

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*
Volume XL
Number 2, February 2013



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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By Rose Berkowitz

I was gratified to receive quite a few responses to last month's editorial, expressing widely different viewpoints. (See Letters to the Editor in this issue.) I'm taking them all into consideration, and appreciate your efforts and insights.

Although I stand by my comments, I apologize to anyone I may have offended. I understand that circumstances prevent some of our members from volunteering, and that others are already doing all they can for our group.

My intention was not to stir up controversy, but to try to stimulate more involvement

within Lone Star Mensa. Only time will tell, but I certainly received more submissions than usual this month, for which I am grateful.

It may interest you to know that we are now at 630 members in Lone Star Mensa, which ranks us as 28th out of 132 local groups..

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



Testing the waters

LONE STAR MENSA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Submitted by Patsy Graham, Nominating Committee Chair

Has Lone Star Mensa helped you enjoy your life? Have you come to enjoy our company? Or, do you feel that changes are necessary? Whatever the reason, you can help your local group provide more of what you think it should and help bring more people into the fold by volunteering. Become a member of the Board and have an influence on the services we provide. There's an old Mensa saying, "if you have an interest that we don't address, start a SIG or schedule an event, and you'll find others with this interest."

A good place to start is on the Board. Please consider serving on the LSM Board this year!

Contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Patsy Graham - mensapats@att.net, Geri Neemidge - geri@neemidge.net, Ed Gordon - edgortex@gmail.com or any Board Member.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec

As I write this, it's early January, and the New Year is just beginning. In Lone Star Mensa, we're working on identifying candidates for the Board election, planning activities for 2013, looking forward to another successful RG in the fall, and have just signed the hotel contract for Mind Games 2014. Even though it seems like the big events are months away, it's a busy time for us.

An important goal in all of our planning is to try to find ways to connect with members and for members to connect with each other. As I've said many times (and likely will many times again), Mensa is really what we all make of it. In my opinion, the greatest benefit of Mensa is the people you meet through it. If we can't connect with you, we have no idea what you want; if you can't connect with each other, you miss out on the potential of all the other members, whether for conversation, friendship, networking, romance, or anything else. Just planning one activity, get-together, event, party, etc., can make a big difference in the

group. The more people who get involved, the more there is for everyone.

So, my request (or challenge) for you all this month is to think about how you'd best like to connect to Lone Star Mensa. Are you happy just getting the Bulletin and the Armadillo Literary Gazette and reading them? If you are, that's great - I did that for years. Would you maybe also like to participate in the group's "chat" email list? How about a Facebook community? Or an interactive web site? Maybe all of those?

Are you interested in the monthly speaker meeting, and if so, what topics interest you? Would you be interested in suggesting a speaker or two to us? How about dining out; are you interested in that (whether or not as part of our existing dining-related events)? What about things that support the group itself: the Board meeting, Seal & Label, event planning meetings, etc? How about groups that fit a demographic you're a member of (young members, singles, retirees,



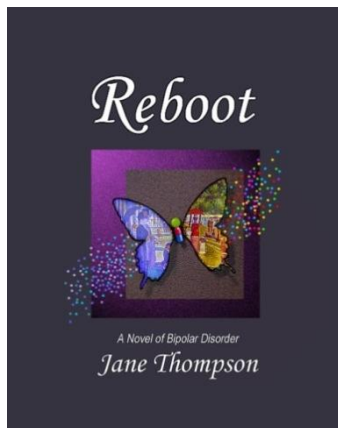
whatever)? Or a meeting for members in your geographic area?

What about parties, picnics, etc? And for most all of these, what's your interest level - do you just want to attend? Help plan? Lead or host? How about things I haven't even mentioned?

Please send me your thoughts at john@neemidge.net. I really do want to hear from you, even if it's that you don't have a lot to say right now. The more we hear from you, the more we can guide the group towards being what our members want it to be. Similarly, if you have some other concerns about the group; if we're doing something poorly, if you see ways to do something better, etc., let me know. And of course, if we're doing something you really like, tell me that too!

BOOK REVIEW

Posted by Nancy Park, Mensokie Mensa



[Jane Thompson is a member of Lone Star Mensa. – Editor]

Reboot is not just about Bipolar Disorder, but the spare and painful story of a highly intelligent woman's struggle through the last half of the last century. Self-esteem in sexual relationships, and in finding jobs after our heroine gets a Master's degree, is crucial, but absent during the first part of the book. When she finally finds the right treatment for her particular disorder, her mood swings slow down and she starts acquiring a better life all around.

Anyone who has suffered through any emotional problems would enjoy this book for the sly humor, and the late victory of self-love that she needed at the beginning. It was hard-won, and that much more meaningful to see this personality finally acquire the self-respect that should have been her birthright. It's a fast-paced and enjoyable read.

