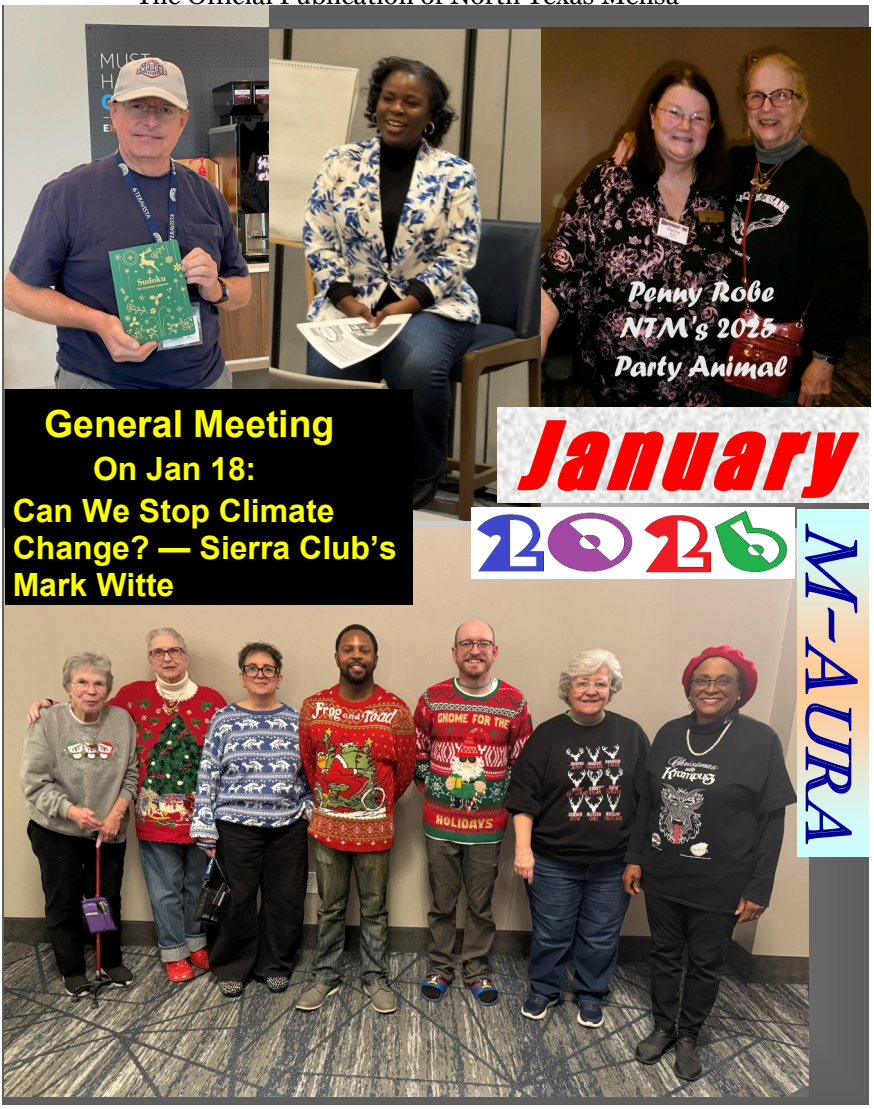
The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa



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ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top Left:* Andy York, winner of the Sudoku Challenge, and other games. *Top Center*: Tanesha Logan - New Executive Director of America Mensa and the Mensa Foundation. *Top Right: (l-r)* RG "Party Animal" Penny Robe with Hells' M Penny Smith-Singleton. *Bottom*: Ugly Sweater contestants: Cookie, Penny, Karen, Darious, a player to be named later, Cathy, Leza.

Back *Upper Left*: Viviana and the ornament she made. *Center:* Rhea and Prishaa and their ornaments. *Right:* Another completed ornament and its creator. *Bottom:* Ornament workshop, from Jack and his family on the left to Chase on the right.

FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

CATHY ALLSHOUSE

As we begin a fresh new year, I thank you for the opportunity to lead the North Texas Mensa Board of Directors. Here's to a year filled with intellectual adventure, personal fulfillment, and shared success.

May your curiosity be endless and your discoveries be profound.

May every challenge turn into a new opportunity for learning and innovation.

