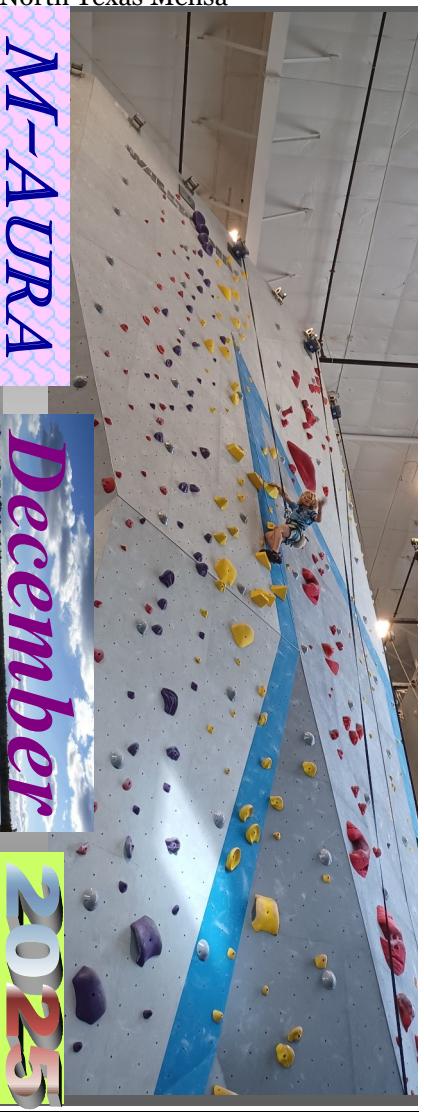
The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

# M-AURA

# December 2025



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## ON THE COVERS:

***Front*** *Top Left:* Chase makes good use of the dihedral for his ascent. *Bottom Left:* It was the "Giggle Table" uber alles at the October scholarship poker night: *(l-r)* 1st - Kim Speed, 2nd - Anne Whiteman, 3rd - Telena Wright. *Right*: Gamble takes a quick break to wave to all of those beneath him.

***Back*** *Top*: November Poker Top 3 *(l-r)*:- Paul Whiteman-3rd, Carlos Navarrete-1st, Bill St.John-2nd. *Bottom:* Chloe and Gamble ascending to new heights.

## FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

CATHY ALLSHOUSE

As 2025 draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the remarkable year we've shared within the North Texas Mensa Community. It's been a year filled with challenges, intellectual achievements and much fun. I hope you've all learned something new and made some new connections during this time. Our gatherings have brought us together to learn and to celebrate being human. North Texas Mensa members have once again proven the power of a diverse, curious and passionate community.

As we approach 2026, we look forward to another year of endless opportunities. Our commitment to intellectual growth and community engagement remains unwavering, and we are excited to continue providing our members with platforms for learning, collaboration, and personal development.

As Bob Hope used to sing.....Thanks for the memories. I have very much enjoyed being your President this year.

---

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

The following are new or rejoining members of North Texas Mensa. Please join us in welcoming them to our group.

**New Mensans**: Piper Beatey, Alexander Buie, Eleanor Chandler, Payton Ellenich, Joshua James, Henry Ledet, Patrick Mahaffey, Aidan Nguyen

**Moving to NTM:** Jessica Engster

**Rejoining Mensa and NTM:** Keith Brown, Dyan Carbine, Joe Conry, Aiden Culbert, Sarah Foley, William Hawkins, Callie Jansen, Lloyd Jensby, Tomas Lopez Villamarin, Edgar Manton, Dayton Mattern, Karen Riddle, Bikramaditya Singh, Brayden Smith, Valiant Vetter

**We welcome you <u>all</u>,** and look forward to seeing you at future functions!

Hensby!

**MENSA FOUNDATION NEWS**
Items below are just a few of the things that are being sponsored by the Mensa Foundation For more information, use the links below or go to https://www.mensafoundation.org/

## Excellence in Science Program

Turning curiosity into discovery.
The Mensa Foundation's new Excellence in Science program transforms everyday curiosity into real-world discovery. Explore hands-on activities, earn badges, and help learners of all ages engage with science in practical, exciting ways. Learn more: https://www.mensafoundation.org/launching-excellence-in-science/

## AI Mentor Exploration Project

The Mensa Foundation is exploring an AI Mentor to provide ethical, tailored support for gifted and neurodivergent people. Learn what we're building and share your feedback: https://www.mensafoundation.org/rethinking-traditional-mentorship/

## GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

*by Bill Rock*

Unfortunately, our October event ended up being cancelled, as the docent for the hike was unavailable. The monthly book club has been interesting, with people from outside of NTM sometimes making up a large portion of the attendees; Minnesota and Washington are frequently represented.