RECOMMENDED EVENTS

Submitted by Angela Adams, Symposia Chair

Here are Angela's happenings in the month of February:

- **Nerd Nite** — Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 pm — ND Austin, one block East of I-35 on the corner of Brushy Street and East 5th. Free. Nerd Nite is a monthly event during which several folks give 18-21-minute fun-yet-informative presentations across all disciplines – while the audience drinks along. And there are often bands, acrobats, trivia, and other shenanigans as well. It's like the Discovery Channel™... with beer! Interested singles can also purchase speed-dating tickets online.
- **Jugglefest XX** — Saturday, February 23, 7:30 pm — Texas School for the Deaf, 1102 S. Congress Ave. \$10, cash or check only. Jugglefest XX will be showcasing performers from Austin and all over the world as they demonstrate their skills in the circus arts. Come on down and check out the best family-friendly show in Austin!

Honorable mentions (I won't be at these events but you might want to check them out):

- **Darwin Day** — Sunday, February 10, 1:00 to 4:45 pm — Texas Natural Science Center at UT–Austin, 2400 Trinity St. Free. Join the TNSC for Darwin Day—a free, family-friendly event celebrating the anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. Travel on your own voyage of discovery as you explore specimens from the TNSC collections similar to those that Darwin saw during his journey while aboard the HMS Beagle, investigate how Darwin's observations led him to develop fundamental theories of evolution, and learn more about Darwin's influence on modern day science.
- **Capital Confectioners' 9th Annual Sugar Art Show & Cake Competition** — Saturday, February 23 to Sunday, February 24 — North Austin Event Center, 10601 N. Lamar Blvd. \$10 for Adults at the door. General admission will let you view the cake competition entries, participate in raffles, attend a mini-class, and more!

If you decide to attend any of the events, please email me at angsu@hotmail.com so that we can coordinate and meet up.

Let's hang out!

*Develop interest in life as you see it;
in people, things, literature, mu:
the world is so rich, simply throk
with rich treasures, beautiful s
and interesting people. Forget
yourself.*

- Henry (Valentine) Miller



YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

By Douglas Yee



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

JANUARY BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Brian Bloch, Vice President/Secretary



The January regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 7.40 PM, Thursday, January 3, 2013 at Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3, 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX.

Attending were **John Neemidge, Brian Bloch, Don Drumtra and Crockett Grabbe** (by telephone.).

The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the December regular board meeting as printed on page 4 of the January 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.

Reports:

- LocSec: Announced that Aaron Legare submitted his resignation from the board. The board accepted the resignation. Confirmed that preparations for 2014 Mind Games were under way. See below.
- Treasurer: The board adopted the Treasurer's Report for the nine months ending December 31, 2012, as posted on the Website. All items are within acceptable proportion to the annual budget.
- Communications Committee: Newsletters went out on time, with the much-appreciated assistance of Ron Edelstein. The National Office completed distribution to groups about Intelligent Bar Codes. The Editor, Rose Berkowitz, wrote in the January LSM about reports not being submitted by deadline dates. The LocSec promised to address this with those concerned. The Editor also asked for more material from the members. It is hoped that this appeal will bring results.
- Education Committee: No report

- Gifted Youth Committee: No report
- Membership Committee: Patsy reported that New Member contacts are continuing and that another New Members Meeting will be arranged for February
- Nominating Committee: Patsy reported that Brian, Don and John have agreed to stand again for the year May 2013 to April 2014. She will continue to reach out for volunteers.
- Scholarship Committee: Claudia reported that an ample number have volunteered for judging. The entries will be circulated via email and also submitted to National online. This is the first year that paper copies aren't used. Deadline for essays is January 15 and the judges should have the essays and score sheets soon thereafter.
- Symposia Committee: Don reported that the Christmas party had been successful. The Annual Business Meeting will be combined with the monthly meeting in February.
- Website Working Group: Patsy reported that there appears to be miscommunication between the Committee's members, so that the design cannot be completed. The LocSec promised to assist.
- Mind Games Committee: A motion was passed to create a special committee to administer Mind Games 2014. John presented the final contract. Patsy Graham was appointed Chair and Treasurer of the new committee, John Neemidge will be the Hotel Coordinator and Geri Neemidge will be Hospitality Chair. Patsy and Geri will attend Mind Games 2013 to promote next year's event.

Actions:

A motion was passed to reimburse the Editor \$145 for software replaced.

Announcements:

The next regular monthly Board meetings are scheduled for Thursday February 7 and Thursday March 7, 2013, 7:15 – 8:15 pm, at the Carver Branch Library

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**It's hard for a fellow to keep a chip on his shoulder
if you allow him to take a bow.**

- Billy Rose

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



Well, the holidays are over, which means it's time to start thinking about the Annual Gathering. This year's AG, as I'm sure you know by now, will be in Fort Worth, so most of us don't have very far to go to take part in American Mensa's biggest and best event. The main hotel is already sold out, but there are two others that still have plenty of rooms, and the AG Committee

is working feverishly to ensure that there are lots of exciting programs and activities for you to enjoy. Just go to the national website, www.us.mensa.org, and click on Attend – Annual Gathering – AG Locations – Culture in Cowtown.

