

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*
Volume XL
Number 9, September 2013



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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By Rose Berkowitz

Editors from some of the other Mensa groups around the country have been sharing some suggestions for topics that might interest our Mensa newsletter readers. I thought I'd try one out this month: How about sending in a paragraph about the worst gift you've ever received? If my readers respond to this, it could become a monthly feature: "My Worst...." Future topics might include car, date, vacation, piece of advice your mother gave you, job, teacher, funeral, wedding, etc.

Don't be shy if you've never contributed before. I'm always glad to hear from you. As always, you can also send in comments/reactions to newsletter items, ideas, poetry, essays, or whatever else you'd like to contribute. [If you tried a recipe we published, tell us how you liked it.](#) No particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated. Send them to editor@lsm.us.mensa.org.

P.S. Look for some **new event announcements** scattered through this issue.

WE NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS NEEDED FOR LONE STAR RG XV

Submitted by Linda Edelstein, RG Co-Chair

To raise money for our Mensa scholarship program, we will be having an auction/drawing on Monday morning, with better items having a silent auction, and other items a drawing from purchased tickets. We need twenty to thirty new or very gently used items for this event. We have four books, to be autographed by their Mensa authors, donated for the silent auction, and are looking for other Mensa-made items. If you can solicit a local business or get a certificate for a meal from a favorite restaurant, that would be great. Please let me know if you will be contributing something. I'd like to pick up items beforehand as much as possible.

We can use lots of help for the RG. One person is needed to help Linda shop for food the week of the RG. Help is needed to carry things in and set up on Friday, to pick up pizza for Friday evening, to breakdown Monday morning. Someone needs to pick up ice on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We

could use some "speaker shepherds" to show speakers to their rooms and introduce them.

Because of the new ownership of the hotel we need someone with a TABC bartending license in Hospitality at all times – there's a two-to-four-hour course on line at a number of sites:

<http://learn2serve.com> has it for \$11.99 – if lots of folks get the license, shifts will be easy to fill. Also, because we don't have use of the kitchen, someone will have to make a grocery run on Sunday to get a few items for lunch and dinner. Help setting out and putting away food would also ease things for our Hospitality chair.

As you can see, none of these things take much time. If you can volunteer an hour or two and have a preference for tasks, please contact ledelstein@mindspring.com to let me know – the more we have scheduled in advance, the easier and more fun it will be for all.

NEW GEN X/GEN Y EVENT!

By Carla Young

I just moved back to Austin from south Florida and am hoping to start a monthly event for the GenX/GenY crowd. Here are the details of our first get-together:

Saturday September 14th
12:30 PM until ?
Under the Hill - Burgers and Brews
Waterloo Ice House
6203 N Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin, TX
<http://www.waterlooicehouse.com/>

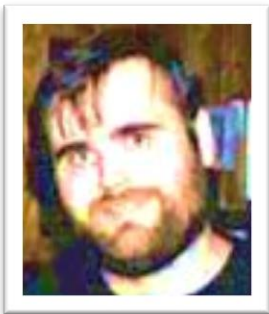
This new (hopefully) monthly event will feature activities aimed at the Gen X/Gen Y crowd. Your hosts, Carla and Alex are in their 30's, and have a young son.

The Waterloo Ice House features a full menu and kid's menu, and serves alcohol. They also have a playscape and children are welcome.

RSVP's preferred - carlainaustin@gmail.com or (561) 288-0531. Hope to see you there!

A WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec



This month's column is about connecting electronically with us in Lone Star Mensa. I last wrote about this in my February column and some of the information will be familiar to those who read that column. However, I'm taking a slightly different angle on it this time. In particular, this column stems from an effort that will be ongoing over the next months—trying to improve communication with and between our members.

At the LocSec Workshop at the Annual Gathering one recurring issue came up that causes problems for many Mensa chapters—communication. It's hard to actually reach people; email addresses go bad, paper mail gets lost, phoning is a lot of effort, etc. But, with some effort, we know we can improve our ability to reach you, and along with it improve your ability to reach each other.

The first topic is email—specifically, the email address you list with National, and your email release permissions. If you're getting your newsletter via email, and/or you're receiving the LSM-Announce emails, you're already good here—we have your email address and it's working to reach you. Of course, if you're opted into receiving the newsletter via email and your address is wrong, you're probably not going to see this. We have plans to attempt to reach people in that category. So, this is really addressed to people who receive paper copies of the newsletter, have email addresses, and do not currently receive LSM-Announce email messages. Of course it's possible that we've simply failed to get you added to the email lists, but it's also possible that something's wrong.

If you're in this category, I'd appreciate it if you'd go to the American Mensa website (www.us.mensa.org), select "Member Profile" from the "My Mensa" menu at the top, and log in using your email address and password. If you don't know your password, you can reset it (and if your email address is wrong there's a way to reset that too) and verify that your email address matches the one you're using now. You can also enter an alternate email address. Then select "Privacy releases" from the list on the left side of the screen, and verify that "Release my email address within the organization" is set. (This won't release it anywhere but to us.) This save us a lot of

work later when we move into verifying email addresses and attempt to contact people without working addresses.

