	\$ 148.09	\$ 153.11
Scholarships Escrow	\$3,746.47	1,171.36	696.79
RG Escrow 2012	<u>Approval Limit</u>	845.00	1,160.00
RG Escrow 2013	\$5,246.47	-	-
RG Reserve		1,086.47	1,086.47
Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation		639.75	770.01
Other Liabilities and Appropriations		-	-
Total Liabilities and Appropriations		\$ 3,890.67	\$ 3,866.38
<u>Net Assets</u>			
Lonestar Mensa Net Assets		26,606.85	27,453.09
Total Net Assets		\$26,606.85	\$ 27,453.09
<u>Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets</u>		<u>\$30,497.52</u>	<u>\$ 31,319.47</u>

LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of July 31, 2012

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Financial Outreach		Vacant	

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Monthly Programs		Vacant	
TGITs		Vacant	
Games Night		Vacant	
Chess Night	cmvc95@yahoo.com	Douglas Yee	288-9172
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Picnics and Parties		Vacant	
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RG CO-CHAIRS

OMBUDSMAN

REIMBURSEMENTS

S.I.G.H.T.

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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.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Board Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 ALG Deadline Chess Night TGIT-North RG Planning Mtg	10	11
12	13 Member Meeting	14	15	16 TGIT-South	17	18 New Members Meeting
19	20	21 Eclectic Eats	22	23 TGIT-North Seal & Label	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 LoneStaRG XIV	

See the online calendar (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.

Board Meeting

1st Thursday
Aug. 2, 7:30 to 8:30 pm
 Carver Branch Library

Member Meeting

2nd Monday
Aug. 13, 6:15-8:45 PM
 SIG Discussion Group

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday
Aug. 9, Midnight
 Submissions due to Editor.

Chess Night (with the TGIT-N group)

2nd Thursday
Aug. 9, 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
Aug. 9 and 23, 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.

New Members Meeting

Saturday, August 18, 2012
7 pm to 10 pm

At the home of Patsy Graham
 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd
 Austin, TX 78757
 512-380-0141

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 7:00 pm
Kerbey Lane Cafe
 3003 South Lamar, Austin
 512/445-4451
kerbeylanecafe.com

We will be returning to that most Austinian of eateries, whose offerings include vegan, lacto-veggie, eggs, meat, and breakfast all day long! RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday

Aug. 16, 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.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday
Aug. 23, 6:00-8:00 PM
 Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

Admissions Testing

Saturday, Sept. 1st
 In the morning during the RG

UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER

Aug. 31-Sep. 3, LoneStaRG XIV
 Sep. 6. Board Meeting
 Sep. 10, Member Meeting
 Sep. 13, Chess Night, ALG Deadline
 Sep/ 13 & 27, TGIT-North
 Sep. 20, TGIT-South
 Sep. 27, 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:

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1229 CORPORATE DR W
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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

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Armadillo Literary Gazette

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