Between now and the AG, of course, we'll have one last chance to rehearse our gathering skills at the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering, SynRG 2013. Don't pass up the opportunity to party with our Houston-area members over the Memorial Day weekend.

Mensa isn't only about gatherings, of course, and one of the most important things in any local group is (or certainly should be) the testing program. All across the country, dozens of Mensans give up a couple of hours every now and then to administer the Mensa Admission Test to prospects in their area. We at the national level have tried for years now to find

an affordable way to out-source our testing so that Mensa membership can be available even where we don't have volunteer test proctors, but so far our search has been fruitless. Which means that it's vitally important for your local group to have an adequate testing program. Last year I made a couple of visits to Shreveport, hoping to help revitalize the Northern Louisiana group, which appeared to be on its last legs. We were fortunate to find a member to volunteer for proctor training, and with the help of their neighboring group in Baton Rouge they now have a proctor again, after many months of inactivity. I was delighted to see that in just a couple of months they have been able to increase their membership by over 10% through an aggressive testing schedule.

Many thanks are due to new Proctor (and long-time Treasurer) Sara Burroughs and new LocSec William (Doc) Halliday (along with Interim LocSec Royal Tyler) for getting this group back on its feet. If your local group isn't testing at least once a quarter (or preferably once a month), please consider volunteering to train as a test proctor. It isn't hard, it doesn't take much time, and it can be a lot of fun.

In the meantime, membership renewals are due next month, so don't forget to get your renewal in to the National Office as soon as possible. Early renewals save money for Mensa that can be used for the support of valuable membership services.

LIFELONG LEARNING – A JOURNEY WITH NO DESTINATION

Posted by Charles. Brown, Boston Mensa

Continuing education – the need to explore, learn, master – is a tenet of American Mensa and one popular reason for membership. This uninterrupted cycle of study recharges us as it exhausts us.

This thirst for knowledge is evident in our everyday actions as well as the activities we pursue at American Mensa. They range from the trivial pursuits of games and puzzles to the examination of ideas large and small in community forums to the heights and depths plumbed in scholarly publications such as the Mensa Research Journal.

The journey – not the destination – is the reward, as they say. For an

increasing number of Mensans, Colloquium is a popular stopover on that trip. Sponsored by the Mensa Foundation, Colloquium is an annual forum of Mensans, the public, industry experts and researchers who sink a spade into the soil of socially relevant topics.

“The Mensa Foundation's Colloquiums have been excellent, in-depth weekends spent with the researchers who make these issues their life's work,” says Mensan Linda Wright. Past issues explored at Colloquium have included the arts, gifted children, biosafety, humor and climate change. This year's gathering, scheduled July 2 in Fort Worth, Texas, is titled

“Between Science Fiction and Science.”

At Mensa, luckily, the path to enlightenment isn't one path or two paths but several. Scholarships, publications and special programs such as the Foundation's Conversations with Mensa are just a few directions Mensans follow. With our online community, you can even explore the wide world from your sofa, your imagination as a compass and your browser as a navigator.

So which way is your curiosity pulling you? Chances are Mensa's educational benefits can help guide you.

Enjoy the ride!

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Posted by charlesb@americanmensa.org

The Leadership Exchange Ambassador Program, an international trading post of innovative ideas and success stories, could be your gateway to meet and share knowledge with Mensa volunteers from around the world.

Launched in 2009, LEAP helps national Mensans grow by exchanging their leadership experiences and best practices with other national groups. It provides a network of potential leaders who can learn from one another and pass that knowledge on to their native groups.

In 2013, LEAP participants will present workshops at American Mensa's AG (July 3-7) in Fort Worth, Texas, and at European Mensa's AG (July 31-Aug. 4) in Bratislava, Slovakia. They will write a best-practice report, which will be made available to Mensa groups across the world.

Each LEAP participant receives travel allowances to cover the largest part of expenses, and Local Groups are encouraged to offer an additional allowance for their own participants.

The 2013 application process is as follows:

- Candidates can request an application form by emailing leapcomm@mensa.org. Per the application instructions, fill out the questionnaire and prepare a video presentation.
- Candidates should submit the application and video presentation (as attachments) by emailing the Leadership Development Committee at leadership@us.mensa.org. Deadline for this step is 11:59 p.m. Central time on Feb. 22, 2013.
- The LDC will forward approved candidates to the AMC for consideration. With AMC approval, nominees will be notified.
- Those nominees should then submit their applications to the international LEAP committee at leapcomm@mensa.org. Deadline is March 15, 2013.
- The LEAP committee will choose and notify participants by April 1.

The AMC Leadership Committee looks forward to receiving your outstanding LEAD application.

POETRY CORNER

RIDDLE

*A spider web
Gleaming with pearly dew drops in the sun—
A killing machine
Of incandescent beauty—
If beauty is goodness,
If causing suffering is evil,
What then is a spider?*



- Rose M. Berkowitz

SENIOR DISCOUNTS

Going around the Internet

This list may not only be useful for you, but for your friends and family, too. (More next month.)