The second topic is Facebook. We have a local Facebook group, Lone Star Mensa, at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/86611987434> (or search Facebook for "Lone Star Mensa"). It's a closed group, so you'll have to request to join; we'll then verify you and add you to the group. Facebook is a good way to reach members who don't rely on email as much as some of us do; it's also a good and different way to announce events and such. In addition, it's a good way to reach other members for discussion or to invite them to join you at events you're attending. We currently have 83 members (including some from other local groups). We'd love to see that number go up so that we can reach more of our members.

If you have any questions about these topics, any suggestions for other ways of communicating, or any feedback about how this went for you, please send me a note at john@neemidge.net, I look forward to hearing from you!

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



Let's talk about funding for your local group. Last month I mentioned that I am chairing a task force on local group support, which over the coming months will be looking at ways to make our support of local groups more effective. Our task force members will be coming up with suggestions for changes in our funding

parameters, but I'd really like to hear from you, particularly you current and former local officers who have to live with the results.

One thing we're pretty much agreed on at the beginning is that simply throwing more money at local groups and hoping they will find good uses for it is not going to work. We need to set up a system that establishes some accountability for the funds received by the local groups. Otherwise the money is likely to end up just sitting around in local bank accounts, like much of the local group funding does now.

As I mentioned last time, some early thoughts on this subject include tying portions of the local group subsidy to specific programs, such as testing, communications, meetings, elections, and so on. One advantage of this approach is that by connecting the funds to a specific purpose, we may be able to increase the overall amount by including some amounts that are now carried as administrative costs of the various programs. This, in turn, might encourage innovation and creativity by

putting control of the expenditures in the hands of the local groups and RVCs, rather than locking us into a one-size-fits-all national approach.

One innovation I'd like to see is more cooperative programs between groups. For example, if your local group is small and has trouble maintaining an active testing program, why not look into asking a neighboring group for help. If a large group sends a proctor over into an adjoining group's area to give a test once a month, they can benefit from the local share of the test fees, but the small group will get the \$25 for a test session, plus the new members that result from the tests. Everybody wins!

I really expected some feedback on this subject from last month's column, but so far all I've heard is a loud silence. Please give this some thought and let me know what you would like to see come out of this task force's deliberations. All suggestions are welcome, even if they are only vague aspirations. We can't make things better if we don't know what you would consider an improvement.

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. For more information contact Ron Edelstein, aduanam@mindspring.com or (512) 491-9881

Finally, as always, please remember that if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can reach me at rvc6@us.mensa.org or by snail mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

AUGUST BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by John Neemidge, acting Scribe

The August regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 7:25 PM, Thursday, Aug 1, 2013 at Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3, 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX. Attending were **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, John Neemidge, Leslie Stevenson, and Douglas Yee**. The July regular board meeting was cancelled due to the AG.

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

- LocSec: John presented some information from the LocSec workshop at the AG. One of the action items relates to email quality. Groups have found that member email addresses are often wrong or blocked due to member confusion. Several suggestions were made at the workshop on ways to improve this; we will pursue some of them.
- Treasurer: Don presented our Annual Financial Report as sent to National. Don spent significant time converting from accrual accounting to cash accounting for the purposes of this report. Don moved to approve the report; motion passed.
- ComComm: The June mailing went out without a hitch. The July mailing had a delay because the Post Office rules have changed about what mailings need to be bundled. The August mailing went out without a hitch. Printing costs are running roughly 67 cents a newsletter; however, we had a glitch with July where the printer overbilled us.
- EdComm: Scholarship winner Angela Meyer has received a \$500 scholarship from LSM. We are printing winning essays in the *Armadillo*.
- MemComm: We need to send out lapsed member notices, but nothing has happened thus far.
- SymCom: We need to make sure there is attendance at every meeting.
- Lone Star RG 2013 Committee: Progress continues towards the RG. Registrations are up after advertising. We have reached the number of hotel nights needed to avoid penalties.
- Website Working Group: Testing dates have been added to the site. Information has been added to the scholarship section.
- Mind Games Committee: We have 140 room nights reserved as of Aug 1 and 75 Mind Games registrations as of July 15, 2013. Both numbers are at or above expectations.
- Nomination and Election Committees: Need to officially appoint people in lieu of election. Patsy should be putting a note in the *'Dillo*.*
- Appointed Michael Richards as chair of the scholarship committee for 2013-14. We will check with Claudia Harbert as to whether she will take the vacant EdComm Chair position.
- Appointed Leslie Stevenson as Chair of the 2014 Lone Star RG.
- Approved funding of up to \$100 for storage containers.
- Discussed renting a storage unit for LSM. Consensus of the Board is that we do not own enough storable items to justify renting a storage unit.
- Discussed details of switch to cash accounting and verified that the group Treasurer has the authority to switch to cash accounting.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meetings are scheduled for 7:15-8:15 PM, Thursday, Sep 5 and Thursday, Oct 3 at the Carver Branch Library.
- The next regular monthly meetings are scheduled for 6:45-8:15 PM, Monday, Aug 12, Sep 9, and Oct 14 at the Carver Branch Library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

* Report from the Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee was unable to add new candidates to the Board of Director's slate. Therefore there was no election this year. The candidates already on the board agreed to run and were deemed elected. The members of the 2013-14 Board of Directors are **John Neemidge, Don Drumtra, Douglas Yee, Angela Adams, and Fred Goertz**.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW LSM SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Submitted by *Claudia Harbert, LSM Scholarship Chair Emeritus*

Serving as Lone Star Mensa's Scholarship Chair since July of 2005 has been an honor, a challenge, and a pleasure. During my first contest, we judged 38 entries. Over the years, the number of entries climbed steadily, culminating at 226 in 2013. At first, I mailed the entries to the judges and they mailed back their scores. Then, for a few years, we had "Judgment Day" parties, long afternoons of eating, talking, and judging; those were my favorite years! Then, as the entries became too numerous to judge in one afternoon, we met the challenge by moving all the judging to email. Every year, entries from our local area won more than just our local scholarship, with many regional winners and several winners of national-level scholarships. Notifying the winners was always a pleasure!