May you find balance, happiness, and prosperity in both your intellectual pursuits and personal life.

Here are some of the things for you to look forward to and participate in: our January general meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18th at 7pm at the usual place with a speaker exploring the topic of renewable energy--more on this in the January Events section on page 11. **Beginning in February, that general meeting will be moved to the 3rd Saturday afternoon at 2pm**. Hopefully this will allow more Mensans to attend. We also hope to plan some fun outings for our group. Be sure to read your emails from NTM as well as the newsletters and our Facebook page.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, healthy, and enriching New 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: Spencer Belz, Caroline Copple, Jacob Samuel Donaire, David Lambert. Noah Ng

Moving to NTM: Christine Klahn

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Robert Armstrong, Alan Henderson, Emeka Mgbokwere, Brandon Tang, Katherine Tang, Barrett Trivitt, Chelsea Tucker

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

Howdy!

REGION 6 VICE CHAIR — LAURA SMITH

A Note from Your RVC

Hello, Region 6!
For those I haven't met yet, I'm Laura Smith, your newly elected Regional Vice Chair, and I'm genuinely excited to be here.

In December, I attended my first American Mensa Committee planning meeting, and it was two energizing days with an engaged, thoughtful board focused squarely on one thing: **our members and the future of Mensa**. The professionalism, collaboration, and sense of purpose in that room left me energized and optimistic about what we can build together.

One theme that sparked especially good discussion was **member value-**specifically, what aspects of Mensa membership resonate most strongly, and where we may have opportunities to evolve. What brings you value in Mensa? Is it events? Conversations? Lifelong friendships? Intellectual play? Something else entirely?
I'd love to hear from you:

- What do you value most about Mensa?
- What would you like to see more of?
- What could you happily do without?
- Have a great idea, a question, or even a good joke to share?

Whether you want to bounce an idea around, brainstorm something new, or just chat, I'm here for all of it-especially conversations centered on what makes Mensa meaningful to you.

And speaking of value and connection: mark your calendars now for **SYNRG**, coming **Memorial Day weekend in May**. Gulf Coast Mensa is bringing it back **bigger than ever**, and we're inviting Region 6 to **Come Back to the Future** with us. More details soon, but trust me, you won't want to miss it.

I'm honored to serve, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,
Laura Smith
Regional Vice Chair, Region 6

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

For December, we had a nice crowd turn out for ornament making. Several nice projects were completed, including ornaments and wreaths. We still have plenty of fabric squares left, so we might do that again next December. Some attendees mentioned possibly doing other arts and crafts activities, like a workshop on origami (that I personally would really enjoy).

For this month, we have an extra special event: James Wallace, a professional writer and author, has volunteered to help out college-bound members with a workshop on crafting a great college essay. It is always interesting to hear from people at the top of their profession. If you have questions about the craft (not just college essays) please send them in advance to contact@masterofthestory.com.

People who read the Nov/Dec 2025 Mensa Bulletin might have seen some familiar faces in the back; the Meals on Wheels delivery team from Christmas 2024 was featured in the events section. Volunteering can be a great way to do good for the community while having fun.

As always, please let me know if you have any ideas on events, or would be interested in hosting an event.

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

Kaustubh Gadgil, James Coombes, Benjamin Whillock, Kenton Keller, Margaret Matthews, Kevin Buchanan, Diane Walker, Aileen Speegle, Zaquinten Nwokeocha, Sally Ritchie, Robert Armstrong, Matthew Mladenka, Yoram Solomon, Douglas Murphy, Jonathan “webmaster” Bethune, Gary Collier, Ignatz Mouse, Dana Sherrod, Keith Goodnight, Patrick Mahaffey, Kenneth Reed, Jennifer Robinson, Landry Nelon, Heather Gunn, Maria Crompton, David Hood, Thomas Murphy, Elizabeth Swindell, Laura “Chat n” Stuart, Anne “poker face” Whiteman, Michael Lantrip, Karen Riddle, Richard Williams, Nieves Servin, Emma Unglaub, Michael Richey, Melissa Rabano, Marissa Merrill, David Huddleston, Brandon Davenport, Duane Caldwell, Sheri Kowalski, Kay Parsons, David McMasters, Philip White, Joe Prigmore, Eric Ingram, William Robison, Carlos Palacios, Rod Moore, Robert Jarcik, James Chaney, Andrew Ralston, Marc Rossouw, Chuck Weis, Paul Wehrmann