RESTAURANTS

Applebee's: 15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)
Arby's: 10% off (55+)
Ben & Jerry's: 10% off (60+)
Bennigan's: discount varies by location (60+)
Bob's Big Boy: discount varies by location (60+)
Boston Market: 10% off (65+)
Burger King: 10% off (60+)
Chick-Fil-A: 10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)
Chili's: 10% off (55+)
CiCi's Pizza: 10% off (60+)
Denny's: 10% off, 20% off for AARP members (55+)
Dunkin' Donuts: 10% off or free coffee (55+)
Einstein's Bagels: 10% off baker's dozen of bagels (60+)
Fuddrucker's: 10% off any senior platter (55+)
Gatti's Pizza: 10% off (60+)
Golden Corral: 10% off (60+)
Hardee's: \$0.33 beverages everyday (65+)
IHOP: 10% off (55+)
Jack in the Box: up to 20% off (55+)
KFC: free small drink with any meal (55+)
Krispy Kreme: 10% off (50+) Cousin Cathy, How's that?
Long John Silver's: various discounts at locations (55+)
McDonald's: discounts on coffee everyday (55+)
Mrs. Fields: 10% off at participating locations (60+)
Shoney's: 10% off Sonic: 10% off or free beverage (60+)
Steak 'n Shake: 10% off every Monday & Tuesday (50+)
Subway: 10% off (60+)
Sweet Tomatoes: 10% off (62+)
Taco Bell: 5% off; free beverages for seniors (65+)
Taco Cabana, 10% off for 65+
TCBY: 10% off (55+)
Tea Room Cafe: 10% off (50+)
Village Inn: 10% off (60+)
Waffle House: 10% off every Monday (60+)
Wendy's: 10% off (55+)
White Castle: 10% off (62+)

RETAIL & APPAREL

Banana Republic: 10% off (50+)
Bealls: 20% off first Tuesday of each month (50+)
Belk's: 15% off first Tuesday of every month (55+)
Big Lots: 10% off
Bon-Ton Department Stores: 15% off on senior discount days (55+)
C.J. Banks: 10% off every Wednesday (60+)
Clarks: 10% off (62+)
Dress Barn: 10% off (55+)

Goodwill: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)
Hallmark: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)
Kmart: 20% off (50+)
Kohl's: 15% off (60+)
Modell's Sporting Goods: 10% off
Rite Aid: 10% off on Tuesdays & 10% off prescriptions
Ross Stores: 10% off every Tuesday (55+)
The Salvation Army Thrift Stores: up to 50% off (55+)
Stein Mart: 20% off red dot/clearance items first Monday of every month (55+)

GROCERIES

Albertson's: 10% off first Wednesday of each month (55+)
American Discount Stores: 10% off every Monday (50+)
Compare Foods Supermarket: 10% off every Wednesday (60+)
DeCicco Family Markets: 5% off every Wednesday (60+)
Food Lion: 6% off every Monday (60+)
Fry's Supermarket: free Fry's VIP Club Membership & 10% off every Monday (55+)
Great Valu Food Store: 5% off every Tuesday (60+)
Gristedes Supermarket: 10% off every Tuesday (60+)
Harris Teeter: 5% off every Tuesday (60+)
Hy-Vee: 5% off one day a week (date varies by location)
Kroger: 10% off (date varies by location)
Morton Williams Supermarket: 5% off every Tuesday (60+)
The Plant Shed: 10% off every Tuesday (50+)
Publix: 5% off every Wednesday (55+)
Rogers Marketplace: 5% off every Thursday (60+)
Uncle Guiseppe's Marketplace: 5% off (62+)

TRAVEL

Airlines

Alaska Airlines: 10% off (65+)
American Airlines: various discounts for 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
Continental Airlines: no initiation fee for Continental Presidents Club & special fares for select destinations
Southwest Airlines: various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
United Airlines: various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
U.S. Airways: various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS*

- 1 Dennis Robert McDaniel
- 3 Matthew A Kuffler
- 5 Jan Cox
- 6 Joyce L Gioia-Herman
- 6 David Hillis
- 7 Aaron H Legare
- 8 Jacob T Miller
- 8 Kevin Powell
- 9 Meredith S Hardy
- 10 David A McCrae III
- 11 Rex H Pendleton
- 13 Brietta M Perez
- 13 Brooke E Roeder
- 14 Phillip B McWilliams
- 14 Casey D Shaw
- 15 Linda Van Broeke-Pierce
- 17 Jeffrey Neil St Onge
- 18 Matthew L Rife
- 19 Kyle McCoy
- 20 Angela H Adams
- 20 William Allan Morita
- 21 Kevin Louis Rochester
- 22 Shawn Sprinkel
- 23 Jeffrey McKee
- 25 Christina Hinton
- 26 Elizabeth Malloy
- 27 Dave McCracken
- 27 Geri Lynne Neemidge