In November we had several hardy souls try to climb to the top at a climbing gym. We had both new climbers and those with a lot more experience. Everyone had a good time, and I think we all came to the realization that climbing is more than just physical strength; that thinking about what you are going to do is every bit as important.

For this month we have a chance to make some holiday decorations. Featured will be an ornament that can hang from a tree (or at my house, from the kitchen utensil rack). Some of the more adventurous can try some other crafts.

As always, I am open to ideas; we have one family that would like to contact neighbors in the McKinney area to get together and have fun. Please let me know if you have any ideas.

---

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** The following NTMers add another candle to the cake in December:

Philip Lewis, Donald Stephens, Linda Boroughs, David Taylor, Nicholas Brigance, James McCabe, JD Powers, Robert Emery, Robert Hemphill, David Bratcher, Stephanie Hollowell, Mark Ashworth, Amit Walia, William Dendy, Christopher Ranucci, Ronald Speizer, Rachel Limar, Randy Brack, Travis Haapala, Paul Norkett, Mark Wisness, R E Branch, Ray Lott, Todd Weaver, Dave Aken, Quinten Hunter, Robert Bucker, Karl Hollingsworth, Rachel Dillard, Jason “arcbat” Brown, Christopher Lee, David Hanson, Cydney Capell, William McKnight, Lawrence Backer, Patrick Moran, Roland Bessette, Steven Cooley, Rik Hess, George Luttrell, James Parker, Jace Lewis, Ivan Hafley, Juan Faura, Jeff Cates, Michael Mooney, James Barnhart

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **01**<br>1 pm VDG<br>7 pm Munch Bunch | **02**<br>7 pm Beer Garden | **03**<br>1 pm VDG | **04**<br>7:30 pm NTM Board Meeting | **05**<br>1 pm VDG<br>1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch | **06**<br>9:30 am Mensa Testing<br>1 pm VDG<br>6:30 pm Games SIG<br> |
| **07**<br>12:30 pm GY book club<br>1:30 pm GY Ornaments<br> | **08**<br>1 pm VDG<br>7 pm Munch Bunch | **09**<br>7 pm Beer Garden<br>9 pm *M-Aura* Calendar Deadline | **10**<br>1 pm VDG<br>9 pm *M-Aura* All-Copy Deadline | **11**<br>1 pm Lunch Group<br>7 pm HOTDAM | **12**<br>1 pm VDG<br>1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch | **13**<br>1 pm VDG<br>7 pm Singles Chat ‘n Chew |
| **14**<br>2 pm Bright Ladies SIG<br> | **15**<br>1 pm VDG<br>7 pm Munch Bunch | **16**<br>7 pm Beer Garden | **17**<br>1 pm VDG | **18**<br>1 pm Lunch Group<br>7 pm HOTDAM | **19**<br>1 pm VDG<br>1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch | **20**<br>1 pm VDG<br>4 pm Small Group Meeting |
| **21** | **22**<br>1 pm VDG<br>7 pm Munch Bunch | **23**<br>7 pm Beer Garden | **24**<br>1 pm VDG | **25**<br> | **26**<br>1 pm VDG<br>1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch | **27**<br>1 pm VDG |
| **28**<br>1:30 pm Eclectic Book Club | **29**<br>1 pm VDG<br>7 pm Munch Bunch | **30**<br>7 pm Beer Garden | **31**<br>1 pm VDG<br> | December | | |

# ~December 2025~

**FOR CALENDAR UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT**
**HTTP://WWW.NORTHTEXASMENSA.ORG**

## ~WEEKLY EVENTS~

### MONDAYS

**7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Munch Bunch - Addison**
Location: **BJ's Restaurant,** 4901 Belt Line Rd., Addison 75254
BJ's is an upscale brewpub with an extensive menu. On the north side of Belt Line just a couple of blocks west of the Tollway. Ask at the desk for the Mensa table.
Contact: **Roger Durham** (214.349.4521)