2026 JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 7 pm HOTDAM	**02** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**03** 1 pm VDG
04 12:30 pm GY book club	**05** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**06** 7 pm Beer Garden	**07** 1 pm VDG	**08** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM 7:30 pm NTM Board Meeting	**09** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch 7 pm Texas Hold 'Em 9 pm *M-Aura* Calendar Deadline	**10** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Singles Chat 'n Chew 9 pm *M-Aura* All-Copy Deadline
11 2 pm Bright Ladies SIG	**12** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**13** 7 pm Beer Garden	**14** 1 pm VDG	**15** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**16** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**17** 11:45 am Mensa Testing 1 pm VDG 4 pm Small Group Meeting
18 7:30 PM NTM General Meeting	**19** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**20** 7 pm Beer Garden	**21** 1 pm VDG 7 pm MADEATS	**22** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**23** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**24** 1 pm VDG 6:30 pm Games SIG
25 1:30 pm Eclectic Book Club	**26** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**27** 7 pm Beer Garden	**28** 1 pm VDG	**29** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**30** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**31** 1 pm VDG 2 PM GY essay workshop

~January 2026~

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 It turns out that some Mensans enjoy talking to others about a wide variety of subjects. Other Mensans simply enjoy hearing other points of view. The problem is getting enough of us together. We can do that through Zoom
Contact: **Ken Lawrence** MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com

January Events

04 SUNDAY

12:30PM - NTM Gifted Youth Book Club
(First Sunday of each month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**
At this meeting, we will be discussing **Claudia and the Bad Joke (The Baby-Sitter's Club #15)** by Ann M. Martin.
Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

05 MONDAY

7:00 PM – Bylaws Referendum Ballot Counting
Location: **Starbucks:** 2630 Arapaho Rd., Garland (SW corner of Arapaho and Shiloh)
Ballots for the NTM Bylaws Referendum were due by January 4, 2026. Everyone is welcome to see the ballots being counted. Come by Starbucks at 7 o'clock to observe. The counting process should take about five minutes.
Contact: **Randy Brack**: (214.437.2188, mrbrack46@gmail.com)

08 THURSDAY

7:30PM - Board Meeting (First Thursday of the month) (except this 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)

09 FRIDAY

7:00 – NTM Scholarship Foundation Friday Texas Hold-em
Location: **Storm Ricamore's Home:** 1426 Dumont Drive, Richardson, TX 75080
The next Texas Hold 'Em will be at the home of Storm Ricamore on Friday, January 9, 2026. Join us for a pleasant evening of cards, bluffing and fun. No big winners or losers, just bragging rights for your $10 contribution to the kitty, and a $5 re-buy if you wish – all of which goes to the Scholarship Foundation. Plenty of snacks and drinks, and those new to the game are welcome to join in. As always, the party starts at 7 PM, and the game commences at 7:30 PM.
RSVP: Please RSVP to Storm if you plan to attend.
Contact: **Storm Ricamore** 972-235-5837 or storm@stormsmall.com.

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 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)

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)

11 SUNDAY

2:00PM – 4:00PM Bright Ladies Gathering (Second Sunday of each month)

Location: **la Madeleine French Bakery & Café**: 15125 Montfort Dr., Dallas (one block east of the Tollway, on Montfort)

Look for us (and the Bright Ladies logo) as you come in.

Contact: **Call Kathy McWhorter for directions or more details**: (214.215.5809)

17 SATURDAY

11:45 AM - 2:00 PM Mensa Admissions Testing

Location: **Dallas Public Library - Renner Frankford Branch Auditorium** 6400 Frankford Rd, Dallas 75252

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)

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)

18 SUNDAY

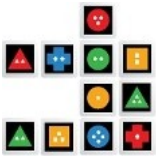
7:30PM – January General Meeting

Location: **Discovery Village North Dallas (formerly Five Star)**, 5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas, or **Zoom Video**: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81692083286?pwd=UWFmMlVvRUpiazBZNldHcmxwSGpvZz09