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

- Janis Anderson
- Jennifer L Holt

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

- Thomas Perkowski
- Elliot Calvin Rothenberg

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

- James Bobal
- Kalani Kirk Hausman
- Kyle Simpson

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

- James Froedge

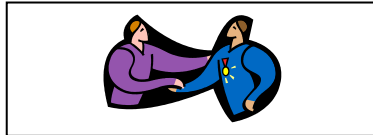
FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

- W Randall Strahan Jr

MEMBER FOR 15 YEARS

- Erich M Graham
- Sarah Graham



MEMBER FOR 10 YEARS

- Michael Cochran
- Joseph A McMillen
- Linda Lee Streicher

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

- John P Harvey
- Toland Graham Johnson

MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

- Robert C Blankemeier
- Louis E Carter
- James 'Shaunak' Divine
- Dr James A Freeman
- Ada M Howard
- Victoria Leonard
- John B Meadows Jr
- John D Moris
- Rex H Pendleton
- Timothy T Rueger
- James Skinner
- Benjamin J Suchy
- Margaret Syverson
- Diyar Thanon
- Jason Wallace
- Linda Carole White

**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

Hi Rose,

In my letter to the editor last September, I promised to address two issues: service to our organization and cliques.

The LSM bylaws lay out duties and responsibilities of the four organizational elements of LSM. Three of these elements are the board of officers, the four standing committees, and the board and committee members. These elements consist of LSM volunteers who give of their time,

often year after year, to keep the organization alive; to provide the programs what we may not choose to participate in; to put together, print, and mail the newsletters we may or may not choose to read; to provide scholarships to enthusiastic students we may or not support; and to manage the funds that support our activities. The fourth element is "The members of Lone Star Mensa, who are responsible to their fellow members for participating in local group and other Mensa activities through

their service, presence, dues, and/or gifts." (Bylaws page 2)

More than one member has noted that they pay dues to this organization and suggested that such payment entitles them to the support of the volunteers of the organization. While it is true that paying dues is the minimum participation that one can exercise and still remain a member of Mensa, it is not true that paying dues somehow compensates Rose for editing the newsletter, Michele for running the Gifted Youth

program, Angela for setting up our monthly meetings, or John for providing leadership guidance. Volunteers give of their service for various reasons, but most of us volunteer because we realize that our fellow members need us to volunteer so the things that we need to do get done. Our time is not purchased with membership dues.

In general, new volunteer officers are enthusiastic about supporting LSM at the beginning or their terms. But when they are called to do the same work year after year, some burn out. Although they may stay in their officer position out of a commitment to LSM, they long for the time when some other volunteer would take over their duties. Some volunteers have more than one job and would like to concentrate on the one they enjoy most but cannot because no one volunteers to pick up their other jobs. It seems to me, that with 630 members in LSM, more would feel an obligation to take their turn volunteering.

This brings me to the complaints that I have heard over the years that it is impossible to break into the LSM leadership clique, suggesting that LSM leadership is exclusive and that this keeps members from volunteering. I can assure everyone that this is not the case. In my case, when I moved to Austin, I attended a couple of TGITs and heard some discussion about the ExComm meetings. I asked if they were open to members and was assured that they were. So I attended two meetings just to see what happened at them. The next thing I knew, I was invited to be an officer on the ExComm. Not cliquish at all! Rose has written about how easy it was for her to volunteer. Patsy, our nomination committee chairman, is having

difficulty finding members to serve on the Board of Officers for the next term. Members should give it a try. We will welcome them with open arms.

Don Drumtra

The teacher who most changed my life was Ms. Jarboe, my fifth-grade teacher. She was the first one to note that I was different. She picked up on the fact that I was bored out of my skull, and she managed that by giving me special assignments, such as reading and reporting on "Uncle Tom's Cabin." I didn't mind the extra work at all. It gave me some recognition and made me feel I was helping the other kids in my class learn something. I never thanked her or anything; it never occurred to me to do so.

Jane Thompson

My wife and I enjoyed meeting you and other Austin members at the Christmas affair. ..

Having served once for several years as editor of Graffiti, the publication of Cleveland, OH Mensa, I can well appreciate the comments you made in the January ALG. I know firsthand how thankless the editor's position can be, because it seems you can never please everybody; and the ones who are displeased are the ones who won't hesitate to tell you so.

On the other hand, there is a great deal of satisfaction to be obtained by the editor who does an outstanding job. During my 48 years in Mensa, I have seen and read many local publications, and your editorship of the ALG doesn't take a back seat to anybody else. I applaud you for the fine work you do as the Austin group's editor, and I hope you will stay at the helm for a long time to come.

Best regards.

Victor A. Albanese

I'm sorry you are so unhappy with your position as editor. When I was in Dallas, I was the New Members' person for six years. That meant I sent a welcoming letter to each new member, interviewed him or her and wrote them up for the newsletter, kept track of birthdays and made sure they made it into the newsletter, hosted a New Members' Party every six months. This party had an attendance of 125. I had to buy the food, prepare it, keep the hostess happy, and take money at the front door. Meanwhile, I had a friend who kept bringing out food while I was busy at the door. One time she was out of town, and nobody would help me. While I was busy, the food ran out and everyone blamed me.