It has been an honor to represent Lone Star Mensa, and both an honor and a pleasure to work with the volunteers who have judged the essays each year. I have been humbled and impressed by the generosity of those who have attended the RG fundraising events and allowed us to increase our local scholarship via their donations.

The challenging part of being Scholarship Chair has been coordinating all the aspects of the program. Each year has had its challenges, and more than once I experienced Mensa magic, when I perceived a potential crisis and Mensan volunteers sprang to my aid.

At this juncture, I am divesting myself of some volunteer hours to focus on personal projects. The scholarships program is undergoing major changes at the national level. This is an

auspicious time for someone new, with different abilities and a fresh perspective, to take charge of the scholarships program for Lone Star Mensa.

I am pleased to introduce your new Scholarship Chair, Michael Richards!

Michael recently moved to Dripping Springs from San Antonio, where he continues to commute to teach in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Texas in San Antonio. He is eminently qualified, with a doctorate in education. He is deserving of the honor and is willing to accept the challenges. Michael will be a fun and helpful addition to our local group! Please welcome him, help him when he asks for volunteer judges, etc, and enjoy getting to know him.

Thank you, Lone Star Mensa!

FEATURED RECIPE

© Edward Gordon, 2005, from *The Bachelor Gourmet*

Marion-etti Sauce

As related in a previous installment, the only person in the household who was allowed to cook food within the heritage was my grandmother. So, my mother, her youngest daughter, decided that it was best to learn how to cook other dishes. Since most of their friends were Italian and Irish, she developed recipes that were of those ethnicities. Of course, the corned beef and cabbage had kosher corned beef in it, but it was basically the real thing. My godfather is Sicilian, so, along the way my mother learned how to cook incredible "gravy", or as Americans would call it, spaghetti sauce. If you haven't figured it out yet, my mother's name was Marion, and the sauce was so good, that I considered opening a restaurant called Marion-Eddie's in order to share the greatness. During my musings, I decided to shorten the name to Marion-etti's, in order to give it an Italian flair, and of course, the theme would be Italian puppets. This, along with many other of my Mensa-quality ideas, never came to pass.

Anyway, my godfather's mother knew from the start that my mother could never get the hang of real Italian cooking, so she told her it would be safest to start the recipe with Italian sausage as the main seasoning element. Now, the sausage she used was purchased at a small supermarket chain, run by Italian immigrants, so it had a special flavor, one that could probably not be found today. There is such a chain in and around Hollywood, Florida, but I haven't tried the creation with their sausage yet, since my various wives didn't allow me anywhere near the kitchen...Our family decided that hot sausage had the right amount of red pepper to make a spicy dish, so that was the natural choice. Fennel was not a staple of the local recipes, so there wasn't any in the

sausage, and I had learned early on not to appreciate the taste of licorice in my pasta sauce. If you look closely in today's supermarkets, you will find that most use fennel as the major flavor ingredient. For those who prefer something milder, there is sweet sausage, which works almost as well.

The recipe is one that was defined in the 50's, so in addition to the special sausage, it also contained canned items, was designed to use no microwaves. and required a full day's cooking, with occasional stirring. No need for a new-fangled device like a pressure cooker or crockpot (which hadn't been invented yet). Besides, there was a need for the excess water to boil off, especially if you used fresh vegetables, and for the fat from the sausage and the optional meatballs to be skimmed. By the way, large has very different meanings in tomato sauce and tomato paste, or at least did back then, but the salient point was one for one.



The ingredients:

- 2 large cans of tomato sauce
- 2 large cans of tomato paste
- 1 pound of hot Italian sausage, sliced ½ inch thick
- 3 teaspoons oregano
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

Optional ingredients:

- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 large green bell pepper, diced
- 1 large can mushrooms broiled in butter, drained
- 1 pound of hamburger, made into meatballs

1 teaspoon sugar (more or less, depending on the acidity and sweetness of the tomato paste)

It was fairly simple to start. You prepare all the ingredients, and then dump them together into a large cooking pot. Bring the sauce to a boil over medium heat (the return of the gas stove makes cooking so much easier), stirring constantly. When the mélange starts boiling, lower the heat and if splatter is a concern, partially cover the pot. It should cook for several hours at least, to ensure that the sausage and meatballs are cooked through. If the burner is kept low enough, there will be no burning, so stirring is not essential, but still recommended. Starting with raw sausage and hamburger is preferable, for when fully cooked, they will absorb the taste of the sauce.