Program: **Mark Witte --If We Don't Stop Climate Change, Have We Really Accomplished Anything**?
The Sierra Club works to protect wildlife and wild places, ensure clean air and water for all, and fight the devastating effects of climate change. Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign was exceptionally successful in permanently closing hundreds of U.S. coal fired electricity generating facilities.
But fossil fuel usage has continued to increase in the U.S. and globally. Air pollution is a persistent problem, with most of humanity living in areas with unhealthy air. Fresh water, including ground water, is being depleted at alarming and unsustainable rates. The current U.S. administration is doing everything possible to promote the use of fossil fuels and slow the transition to renewable energy and EVs. Policies that will permanently cede control of the renewable energy and EV markets to China.
Mark Witte is a Board member of the North Texas Renewable Energy Group, which is the north Texas chapter of the American Solar Energy Society. He's also a member of the Dallas Sierra Club ExCom.
Contact: **Karen Brack**, kwbrack18@gmail.com, 214.477.1151.

21 WEDNESDAY
7:00PM – MADEATS

Location: **Taco y Vino,** 706 Main St., Downtown Garland 75040 https://www.tacoyvinodallas.com/
Taco y Vino, the award-winning innovative gourmet taqueria and casual wine bar, has an almost cult-like following. Its combination of good food and wine at low prices made it an instant favorite. Especially popular is their nightly special, six tacos of your choice and a bottle of wine for $50. Three tacos are $15. Taco fillings range from cochinita pibil, chicken tinga and pork carnitas to ahi tuna, tempura catfish or shrimp and fried avocado. There are several vegetarian and vegan options on the menu.
In addition to street parking, there is an unpaved parking lot behind the restaurant. Parties of 6 or more won't be given separate checks, so be prepared. As always MADEATS congenially requests, but doesn't require, that you RSVP if coming.
Contact: **Karen Brack**, kwbrack18@gmail.com, 214.477.1151.



24 SATURDAY

6:30PM – Games SIG

Location: **Bill & Ellen Rock's Home**
"The Rock Pile": 701 Victorian Dr, Allen, 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

25 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 *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro. 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**: (972.415.5302 or william.m.rock@gmail.com)

31 SATURDAY

2 PM Gifted Youth College Essay Workshop

Location: **Schimelpfenig Library:** 5024 Custer Road, Plano, TX 75023 (Public Conference Room) and also zoom: Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09

Professional author, writer, and screenwriter James Wallace has kindly offered to give a presentation on crafting an effective college essay. In person will be more beneficial, but on-line is available if needed. Learn how to get the most out of making a good first impression. Don't know what to expect, or do know what to expect but want info on a specific area? Questions can be submitted in advance to contact@masterofthestory.com.

Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

NTM 2026 Election Results

The results of the 2026 NTM Board of Directors election are as follows:

Running unopposed and elected:	Position
Cathy Allshouse	President
Eric "Gunny" Hartman, Sr.	Secretary
Paul Whiteman	Treasurer

Contested positions:

Vice President

Esther Bellah	11	Elected
Mark Magazu	6	

Board Member at Large

Place 1	Chuck Weis	6	
	Aaron Adair	9	Elected Place 1
	Philip Tocci	1	
	Courtney Nall	0	
	Void	1	
Place 2	Chuck Weis	10	Elected Place 2
	Philip Tocci	4	
	Courtney Nall	2	
	Void	1	
Place 3	Philip Tocci	9	Elected Place 3
	Courtney Nall	7	
	Void	1	

This is the final report of the Election Committee. Congratulations to the new Board members. Respectfully submitted, Lauren Ogden, Election Committee chair

North Texas Mensa Board of Directors proceedings 04 Dec 25

North Texas Mensa Board of Directors minutes for December 4, 2025

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:32PM by President Cathy Allshouse. Also present virtually were Secretary Eric "Gunny" Hartman, and Board Members at Large Jonathan Bethune and Chuck Weis. Absent were VP Chris Cree, Treasurer Paul Whiteman, and BMAL Juan Faura.

1. Reports: The following reports were given.

President – Cathy Allshouse … The next Board meeting will be January 8 at 7:30PM via Zoom. The plan will be to keep the Board meeting on the first Thursday night via Zoom, with the exception of 1/1. Laura Smith of Gulf Coast Mensa was elected RVC. Perhaps she will join our Board meeting sometime or even speak at it or at a general meeting. Cathy introduced newly elected 2026 Board member, Esther Bellah (VP), and

will be in contact with those elected to next year's board.