### TUESDAYS

**7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Beer Garden – Dallas**
Location: **District 9 Draught Haus**, 718 N. Buckner Blvd., Dallas
This is a neighborhood pub in the shopping center, corner of Buckner & Northcliff, which is the first stoplight south of NW Hwy. on Buckner. They have a good beer selection, wines and ciders on tap, and a tasty, but somewhat limited, menu. Ask for the Mensa table.
Contact: **Roger Durham** (214.349.4521)

### THURSDAYS

**1:00 PM Plano Lunch Group**
Location: **King Buffet**: 521 Central Parkway, Plano, TX 75074
Yelp loves King Buffet Plano's wide selection which ranges from pizza to made-to-order hibachi favorites. Look for Ty. https://www.yelp.com/biz/king-buffet-plano-3
Contact: **Ty O'Neil**: (214.394.7364 cell)

**6:45 PM HOTDAM**
Hang out Together with Denton Area Mensans
Location: **Sidewalk Cafe**, 2900 Wind River Lane, Denton, TX 76210
Meet us for games, revelry, and more. See YOU 'round!
PLEASE CALL OR TEXT CONTACTS FOR MORE INFO
Contact: **Deb Ramsey** (940.391.9657) or **Christie Miller**, (940.765.0429)

### FRIDAYS

**1:00 - 2:30 PM East Dallas Lunch Bunch**
Location: **Fish City Grill**: 7170 Skillman Street,
Dallas 75231 Fish City Grill is a neighborhood seafood restaurant that delivers the best quality and fresh ingredients.
Contact: **Roger Durham** (214.349.4521)

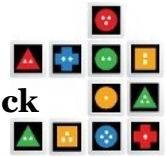
**MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY / SATURDAY**
**1:00 PM M Virtual Discussion Group (VDG) SIG** *(from mid MI Mensa)* Location: **Zoom Meeting**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09 Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234 We can talk about whatever anybody wants to talk about in Mensa; we can talk about current events, or we can talk about what is going on in our lives.
Contact: **Ken Lawrence** MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com

# December Events

New-ish Date and Time

## 04 THURSDAY
**6:00PM- 7:00PM - Board Meeting**
(First Thursday of the month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81692083286?pwd=UWFmMlVvRUpiazBZNldHcmxwSGpvZz09, or **Zoom Phone**: +1 346 248 7799 (in lieu of video call), Meeting ID: 816 9208 3286, Passcode: 448903
All members of NTM are welcome to attend and to address the board. The board conducts the organization business decisions. Members are welcome to bring items to the board's attention if they wish. Contact: **Cathy Allshouse, President**: (president@northtexasmensa.org)

## 06 SATURDAY
**9:30AM - 11:45AM– MENSA Admissions Testing**
Location: **Dallas Public Library – Timberglen Branch Classroom**: 18505 Midway Rd., Dallas, TX 75287
Know someone who may qualify for Mensa? Please refer all interested testers (or anyone with questions!) to Rebecca Raymond at NTMTesting@northtexasmensa.org to obtain the pre-registration link and all other required details for this session.
Contact: **Rebecca Raymond**: (ntmtesting@northtexasmensa.org)



**6:30PM – Games SIG**
Location: **Bill & Ellen Rock's Home "The Rock Pile"**: 701 Victorian Drive, Allen, TX 75002
We have some classic board games and some new ones, and we're happy to try anything you care to bring over. Snacks and soft drinks will be available.
Contacts: **Bill and/or Ellen Rock**:
(972.396.8160 •/+ 214.356.5819,
william.m.rock@gmail.com

**07 SUNDAY**
**12:30 PM CST Gifted Youth on-line Book Club**
At this meeting, we will be discussing "On Account of the Gum" by Adam Rex.
Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: Bill Rock: (972.415.5302,
william.m.rock@gmail.com)

**1:30PM – Holiday Crafts with Gifted Youth**
Location: **The Rock Pile**: 701 Victorian, Allen, TX 75002
There will be lots of fabric arts and crafts (ornaments that are easy and fun to make), and we can cut and decorate glass/copper/steel if someone is so inclined. No experience needed; come out and learn something new or show people a skill you know.
Contact: Bill Rock: (972.415.5302,
william.m.rock@gmail.com)

**09 TUESDAY**
**9:00PM – M-Aura Calendar Deadline** (The 9th of each month)
Contact: **Editor, Bill Rock**:
(william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.396.8160)

## 10 WEDNESDAY

**9:00PM – M-Aura All Copy Deadline** (The 10th of each month)
Contact: **Editor, Bill Rock**:
(william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.396.8160)