Now, like a good French pot-au-feu, you can leave the pot near boil as long or as short a time as you want, keeping it constantly warm enough for serving.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Submitted by Angela Adams, Symposia Chair

The September monthly member meeting will feature speaker Rob Shook. Here's his description of his recent philanthropic project in Tanzania:

Rob Shook, local Mensan, recently returned from a 5-week Corporate Service Corps assignment with a group of 13 other IBMers in Tanzania. While there, he worked with the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation and the Prime Minister's office, helping improve dialog between the public and private sectors. In addition to some great photos and stories, you'll hear Rob discuss the goals of IBM's Corporate Service Corps, what's involved in an assignment such as this, what he learned, and what IBM was able to accomplish in this philanthropic project—the tenth team they've sent to Tanzania.

There'll be plenty of time for discussion and questions, too.

GAMES NIGHT REVIEW

By Patsy Graham

Games Night at Café Express was a lot of fun in July! We had several new faces and spread out to 3 tables eventually. I brought some of my new games from Mind Games 2013 and a great time was had by all. We started out with a lively game of "Nounsense." Later I particularly enjoyed learning "Ghooost!" which I had not played before, but I was one of the winners. I heard much laughing at the "Buffalo" table.

The next Games Night will be August 17th at Café Express, 7 pm to 10 pm. I'd love to see you there!



YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes

<http://www.sudoku.org.uk/>

By Douglas Yee



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

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.

LET'S HANG OUT!

By Angela Adams, Symposia Chair

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

- **Fantastic Fest** — Thursday, September 19 through Thursday, September 26, various times — Various venues, but primarily at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on South Lamar. Badges range in price. Fantastic Fest is the largest genre film festival in the U.S., specializing in horror, fantasy, sci-fi, action and just plain fantastic movies from all around the world. For the gamers out there, the festival will also showcase original and unique games in the Fantastic Arcade. Check their website for times, places, and prices.
- **Pecan Street Festival** — Saturday, September 28 through Sunday, September 29 — Historic Sixth Street. Free. Come visit Austin's twice-a-year arts and crafts festival on Sixth St. If you're not into homemade goods, then come for the tasty food, live music, and people watching. Sadly, there are no pecan pies to be had. Family friendly (lots of activities for the kids!).

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

- **Free Day of Yoga** — Sunday, September 1, various times — At participating yoga studios. Free. Experience yoga for the first time, or if you've done it before, then try different styles, teachers, and venues. Check the website to find a participating yoga studio near you. Family friendly.
- **Talk Like a Pirate Day** — Thursday, September 19, all day — Everywhere. Free. Unleash your inner buccaneer on International Talk Like a Pirate Day! Grow a fabulous pirate 'stache, dress up like a wench or scurvy dog, or attend a parrty to celebrate all things pirate. Family friendly.
- **Austin Museum Day** — Sunday, September 22, various times — At participating museums. Free. More than 30 Austin museums and cultural sites will be free all day. Check the website to find a participating museum near you. Family friendly.

If you are interested in any of these events, please email me at angsu@hotmail.com so that we can coordinate and meet up.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MIDDLE-AGED AND SENIOR SINGLE MENSANS

By Cathryn Cox

I recently became president of a private nonprofit organization for middle-aged and senior singles in Austin called Austin Forum. This group was established in 1979 to provide educational, social, cultural and recreational activities for Austin's mature singles, ages 50 and over. Some of my favorite people in the world are those I've met through this group, and as a widow I was bowled over by their incredible support during a long term illness that kept me in the hospital for several months.

As the new president of this organization, my platform is increased membership; thus if any single Mensans in the Austin area are interested in joining, they can e-mail me at burcats@att.net and I'll send them a newsletter. You must be legally single to join, and be sponsored by a Forum member (for Mensans, that would be me). Dues are \$45 a year, which help to underwrite the newsletter, two annual dances, and other social activities. Activities such as book club, dinners at members' homes and games night also include a small cost, usually \$7 to \$10, to cover food and other items for the event.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Submitted by *Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chair Emeritus*

Local Student Wins National Mensa Scholarship Contest “Sylvia Award” for a Science or Math Student

Michael Treglia is in a PhD program at Texas A&M. His essay explaining his program, goals, and successes won an award at the National level in this year's Mensa Foundation Scholarships contest. This year more than 9400 essays competed for 176 awards totaling more than \$78,000. Lone Star Mensa is proud of all of our winners! Here is Treglia's winning essay—the last in our series of this year's winners:



WINNER OF NATIONAL SYLVIA SCHOLARSHIP - MICHAEL TREGLIA

I am working towards a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. Once finished, I will continue my research career in biodiversity conservation. I have been fortunate to receive a quality education, and to have been granted numerous opportunities that have helped me succeed along my career path thus far. Funding from the Mensa Foundation will benefit my dissertation research, helping me advance toward my goals.

Growing up with a passion for nature, my first formal involvement in conservation was in middle school, when I began volunteering at my local zoo in Staten Island, NY. Then, while in high school, I became an intern at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. Not only was I exposed to how these institutions function, but I became directly involved in research projects. These experiences primed me for my undergraduate years at Cornell University. There, I was immersed in a stellar academic environment, and I had unique opportunities to further my interests. For example, I worked as a research assistant for renowned snake biologist, Dr. Harry Greene, and I spent a summer doing research on reptiles in the Caribbean.