I quit.

I do understand what a thankless job is and maybe you should just quit. No one is irreplaceable. Just remind them of that when they protest that they can't get along without you.

Jane Thompson

Rose,

Please don't resign! I've done newsletters and papers in the way past (1960s-80s), but don't have the energy and patience now, especially for something so big and complex.

Lynn Herrick

I strongly suggest Ms. Berkowitz resign. Anybody that is so unhappy in a voluntary position certainly shouldn't continue. I would rather go without a monthly newsletter

than to listen to any more “I”, “me”, “my” rants.

Furthermore, I have enough stress in my life as a small business owner, husband of 20 years, and father of three boys under 16. I don't need a pious, guilt laden, and presumptuous lecture about getting more involved in an organization I pay to be a member of. In addition to the aforementioned responsibilities, Lone Star Mensa covers a pretty fair territory. I live half way to Dripping Springs and getting to the North end of Austin, where most of the activities take place, is a bigger deal than she may think.

I also believe the use of the “Editor’s Choice” section of the newsletter to vent her grievances was an abuse of her position as Editor. If she wants to try and motivate people to be more involved, send out a questionnaire or email, for feedback and suggestions. Passive-aggressive taunts is hardly the way to get people excited about getting involved – “The same few people volunteer to do the work required to keep the group viable, and few of those follow through on their responsibilities.” - And, be prepared for the fact that you may, or may not get a lot of responses.

In closing, I was so disappointed, and angry to open my newsletter and have this malarkey be the first thing I read from LSM for the New Year, I was tempted to send this to the National Headquarters in Arlington and kick up a real storm. Ultimately I calmed down and decided to compose this email in the hopes this can be resolved within the LSM group, and that this type of selfish, short-sighted display can be avoided in the future or, at least, be reserved for a proper forum.

Mike Wheeler

I was a small business owner with two teenage boys. (I've now retired and the boys have been men for some years.) I was happy enough to volunteer to be a board member and a LocSec in Gulf Coast Mensa, a much larger Mensa group than Lone Star Mensa.

Here in Lone Star Mensa, Patsy Graham, the New Member Coordinator, is also RG Registrar and has now been appointed Chair of the 2014 national Mind Games event, all while dealing with treatment for a life-threatening illness. .. If you choose not to be involved, don't. But don't also preach to us who have volunteered, have served, have walked the walk and talked the talk.

As an experienced editor and writer, both inside and outside Mensa, I have no problem with the editor using her column as she did. Had she used the column to promote some personal agenda, that would have been different, but to beg for cooperation to meet deadlines and to plead for more contributions ---I suggest you read Mensa newsletters from the other 130-odd U.S. local groups to see the same pleas in the same places.

In addition...American Mensa is having the same issues with volunteers as the Lions, American Red Cross and others, and their leadership is just as frustrated as is Rose Berkowitz.

As far as your distance from Dripping Springs was to North Austin is concerned, this is small potatoes. I travel 37 miles each way to board meetings each month, because that's where the board meetings are. Many Texan and U.S. Mensans travel much further distances to their "local"

event, because they live in much larger geographical areas. In Los Angeles, board members of the High Desert area travel 150 miles each way to board meetings. Yes, 300 miles round. Sometimes they carpool. I was a board member and LocSec there, too, and I greatly admired the commitments these people made, month in and month out.

Furthermore, the Editor herself has limited personal mobility and relies on others for transport at night. If you aren't in the same boat and get from Dripping Springs to Austin when you want to, count your blessings.

... Try the same job yourself rather than putting down others who also pay dues and volunteer as well.

Brian Bloch

Rose,

Just a quick note to let you know I am one of those members that looks forward to the monthly newsletter and reads it from cover to cover each month. I really do appreciate the changes you have made and the effort you have put in.

But you will not see much of me at a lot of Mensa activities. I have volunteered to proctor the Mensa Admissions Test and usually (most years) do so about 10 times a year (In this activity, I am a one-man army—it's a solo activity). I have had four surgeries and an unknown number of PT appointments this last year and as a result, missed my goal of 10 test sessions. I try to make TGIT a few times a year. I try to make all the parties--well, some of the parties, and maybe 2 or 3 of the member meetings each year.

I normally work around 60-70 hours a week, dedicate a dozen or so to wife support and management, and even play bridge once a month.

Best regards,
Michael Tolbert

Hi Rose,

In the last Mensa newsletter you talked about how there needs to be more involvement in our local chapter. I have been thinking about that since I read it and I have an idea I thought I would share.

I joined Mensa so that I could meet people, but I have not yet been to any meetings. The reason is simple. The times don't work for me. I am a working parent and I live in Pflugerville. Weekday meetings are hard for me, especially if they are not near my home. Weekend meetings are even harder at certain times because of all the kids' activities.

What DOES work for me is meeting for lunch. I am between jobs right now, but once I find a job again, I would love to get in touch with other members who work near me and set up a regular lunch meeting. I suspect I am not the only one who has this issue, so

maybe the answer is to have a bunch of Mensa meet-ups around the city, where smaller groups of members could get together. Then board meetings and other essential club functions could take place via teleconference.