Vice-President – Chris Cree … No report.

Secretary – Gunny Hartman … The minutes of the November 2025 meeting compiled by Chuck Weis were distributed via email and accepted without modification.

Treasurer – Paul Whiteman … No report. Cathy will contact Paul about a 2026 budget and she encouraged those with budgetary needs to contact Paul as well.

Membership – Chris Cree … 1066 members.

Ombudsman – Roger Durham … No report.

Marketing – Juan Faura … No report.

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

Gifted Youth – Bill Rock … "Three families attended the climbing gym event in November. December event is ornament making, on the 7th."

Editor – Bill Rock … "December M-Aura completed on time. Need Election Committee report for January M-Aura."

Circulation/Publisher – Val Beasley … Efforts to encourage members to receive the newsletter electronically continue, but some do not have valid email addresses or have not opted to share them with Mensa. Val will write up something encouraging members to make the switch with details as to what is necessary.

Scholarship – Lauren Ogden … "We're now recruiting judges for the 2025 program year, and we'd love to have you join us again. If you're available from late January through mid-March, please sign up here: http://bit.ly/Scholarship-Judge. More information at https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/."

Calendar – Vacant … No report.

Webmaster – Jonathan Bethune … There are still some NTM website aspects in migration to the new site. When complete, the old site will be archived. An invoice for about $1,000 was submitted for website costs for 2025.

Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond … "We had 5 testers in November (a great turnout for a historically low month)! Next test is this weekend and we'll pick back up in mid-January for the new year."

Social Media/Facebook - Collene Goldman … "The Facebook page is fine. Perhaps it would be good to post some photos from the RG on it. Also the election results with photos of those who won (photos always make a difference). If you prefer to send me the information & photos, I'll do it."

Programs – Karen Brack … The next general meeting will be January 18. Some potential speakers who couldn't make the RG are being pursued to speak in 2026. There was discussion about ways to increase attendance at the general meetings and we are planning to have the meetings on Saturday afternoons, with a broadening of the activities beyond a speaker (e.g., the Dallas Arboretum again, potentially in March, and the donkey refuge, potentially in April/May, or a picnic). Activities that are kid-friendly and inexpensive are desired.

Regional Gathering – Karen Brack … We had another successful RG with 73 in attendance. Receipts are still coming in, so final financial figures will be forthcoming. Although the hotel was adequate and works rather well for us, other options will still be pursued for future RGs, in case we can do better. 29 surveys have been collected, with feedback commending the amount of food, program variety, and tastings/ food variety. A few had issues with the hotel rooms.

Bylaws Committee – Randy Brack and Paul Whiteman … Cathy noted that voting began in November. It will continue into early January.

Election Committee – (Chair) Lauren Ogden … The election report showed the following elected for the 2026 NTM BoD: President Cathy Allshouse, VP Esther Bellah, Treasurer Paul Whiteman, Secretary Eric "Gunny" Hartman, Sr., and BMALs Aaron Adair, Chuck Weis, and Philip Tocci.

2. Actions: No actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM by Cathy Allshouse.

NTM Board Members for 2026: *Blue italics = new*

President Cathy Allshouse	president@northtexasmensa.org 713.398.7963	10702 Stone Canyon Dr., #128, Dallas, TX 75230
Vice President *Esther Bellah*	esthermbellah@gmail.com paulw@ieee.org	
Treasurer Paul Whiteman	469.569.3129	4424 Ringgold Ln Plano 75093
Secretary Gunny Hartman	214.477.5047 Gunny@Gunny93.com	139 Westminster Ave Murphy, 75094

2026 NTM Board Members At Large:

Aaron Adair	mensanthespian@gmail.com 580.380.7000
Philip Tocci	pdntpdnt@gmail.com 978.882.1803
Chuck Weis	charlesdweis@gmail.com 469.271.4928

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Note: All ads will be in color for eSubscribe

Region 6 RVC: Laura Smith, rvc6@us.mensa.org
Region 6 Ombudsperson: Randy Brack, mrbrack46@gmail.com, 972.495.2659

~NTM Appointed Positions ~

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

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

NTM Ombudsman
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