Following my graduation from Cornell, I went to Texas A&M University to pursue a Master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. My thesis focused on conservation of the endangered St. Croix Ground Lizard in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2008, led by my advisor, and in collaboration with federal and territorial agencies, we relocated nearly 60 lizards to a small island near St. Croix proper. Our goal was to create a new population, reducing chances of the species' extinction. More than four years later, the new population continues to grow.

After completing my Master's degree in 2010, I remained at Texas A&M for my Ph.D., where I am in the Applied Biodiversity Science Doctoral Program. My dissertation research is focused on how human development impacts biodiversity in southwestern California, with an emphasis on the endangered Arroyo Toad. I am using my own data, and data from collaborators, to examine what factors have caused species ranges to shrink through time. Results of this work will benefit future conservation efforts, and because the Arroyo Toad is sensitive to broad factors such as water availability and pollution, conserving this species will also benefit other native species.

I have developed a strong record, with 11 publications and 15 conference presentations. I have also demonstrated an ability to garner funding, and have been supported largely by fellowships from the National Science Foundation and Texas A&M. Additionally, I have taken on various service responsibilities. For example, I have served as the president of the graduate student organization for my department, I organized a major symposium last year, and I regularly serve as a reviewer for journals. In 2009, I was even honored to as the "Outstanding Masters Student" for my department.

Overall, I am striving for a career in conservation biology, in which I can conduct research to benefit protection of endangered species. Funding from the Mensa Foundation will help support my time in southwestern California, where I conduct my research and develop relationships with collaborators. This funding will help me improve my dissertation research, and broaden my impacts on conservation, giving me an extra edge in the competitive job market.

MENSA TESTING PROMOTION

Submitted by JulieG@americanmensa.org

If an October test taker presents a receipt from the *Online Home Test* from August or September, local groups will be asked to charge them just \$22 for their *supervised admissions test taken in October*.

- Aug 1 – Aug 18: Online MHT is \$18
- Aug 19 – Sept 15: Online MHT is \$1
- Sept 16 – Sept 30 : Online MHT is \$18

Again, anyone who takes the online MHT in August or September and presents the printed receipt at an OCTOBER Mensa Admission testing session will receive their testing session for just \$22. (\$18 off)

The short link for the online home test is

www.us.mensa.org/mht.

If prospects are interested in finding a testing session near them in October, they may visit www.us.mensa.org/testingcalendar. Make sure to put your test session on the testing calendar

What does a *Test Coordinator* need to do?

- Notify your Proctor
- Start scheduling test sessions for October especially in areas you may not regularly visit.
- Post your test sessions on the testing calendar at us.mensa.org/testingcalendar.
- Send notifications to your prospects via Prospect Tracking, email, postcard, etc.
- Work with your PR coordinator to plan and execute a local communication plan using local media and social media. Contact local leaders

you and your local group may have contact with and ask for their support. Invite these contacts to test as well.

What does a *Proctor* need to do?

- Charge them \$22 for their test in October when they present their printed MHT receipt
- Take their printed receipt, attach it to your test recap, and indicate next to their name that they received the discount with "MHT DISC"

If the local group chooses to use the **Dollar Days** promotion (one per test taker), the copy for Dollar Days is:

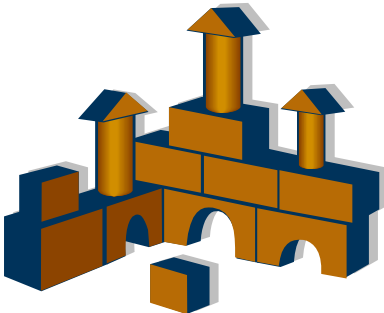
"Now through September 15th, take the *online Mensa Home Test*, for just ONE DOLLAR! Plus receive 45% off the price of the official Mensa Admissions Test. Simply print the receipt and bring it in to your nearest testing session in the month of October and you will pay only \$22 (regularly \$40). Access the test at www.us.mensa.org/MHT."

As always, if you have questions, concerns or need clarification, please contact Julie Garcia at JulieG@americanmensa.org or 817-607-0060 ext 5547.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A TESTING LOCATION?

Submitted by JulieG@americanmensa.org

If you need to find a testing area, have you considered your local mall? Quite a few malls have a community room that can be rented for various community events. Also contact some of the restaurants (Taco Bell, Chick-Fil-A, McDonald's, for example) in the food court and ask them to provide coupons that can be used during the testing session. You will have some incentives for the potential new members, and you will also drive customers to your new partners.



There are other types of locations that offer community rooms including recreational centers, and book stores, such as the regional store, Half Price Books. To find locations in your area, do a Google search of "Community rooms + the name of your city."

If you have any questions or for support with your marketing and public relations efforts, contact Julie Garcia at JulieG@americanmensa.org or 817-607-0060 ext 5547.

OUT OF MY MIND.....thoughts from outside "The Box"

© 2013 Victor A. Albanese ConchoVic@wcc.net

KEEP THE CHANGE: A PROGRAM OF VOLUNTARY TAXATION

Government, at all levels, is like a landlord: always wanting to raise the rent or, in this case, taxes. Oddly enough, there are people who are sympathetic to this insatiable appetite of the government. Such folks support tax increases and tend to vote not only in favor of the increases but also in favor of the politicians who ask for more and more and more.....

And then there are others who oppose all tax increases of every color, shape and flavor. These persons acknowledge that the government may be insatiable but it is also a purveyor of extremely valuable and important services for society. Their attitude reflects a desire to have the benefits provided by government but they want government to struggle for every additional tax dollar that's added to the coffers.