What do you think of this idea? It wouldn't be hard to set up by using meetup.com.

Karyn Brown
512-786-0692
karynrbrown@yahoo.com

[Karyn, I think these are great ideas, and I hope you and others will volunteer to get them going.—Editor]

Rose;

I saw your piece in the January Armadillo. I understand completely how you feel. My Mensa discussion group here in Sun City has 19 members; and each month it's really a chore trying to round them up to come to a mid-month meeting the following month - notwithstanding that I ask them for a "best day" at least a month out (that doesn't work out well!); that I ask for RSVPs, that I remind them two weeks out and discuss potential discussion subjects, that I send agreed-upon discussion subjects

out a week ahead. I'm lucky if I get 6-7 at the meeting, and it's often a different 6-7 at each meeting, which means little continuity. And I'm often left with a lot of cookies and cake and veggies. Frustrating. Couple of times I've had to cancel a meeting (I use three as an absolute minimum and add my two dachshunds Eddie and Ruby to make at least six). Yet when I complain each insists they enjoy the meetings and want to continue to come. I've thought of saying "Three times no show and you're out"; I've thought a couple times of just bagging it, but the meetings we do have are enjoyable.

Maybe it's the nature of Mensans; multitasking and over-scheduled, or multitasking and absent-minded. I've found in my over 30 years' experience in Mensa in three different areas of the country that Mensans may well be by nature withdrawn, lurking, lazy, introvert, observers... and then I run across active participants like you and others in LSM and know better. I can only suggest, "Hang in there" and keep doing a great job. And don't hesitate to keep barking!

Joe DeBell

***The test of courage comes
when we are in the minority.
The test of tolerance comes
when we are in the majority.
- Ralph W(ashington) Sockman***



LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of January 31, 2013

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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
Eclectic Eats	arabushka@austin.rr.com	Aaron Rabushka	280-2807
Picnics and Parties		Vacant	
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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.

** LSM board members are: John Neemidge, Don Drumtra, Brian Bloch, Douglas Yee, Angela Adams, Crockett Grabbe, and Fred Goertz.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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

See the online calendar (lsm.us.mensa.org/events/calendar.shtml) 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
Feb. 7, 7:30 to 8:30 pm
 Carver Branch Library

Member Meeting

2nd Monday
Feb. 11, 7:45 to 8:15 pm
 Carver Branch Library

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday
Feb. 14, Midnight
 Submissions due to Editor.

Chess Night (with the TGIT-N group)

2nd Thursday
Feb. 14, 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
Feb. 14 & 28, 6-8:PM
 Meet us upstairs at the Café for conversation, food and fun.
 Prospective members welcome. Look for the Mensa table sign.

New Members Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2 pm to 5 pm
 Café Express
 3418 N. Lamar, Austin
 Hosted by Patsy Graham, 512-777-8762. All LSM Members and their families and friends arwelcome.

Eclectic Eats

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7 pm
 Cannoli Joe's
 4715 US Highway 290 West
www.cannolijoes.com
 512/892-4444
 We will head to endless Italian diletta (delights). Since they are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays we will be meeting on Wednesday. Please RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com by Feb. 19 at mid-day.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday
Feb. 21, 6:00-8:00 PM
 Enter at the east side of the store by the statue of fruits and vegetables.
 Join us for conversation, food, and fun. Prospective members welcome

Seal & Label

4th Thursday
Feb. 28, 6-8 PM
 Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

RG Planning Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2-3:30 PM.
 Cafe Express
 3418 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin
 This will be the first meeting of the planning committee for LSM's RG XV. If you are interested in helping put on the RG, or if you just have ideas you'd like to share on how to make the RG more interesting and fun, please come. Coming to the meeting doesn't commit you to anything (though we can use all the help we can get!)

UPCOMING IN MARCH

Mar. 7, LSM Board, Carver Library
 Mar. 11, RMM, Carver Branch Library
 Mar. 14, TGIT, Central Market North
 Mar. 14, Newsletter input due, email
 Mar. 14, Calendar input due
 Mar.21, TGIT, Central Market South
 Mar. 28, TGIT, Central Market North
 Mar. 28, S&L, Central Market North

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 130 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.

As may be seen from Table 1, the financial position of LSM remains strong. For the first nine months, revenue for all programs is \$4523 about three percent above estimates. Expenses are \$2651 about 60 percent of program budgets. Low spending is characteristic of all program areas; we could be doing much more with our money than letting it sit in the bank. The holiday party revenue was \$150 and expenses were \$510 for a net cost \$360. It was a great party and well worth the small cost. Our net assets, as shown at the bottom of Table 2, are \$28,772. \$18,000 is committed to the funds shown in the table leaving \$10,000 available to spend. Additional detail is provided on the LSM Website.