## 13 SATURDAY

**7:00PM – 9:00PM – Singles Chat and Chew**
(Second Saturday of each month)
Location: **Jason's Deli**: 9100 N. Central Expressway, Suite 139, Dallas, TX 75231. This at the NE corner of Central Expressway and Park Lane. Come join other singles for dinner and have great conversations.
Contact: **Laura Stuart**: (214.641.2520)

## 14 SUNDAY

**2:00-4:00 PM – Bright Ladies SIG**
Location: **– La Madeleine Country French Café,** 3072 Mockingbird Ln, Dallas, TX**.**
La Madeleine is one block West of the intersection of Mockingbird and Central Expressway (US-75), adjacent to SMU. Look for us in the reserved room (the glassed-in area to the right as you come in). For December we will have a gift exchange. Please bring a new wrapped gift worth $25-$30. Call Kathy McWhorter for directions or more details.
Contact: Kathy McWhorter (214.215.5809)

## 20 SATURDAY

**4:00PM – 6:00PM - Small MENSA Meeting Canton / Wills Point** (Third Saturday of each month)
Location: **We meet in each other's homes on a rotating basis**
We will send out a reminder about a week before each meeting giving this month's location and subject matter to be discussed. Purely a discussion group; no games, no food fests, no partying. Enjoy

the exchange of thoughts and ideas without contention!
Contact: **Gerard Brohman**: (gbrohman@live.com)

## 21 SUNDAY

### 1:30PM – 3:00PM - Eclectic Book Club

(Fourth Sunday of the Month)
Location: **Half Price Books Mothership**: 5803 E NW Hwy, Dallas, TX 75231
This month EBC is reading *Trust* by Hernan Diaz. Eclectic Book Club picks are generally available in hardback, paperback or for e-readers. They should also be available at your local library. Contacts: **Larry Strickler**: (lstrickler1@verizon.net or 972.495.8076) or **Bill Rock**: (972.396.8160 or william.m.rock@gmail.com)

**Calendar/Event Guidelines and Policies**: No guarantee of inclusion or accuracy is made with regard to calendar events. For best possible accuracy, email information directly to the Calendar Chair. Costs listed are intended only as reimbursement of expenses and should be honored when listed. Events on the calendar are open to all members. If an event is designated for a specific group, and you don't fall within that group, please have the courtesy to seek the consent of the host/hostess prior to attending the event. The monthly meeting is open to the public. If you wish to bring a non-member to another event, please contact the host/hostess for permission prior to attendance. Email all event information by the deadline listed in the calendar to calendarchair@northtexasmensa.org.

Xkcd:
"no, the other one"

Ed note: Missing include the Miami in OK, and also the Beverly Hills in Chicago, that "the other one" was named after

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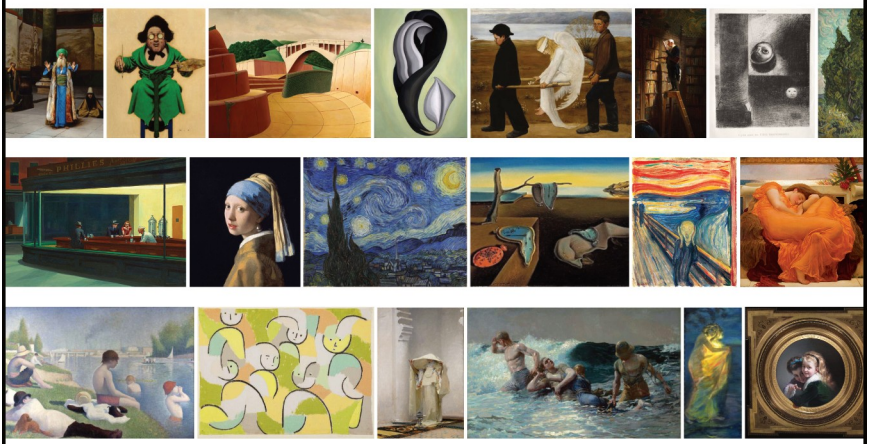

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## North Texas Mensa Board of Directors proceedings 02 Oct 25

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:33PM by President Cathy Allshouse. Also present virtually were VP Chris Cree, Secretary Eric "Gunny" Hartman, and Board Members at Large Jonathan Bethune and Chuck Weis. Absent were Treasurer Paul Whiteman and BMAL Juan Faura.