Of these two polar opposites, the second is more consistent with the principles of a free marketplace. When buying a sack of apples at the farmers' market, buyers have sense enough to do some haggling. When the landlord wants to raise the rent, tenants will always squawk about every dollar of increase. Why the haggling and squawking? Because the farmer and the landlord know full well that they can keep raising their prices until the squawking reaches a certain decibel level. The balance between supply and demand is achieved when the price level reaches the decibel level.

Similarly, the government has no way of knowing when it has reached the saturation point of taxation until the politicians hear squawking which is loud enough and threatening enough to cause them to rein in their appetites and excesses.

What is needed is a mechanism that can provide some degree of satisfaction to everyone. Let those who want to pay taxes, pay. Let those who want to squawk, squawk. And let the government get the benefit of more revenue. What is needed is a simple and efficient system that allows the government to raise revenue, but only from those who would participate of their own volition.

Such a system need not be onerous, need not be imposed, need not be a burden upon society. Indeed, the participants would pay the tax with a happy heart, and the businesses that collect the tax would do so for their own benefit. Such a tax would be a supplement to all existing taxes and not a replacement for any of them.

Imagine a taxation system designed to receive the voluntary payments of people, without requiring anyone else to pay anything. Call the system "KEEP THE CHANGE" and think of it as a voluntary sales tax program handled by and through all merchants and businesses of every kind which sell merchandise subject to a sales tax.

Say a customer at a store makes a purchase. The clerk rings it up and the total is \$17.58. The customer hands

over a \$20 bill and says, "Keep the change." The clerk hits a special key or scans a special bar code, and the total rounds up to the next dollar, or \$18 in this case. The customer gets \$2 back instead of \$2.42. The 42¢ is the voluntary tax that the customer has paid. Nobody made him do it. He paid it because the change has no real value or meaning to him. If it did, the customer would have declined to pay it, and that's OK too. It's the customer's choice: it's a voluntary tax.

But all that loose change would quickly add up to large amounts of money, all flowing to either the State or Federal government with no squawking from anyone. How sweet it could be! Whether the voluntary taxes went to the State or Federal government would depend entirely upon the will of the people and the voting consensus of State or Federal legislators.

Regarding the distribution or use of these funds, that would be a matter to be determined by each State or by the Federal government or voted on by the people. Some choices could be creating or adding to a 'Rainy Day' Fund, such as there is in Texas; or reduction of property taxes. The very important matter to be kept in mind is that for taxes to be voluntarily contributed by the greatest number of citizens, the benefits of those funds must accrue to the greatest number of citizens. Otherwise, many citizens will not contribute to somebody's "pet" project or charity or cause.

The merchants who would offer this service could also be voluntary participants in the program. They would be allowed to keep 10% of all revenue which is keyed to the special "Keep the Change" account. If they wanted to receive this additional cash flow, it would be up to the merchant to sign up for the program. No one would require them to do so. Lottery ticket sellers are proof that merchants are quick to realize the benefits of participating in such programs.

The merchants would pay the "Keep the Change" money along with their ordinary sales taxes, with simply another line being added to their monthly reporting form. Regulatory Agencies which vigorously audit merchants on their sales tax payments, would audit the "Keep the Change" payments at the same time and with equal vigor. Thus, the mechanism for getting the money from the merchants to the government is already in place and has adequate safeguards and controls; it needs only a small modification to accommodate the extra money flowing in.

So, the merchants sign up for the program because they choose to do so. The customers pay the voluntary sales tax because they choose to do so. The collection mechanism is already in place and requires just a little tweaking here and there. And the government gets a river of money. Not enough to satisfy the government's appetite, but certainly enough eventually to keep down the pressure for more and more new taxes.

And, you can say you read it here first!

MEMBER NEWS

Compiled by Don Drumtra, Records Manager, as of 07/31/13

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Harold A Cromwell
5 Angel Sater
7 Dan Allen Flanagan
9 Barbara Erskine Bartlett
9 Pat Wimberly
10 Tara Elizabeth Todd
11 Michael Martino
13 Karyn R Brown
14 Alexander P Keith
14 Ross A Williams
16 William Darrell Cheek
16 Karen Jager
17 Mary E Dougherty
17 Dana Lynn Holland
18 Capt Howard A
Konetchy
21 Brad E Rhoden
23 Linda Edelstein
23 John C Foster
23 Stephen Howard
Gallion
23 Robert E Kiefer
24 Quentin Stephenson
24 Allen Vorwerk
25 Katherine G Blair
26 Rimma Aguirre
26 Lynn Herrick
26 Joanna Morgan
Weinman
28 Vaughn E Akins
28 Dr Robert Joel
Broselow
30 Shea Hillis
30 Melissa Vanessah
Melto

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

Michael Herzfeld
Brian L Parker
Leslie L Stevenson
Richard Wilcox

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

Steven E Ankerstar
David Infortunio
Nathan Lewman
Sharon Phifer

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

David Claude Collier
Goran Devic
Tami Heaton
Emma W Hill
Alex Ortiz

GOODBYE—NOVING AWAY

Joseph J DeBell
William D McCarty
Daniel Rivera

** 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.*

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBER FOR 25 YEARS

William Eric Hungate

MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

Robert I May

MEMBER FOR 15 YEARS

Betty L Wolverton

MEMBER FOR 10 YEARS

Mark Ward

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Marie-Clarie Bartmess
Gwendolyn Collins
David Nesenholtz

MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

Lucas Almendra
Steven E Ankerstar
Evan Bailey
Heonjae Cheong
Jake Glascock
Thayer McCaffree
Douglas W Stidham



Pssst! Would you like to be able to listen to old-time radio shows like “Nero Wolfe” or “Fibber McGee and Molly?” Just click on <http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/> to enjoy radio shows from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, back before television was popular. These are the vintage shows your grandparents loved, from popular comedies like Amos & Andy to westerns such as Gunsmoke. Now you can hear these shows for free online at Dumb.com. Or, download their free Old Time Radio [iPhone/iPad app](#).

Lone Star Mensa RG XV: It's About Time



When: Labor Day Weekend, August 30-September 2, 2013

Where: The Wingate By Wyndham, 1209 N. IH 35, Round Rock, TX 78664

Join us for LoneStar Mensa RG XV. It'll be a great weekend with lots of interesting speakers, workshops, games, contests, and tastings of cheese, spices, and honey.

Registration for the full weekend is \$70 Aug. 2 – Aug 28, and \$85 Aug. 29 and at the door. Daily rates are \$10 for Friday, \$40 for Saturday, \$40 for Sunday, and \$10 for Monday. Children 8 and under are free; children 9-17 are half the adult rate. Your registration fee includes all speakers, workshops, and other events, plus meals, drinks, and snacks all weekend long. Tasting tickets are \$5.00 each.

Our hotel is the Wingate By Wyndham, located just north of Highway 79 on northbound IH-35 in Round Rock. The LoneStar Mensa rate is \$89/night. Contact the hotel at 512-341-7000 to make your reservation. More hotel information is available at <http://www.wingateroundrock.com/>.

To register by mail, send the form below to Patsy Graham, 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757. To register via PayPal, please visit <http://lsm.us.mensa.org/events/rg/rg15reg.htm>.

If you have questions, contact our Co-chairs, Ron aduana@mindspring.com and Linda Edelstein ledelstein@mindspring.com, or our Registrar, Patsy Graham, at patsy@paloent.com.

Lone Star Mensa RG XV Registration

Name: _____ Street address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email _____

Badge 1. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____
 Badge 2. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____
 Badge 3. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____
 Badge 4. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____

Tasting tickets: __ __ Cheese __ __ Spices __ Honey Total \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to "Lone Star Mensa RG." (Please do not send cash.)

Special Instructions:

- Please don't include my name/our names and city/state on the list of registrants on the web
- Please don't include me/us on the list of registrants made available to attendees
- Please use the postal service (not email) for RG updates and correspondence.

I would like to volunteer for the following:

- Hospitality Solicit Donations Prepare Food Registration
- Bring Games Logistics/Purchasing Speaker Assistant Other

I need: A roommate A ride from the airport to the hotel

LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

Compiled by Don Drumtra, Officer Coordinator, as of August 31, 2013

NEWSLETTER

Editor	editor@lsm.us.mensa.org	Rose Berkowitz	512-467-4871
Emailing	epostmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Linda Edelstein	512-491-9881
Snail mailing	postmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra*	512-291-0315
Online	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315
Calendar	calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org	Rose Berkowitz	512-467-4871
Publicity	publicity@lsm.us.mensa.org	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824
Advertising		Vacant	
Photographer		Vacant	
Managing Editor	editor@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315
Publisher	recsecretary@lsm.us.mensa.org	Board of Officers	512-291-0361

ON LINE

Website Design	mensapats@att.net	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141
Website Maintenance	webmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Douglas Yee	512-288-9172
LSM Officers, contacts	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315
Board Meetings	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315
Operating standards	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315
Email Lists	emaiillists@lsm.us.mensa.org	John Neemidge*	512-310-7863
Facebook	facebook@lsm.us.mensa.org	Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863

MEMBERSHIP

	membership@lsm.us.mensa.org	Fred Goertz**	512-569-1758
New Members	mensapats@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141
Renewals	ravina_n@hotmail.com	Ravina Nelson	512-795-0739
Testing	testing@lsm.us.mensa.org	Austin G. Meyer	512-971-0123
Awards	membership@lsm.us.mensa.org	Vacant	
Officers	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315

EDUCATION

		Vacant	
Gifted Youth Programs	giftedchildren@lsm.us.mensa.org	Michele Vaughan	512-388-5970
Scholarship Chair	mgrichards@att.net	Michael Richards	210- 860-7384
Asst., Scholarship Chair	scholarship@lsm.us.mensa.org	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205
Financial Outreach		Vacant	

EVENTS

	angsu@hotmai.com	Angela Adams**	512-263-8780
Monthly Programs	angsu@hotmai.com	Angela Adams	512-283-8780
TGITs	drumtra@aol.com	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315
Games Night	mensapats@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141
Chess Night	cmvc95@yahoo.com	Douglas Yee**	512-288-9172
Eclectic Eats	arabushka@austin.rr.com	Aaron Rabushka	512-280-2807
Gen X/Y Evens	carla.x.young@gmail.com	Carla Young	954-465-3498
Area Events Coordinators		Vacant	

2014 RG CO-CHAIRS

leslielstevenson@gmail.com	Leslie Stevenson	979-599-3555
mostquality@austin.rr.com	& Johnnie Vaughn	512-867-5658

OMBUDSMAN

ombudsman@lsm.us.mensa.org	Ron Edelstein*	512-491-9881
--	----------------	--------------

REIMBURSEMENTS

treasurer@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra**	512-291-0315
--	---------------	--------------

S.I.G.H.T.