Tables 1 and 2 are attached.
Don Drumtra, Treasurer

Lone Star Mensa								
Table 1. 2012-2013 Program Activity Analysis Summary								
April 1 - December 31								
Programs	---- Summary Year to Date ----				---- Summary by Quarter ----			
	2012-2013 Budget		9 months		3 months		3 months	
	12 Months	9 months	Total	%	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	3 months Oct-Dec	
Membership Program								
Total Revenue	\$ 420.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 278.00	88%	\$ 30.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 88.00	
Total Expenses	420.00	315.00	140.24	45%	-	-	140.24	
Communications Program								
Total Revenue	3,600.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	100%	900.00	900.00	900.00	
Total Expenses	3,600.00	2,700.00	1,850.06	69%	572.50	620.20	657.36	
Symposia Program								
Total Revenue	1,200.00	900.00	1,050.00	117%	300.00	300.00	450.00	
Total Expenses	1,200.00	900.00	600.28	67%	30.00	230.00	340.28	
Education Program								
Total Revenue	480.00	360.00	360.00	100%	120.00	120.00	120.00	
Total Expenses	480.00	360.00	50.85	14%	-	-	50.85	
Common Activities								
Total Revenue	180.00	135.00	135.00	100%	45.00	45.00	45.00	
Total Expenses	180.00	135.00	-	0%	-	-	-	
All Programs								
Total Revenue	\$ 5,880.00	4,410.00	4,523.00	103%	1,395.00	1,525.00	1,603.00	
Total Expenses	5,880.00	4,410.00	2,641.43	60%	602.50	850.20	1,188.73	
Total Programs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,881.57		\$ 792.50	\$ 674.80	\$ 414.27	
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	228.15	283.74	124%	53.74	74.41	155.59	
Total Expenses	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	
Total Undistributed	\$ 304.20	\$ 228.15	\$ 283.74		\$ 53.74	\$ 74.41	\$ 155.59	
Net Revenue	\$ 304.20	\$ 228.15	\$ 2,165.31		\$ 846.24	\$ 749.21	\$ 569.86	

	<u>Date Acqd</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Serial No</u>	<u>Custody</u>
LSM	2006 Sep 8	ALG Software	\$481.32		Rachael Stewart
Equipment	2007 Jun 9	Symp Projector	\$499.99	EMP 54 - J3VF71731TL	Angela Adams
and	Unknown	Symp Overhead	Expensed		Don Drumtra
Custodians	2008 Sep 6	RG Printer	Donated		Ron Edelstein
	2005-2006	Testing material	\$37.50	5 take home tests	Don Drumtra

Lone Star Mensa
Table 2. 2012-2013 Balances Analysis Summary
 December 31

	<u>Apr 1</u>	<u>Jun 30</u>	<u>Sep 30</u>	<u>Dec 31</u>
Members	515	572	610	630
Rank	29	28	28	28
RG Registrants 2011/2012/2013	23/25/20	34/51/0	78/87/18	78/87/27
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Checking Account	6,133.37	6,893.41	7,919.85	8,743.97
Certificates of Deposit	23,830.32	23,855.75	23,873.39	23,909.95
Less Funds and Obligations	(18,000.00)	(18,000.00)	(18,000.00)	(18,000.00)
Accounts Receivable	-	-	455.15	455.15
Interest Receivable (Allocated)	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Postage	427.33	348.55	260.37	166.89
Prepaid RG 2012	139.26	184.26	4,647.53	4,653.53
Prepaid RG 2013	-	-	1.61	1.61
Prepaid Take Home Tests	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50
Other Prepaid Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	\$12,567.78	\$ 13,319.47	\$ 19,195.40	\$19,968.60
Long Term Assets				
Scholarship Endowment	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Education Fund	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
RG Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Equipment Acquired Value	981.31	981.31	981.31	981.31
Less Equipment Expensed Value	(1,051.57)	(981.31)	(981.31)	(981.31)
Other Long Term Assets	-	-	-	-
Total Long Term Assets	\$17,929.74	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Total Assets	\$30,497.52	\$ 31,319.47	\$ 37,195.40	\$37,968.60
	2012 RG Spent			
	\$4,653.53			
Liabilities and Appropriations				
Accounts Payable	\$ 148.09	\$ 153.11	\$ 170.69	\$ 182.47
Scholarships Escrow	1,171.36	696.79	1,089.43	1,125.99
RG Escrow 2012	845.00	1,160.00	4,736.50	4,736.50
RG Escrow 2013	-	-	1,080.00	1,175.00
RG Reserve	1,086.47	1,086.47	1,086.47	1,086.47
Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation	639.75	770.01	830.01	890.01
Other Liabilities and Appropriations	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities and Appropriations	\$ 3,890.67	\$ 3,866.38	\$ 8,993.10	\$ 9,196.44
Net Assets				
Lonestar Mensa Net Assets	26,606.85	27,453.09	28,202.30	28,772.16
Total Net Assets	\$26,606.85	\$ 27,453.09	\$ 28,202.30	\$28,772.16
Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets	\$30,497.52	\$ 31,319.47	\$ 37,195.40	\$37,968.60

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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.mensa.org

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Armadillo Literary Gazette

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