**1. Reports**: The following reports were given.

**President –** Cathy Allshouse … The next Board meeting will be November 6 at 7:30PM via Zoom. The New Member's Party was great! "A million thanks to Barbara and James for opening their lovely, large home to us; it was the perfect place! About 40 were in attendance, including several new members and some re-joiners." Update on intention to host 2027 Mind Games: Cathy plans to attend the 2026 Mind Games in DC in April, with the hope of gaining some experience and NTM applying to host the 2028 Mind Games.

**Vice-President** – Chris Cree … Nothing to report.

**Secretary –** Gunny Hartman … The minutes of the of the September 2025 meeting compiled by Chuck Weis were distributed via email and accepted with the following modifications: "Mensa National recommended that we withdraw from hosting 2026 2027, then go to [Mind Games 2026] to get experience, then use that experience, recruit more volunteers, and then apply for 2027 2028 …"

**Treasurer** – Paul Whiteman … No report, but there is money coming into the RG account from registrations.

**Membership** – Chris Cree … 1026 members, including 1 new and 3 reinstated. Another letter was sent to encourage lapsed members to rejoin.

**Ombudsman –** Roger Durham … Nothing to report

**Marketing –** Juan Faura … No report, but AMC has no problem with NTM producing items with its own logos (Owl & longhorn options). There was discussion about registering them to protect our intellectual property.

**S.I.G.H.T.** – Gunny Hartman … Nothing to report

**Gifted Youth** – Bill Rock … "Two families attended rocket launches last Saturday; one up close experience with a lawn dart, one prize brought home. The October event is a guided hike at Trinity Audubon Center."

**Editor** – Bill Rock … "Not sure if calendarchair@northtexasmensa.org has been redirected with Sara stepping down. Otherwise, nothing extraordinary."

**Scholarship** – Lauren Ogden … Nothing to report

**Calendar** – Vacant … Jonathan Bethune is presently handling the calendar.

**Webmaster** – Jonathan Bethune … RG page should be good to go now. An invoice is being prepared for reimbursement, but no more expenses are expected for 2025.

**Testing Coordinator** – Rebecca Raymond … "No new updates from the testing side! Still have two sessions booked for this month."

**Social Media/Facebook** - Collene Goldman … "Facebook going well."

**Programs** – Karen Brack … Scheduling is done for 2025, with November being the election. October 19 will be a preview of the RG. Some potential speakers who couldn't make the RG would like to speak in 2026. There was discussion about ways to increase attendance at the general meetings.

**Regional Gathering** – Karen Brack … We have 20 registrations for RG so far and more speakers have been secured. There will be a nice mix of speakers, games, etc.

**Bylaws Committee** – Randy Brack and Paul Whiteman … "It will be a joint General Election/Bylaws Referendum ballot. Lauren is preparing it. See her report for details."

**Nominating Committee** – (Chair) Bill Rock … "Committee has been disbanded since nominations turned in in August."

**Election Committee** – (Chair) Lauren Ogden … "Almost have all bios and statements, which are due Oct 5th. Then, I will run the draft of the ballot and statements by the committee and submit to M-Aura publication by the 10th, if not sooner."

**2. Actions:** No actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13PM by Cathy Allshouse.

# NTM Board Proceedings– 06 Nov 2025

North Texas Mensa Board of Directors minutes for Nov 6, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by President Cathy Allshouse on Zoom. Also present were VP Chris Cree, Treasurer Paul Whiteman, Lauren Ogden, Randy Brack, Jonathan Bethune, Karen Brack and Board Member at Large Chuck Weis.

**1. Reports**: The following reports were given.

**President** – Cathy Allshouse … The next Board meeting: 7:30 December 4, 2025 via Zoom. The general meetings/programs will be in the Glen Lakes Room at Five Star Premier Residences in person on the third Sunday Nov 13, and will discuss the election. There will be no general meeting in December. The election for Mensa RVC ends at the end of November, and both candidates will be at the RG.

**Vice-President** – Chris Cree … nothing from this office.

**Secretary** – Gunny Hartman … The minutes of the October meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were accepted without modifications.

**Treasurer** – Paul Whiteman … (no report)

**Membership** – Chris Cree … Gained 26 members last month, to 1054, in October.

**Ombudsman** – Roger Durham … Not present.

**Marketing** – Juan Faura … Not present.

**S.I.G.H.T.** – Gunny Hartman … Nothing to report.

**Editor** – Bill Rock … No concerns for November, December inputs are due.

**Scholarship** – Lauren Ogden … Request people (>40) to sign up to be judges from late January through mid-March.

**Calendar** – Vacant … Jonathan Bethune has maintained it.

**Webmaster** – Jonathan Bethune … small edits have been made. Potential to use
AI to ingest our minutes and other reports and become a searchable database.