	Vacant	
--	--------	--

EVERYTHING ELSE

locsec@lsm.us.mensa.org	John Neemidge**	512-310-7863
--	-----------------	--------------

* 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: John Neemidge, Don Drumtra, Douglas Yee, Angela Adams, and Fred Goertz.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Compiled by Rose Berkowitz, Calendar Editor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 LSM RG XV	2 LSM RG XV LABOR DAY	3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7
8	9 Member Meeting	10	11	12 ALG Due Chess Night TGIT-North	13	14 Gen X/Y Meet-up
15	16	17 Eclectic Eats	18	19 TGIT-South	20	21 Games Night
22	23	24	25	26 TGIT-North Seal & Label	27	28
29	30					

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..

Board Meeting

1st Thursday
Sep 5, 7:15-8:15 pm
Carver Branch Library.

Member Meeting

2nd Monday
Sep 9, 6:45 to 8:15 pm
Carver Branch Library

ALG/Calendar Deadline

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

Chess Night

2nd Thursday
Sep 12, 6-8 PM
Bring your chess sets if you have them. Hosted by Douglas Yee.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-North)

2nd & 4th Thursdays
Sep 12 & 26, 6-8 PM
Meet us upstairs at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome

Gen X/Y Meet-up

Saturday, Sep 14
12:30 PM until ?
Under the Hill - Burgers and Brews
Waterloo Ice House
6203 N Capital of Texas Hwy,
Austin, TX
<http://www.waterlooicehouse.com/>

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, Sep 17
Golden Wok,
500 West Canyon Ridge Drive
512-228-3688
<http://www.golden-wok.com>,
Golden Wok is a pan-Asian eatery offering an extensive menu of vegetables, fish, meat, and poultry, and featuring dim sum and Mongolian barbecue options. Please RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512-280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com by mid-day on Monday, September 16.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday
Sep 19, 6:00-8:00 PM
Join us for conversation, food, and fun. Prospective members welcome.

Games Night

3rd Saturday
Sep 21, 7-10 pm
Café Express
3418 N. Lamar, Austin
Bring a game or just show up. Café Express has lots of tasty items and beverages, but you do not have to buy a meal to sit with us! Family and friends are welcome. (Please note that you are responsible for the behavior of any children you bring.)

Seal & Label

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

UPCOMING IN OCTOBER

Oct 3 LSM Board, Carver Branch Library
Oct 10 TGIT, Central Market North
Oct 10 Newsletter input due, email
Oct 10 Calendar input due
Oct 14 RMM, Carver Branch Library
Oct 17 TGIT, Central Market South
Oct 24 TGIT, Central Market North
Oct 24 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. Look for the Mensa table sign—usually we're upstairs on the Mezzanine..

TGIT-South

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

ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTTE
(USPS 554-650)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, Texas

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

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

PUBLICATION NOTICES

The Armadillo Literary Gazette is owned by American Mensa Limited and is the monthly official publication of Lone Star Mensa.

Subscriptions are included with Lone Star membership. Other Mensa members may subscribe for \$10 per year. Subscribers may request delivery by email, USPS mail, or both. Send subscription requests to the Publications Office, 3206 Twilight Trail, Austin, TX 78748-2608.

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.

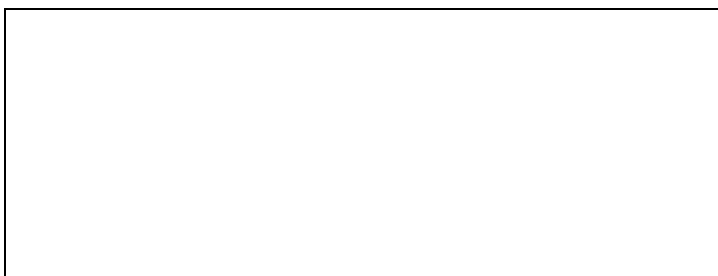
Calendar inputs may be submitted at any time and will normally be published online within three days and in the next month's printed calendar if received before the cut-off date. The cut-off date is the second Thursday of the previous month.

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@ism.us.mensa.org

Calendar submissions may be sent to
calendar@ism.us.mensa.org

The editor's snail mail address is
Rose Berkowitz
10610 Morado Cir Apt 1302
Austin, TX 78759-5555



Armadillo Literary Gazette

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Choice/LSM RG Volunteers Needed	1
Gen X/Y Meetup/LocSec Column	2
RVC Column	3
Board Meeting Minutes	4
New Scholarship Chair/Recipe	5
Member Meetings	6
Games Night Review/Sudoku	7
Let's Hang Out/Austin Forum Group	8
National Scholarship Award	9
Mensa Testing Promotion	10
Out Of My Mind	11
Member News	12
RG Registration Form	13
LSM Contacts	14
Calendar	15
Postal Page/Table of Contents	16