**Testing Coordinator** – Rebecca Raymond … October had 12 testers. Next test November 15. We get $15 income per tester, plus $25 to go to the testing site.

**Social Media/Facebook** - Collene Goldman … Facebook page is looking good, and getting dozens of views.

**Programs** – Karen Brack … The RG is it for the rest of the year. Looking for speakers in January etc., potentially some are available who could not make the RG.

**Regional Gathering** – Karen Brack … A full agenda has been published for Thursday through Sunday. Game Prizes and Speaker gifts have been acquired.

**Bylaws Committee** – Randy Brack: there will be ballots available at the November general meeting.

**Gifted youth**: no event in October due to staffing by Audubon. Climbing gym event in November.

**Nominating Committee** – (Chair) Bill Rock … disbanded.

**Election Committee** – (Chair) Lauren Ogden … bringing ballots to the November general meeting.

**New Business**: Discussion on low attendance for general meeting. Date and Time are a concern, as well as interesting venues. Looking for ideas. Also considering eliminating Zoom for general meetings (few people attend that way, and they can't taste the tomatoes).

**2. Actions:** No new actions, see new business for discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

## NTM Board Members for 2025: *Blue italics = new*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **President**<br>Cathy Allshouse | president@northtexasmensa.org<br>713.398.7963 | 10702 Stone Canyon Dr., #128,<br>Dallas, TX 75230 |
| **Vice President**<br>Chris Cree | ccree@earthlink.net<br>214.701.4681 | 3541 Colgate Ave<br>Dallas 75225 |
| **Treasurer**<br>Paul Whiteman | paulw@ieee.org<br>469.569.3129 | 4424 Ringgold Ln<br>Plano 75093 |
| **Secretary**<br>Gunny Hartman | 214.477.5047<br>Gunny93@yahoo.com | 139 Westminster Ave<br>Murphy, 75094 |

### 2025 NTM Board Members At Large:

| | |
|---|---|
| Jonathan Bethune | jbethune777@gmail.com<br>972.213.2715 |
| Juan Faura | jafaura@gmail.com<br>817.937.7435 |
| Chuck Weis | charlesdweis@gmail.com<br>469.271.4928 |

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**Region 6 Regional Coordinator:** Penny Robe, penny.robe.mensa@gmail.com
**Region 6 Ombudsperson:** Randy Brack, mrbrack46@gmail.com, 972.495.2659

## ~NTM Appointed Positions ~

**Membership Chair**
Chris Cree ccree@earthlink.net 214.701.4681

**Gifted Youth Coordinator**
Bill Rock 972.396.8160
william.m.rock@gmail.com

**Proctor/Testing Coordinator**
Rebecca Raymond, ntmtesting@northtexasmensa.org

**NTM Ombudsman**
Roger Durham durhamrog@gmail.com 214.349.4521

**Calendar Chair**—Open

**Webmaster**
Jonathan Bethune jbethune777@gmail.com

**Communications**
Collene Goldman colleneg@gmail.com 469-503-3636

***Area Coordinators***
**Denton/Collin Co, & Texoma Area**
Pam Kittenbacher 972.727.3300 pamkittenbacher@gmail.com

**East Texas**
Cookie Neely , 903-235-8681 syntaxcop@gmail.com

**Program Chair**
Karen Brack kwbrack18@ gmail.com, 214.477.1151

**RG Chair**
Karen Brack kwbrack18@ gmail.com, 214.477.1151

**Publicity Coordinator**—Open

**Webmaster:**
Jonathan Bethune 972.213.2715

**Volunteers Coordinator**—Open

**M-Aura Editor**
Bill Rock , 972.415.5302 editor@northtexasmensa.org

**Social Media**—Collene Goldman colleneg@gmail.com 469-503-3636

**Marketing Chair** -Juan Faura jafaura@ gmail.com 817.937.7435

**S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator**
Eric "Gunny" Hartman SIGHT@NorthTexasMensa.org 214.477.5047

**NTM Scholarship Chair**
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**Circulation Manager/ Publisher**
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**Nominating Committee:** Bill Rock 972.415.5302 william.m.rock@gmail.com, Anne Whiteman: 214.868.4410 / anne.whiteman1@gmail.com, Laura Stuart: (214.641.2520)

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