The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

NOVEMBER

M-AURA

2024

Speaker Nov17th: **YOU!** *It is election time—make your voice heard*

It's **HERE**—
NTM's very own
REGIONAL GATHERING
Thanksgiving Weekend
No, IT'S *NOT TOO LATE* TO GET "A PIECE OF THE ACTION"— see p5, 11 and reg form

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For membership info, contact Ken Roberts, membership@northtexasmensa.org or American Mensa at 817.607.0060 (www.us.mensa.org). Mensa is registered at the U.S. Patent Office as the collective mark of an international organization. Qualification for Mensa membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standardized IQ tests. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. Members receive the American Mensa Bulletin, the International Journal, and they are welcome at Mensa events around the world.

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The *fine* **`print`**: We reserve the right to decline any contribution or advertisement, but we rarely do. I mean, seriously, our standards are pretty low. Submissions may be edited for space, or for any other reason, not to exclude delusions of grandeur (or "mastery" of English) by the editor. Neither the M-Aura nor NTM is responsible for verifying the accuracy of any advertisement appearing herein. The opinions expressed herein, however questionable they may be, are those of the editor or other contributors, and are by definition not those of Mensa, which, of course, has no opinions or body odor. All contents herein are Copyright © 2024, North Texas Mensa (unless otherwise attributed). Other Mensa publications may quote and reprint from this newsletter provided that all quotes and reprints must credit the author and this newsletter as the source, and must carry appropriate copyright notice (as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations). If you reprint something from the M-Aura, please email editor@northtexasmensa.org to let me know what you thought was worth reprinting. Quote/reprint permission for non-Mensa publications must be obtained in writing from an NTM officer or from the editor of this newsletter. So there.

ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top Left:* Avyan getting just a bit more "air" after his Young Eagles flight. *Top Right:* Aaron buckled into the copilot's position, ready for takeoff. *Bottom*: Games SIG treading on thin ice "At Wit's End"

Back *Top:* Dayanne preparing for her Young Eagles flight. *Center:* Jake in the Denton control tower, looking at the (airfield) traffic. *Bottom:* Home field advantage extends to a second month with September Poker *(l-r)* 1st-Bill Rock, 2nd- Paul Whiteman, 3rd-Allen Garner.

Guaranteed almost Feghoot-free, ***Whimsy SIG*** publishes facts and fancy, communications from near and far. For more info contact Ruth Danielle, WhimsicalM@outlook.com

FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

GUNNY HARTMAN

"My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." ~Forrest Gump

We are nearing the end of 2024 and there is a lot of uncertainty in the world. There is war in Europe and the possibility of war in the Middle East is soberingly strong. There is unrest in our own country, including a deeply contentious presidential election, plus other hotly contested state and local races. With all of the potential stressors in the world, it is nice to have something on the horizon that will lift our spirits.

The 2024 **Regional Gathering** is planned for Thanksgiving weekend. (See page X/II for more details.) If you have been to one of our RGs, then you know just how fun they can be. You not only get stimulating conversation with your fellow Mensans, but there are great speakers, tastings, games, and other activities to keep you occupied.

Thanksgiving is a great American tradition whereby we reflect upon those things we value in life, people and things for which we are grateful. We can be grateful as a chapter that we have such a quality RG each year. You never know what you're gonna get with elections or world conflict, but you know your time at the RG will be well spent. So, if this will be your first or one of many, register today!

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: Gordon Hicks, Tomas Lopez Villamarin, Sarah Terentiev, Allyson Tesky, Patrick Wood, Nathan Wood, Sebastian Wright

Moving to NTM: No one in September

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Andrea Jones, Ginette Peralta Suarez, Brian Rash, Cameron Smullen, Nathan Stewart, Jeffrey Thornberry

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

HOWDY!

DAVID MCCALLISTER, REGION 6 VICE CHAIR

This is the perfect time of year for a gratitude check. Every moment we have is a gift, and we should take time to appreciate it. By focusing on what we're thankful for, we shift our mindset away from the distractions of the world and embrace a more positive experience.

Whether it's thanking a fellow member, a mentor, or a friend for their support, or acknowledging someone's hard work, expressing appreciation fosters a sense of belonging and encourages mutual respect. I encourage each of you to tell at least one person in Mensa this November and December how much you value them. Reach out with a text message, phone call, email, handwritten note, or even in person at an event.

Thank you to everyone who attended the October town hall and shared your questions, comments, and insights. A few questions to note**: What is the expected response time when members contact the National office? Within two business days. Another inquiry was around finding a copy of chapter bylaws…. I've placed your chapter's bylaws in your local group's Mensa Connect file library.** For those who couldn't make this town hall, more sessions are planned and will be communicated on the region6.us.mensa.org site and in Mensa Connect.

Members can always reach me directly by email RVC6@us.mensa.org, phone or text at 817-988-3283, or submitting feedback online at https://tinyurl.com/MembersVoice. Let's continue working together to ensure every member's needs are acknowledged, understood, and addressed.

I'll be attending the Regional Gathering hosted by North Texas Mensa from November 28 to December 1, in Dallas and look forward to meeting more of you during this event. Yes, there will be Mensa swag to share with those who join the RVC fireside chat session during this RG. If your schedule permits, consider attending this amazing event! For more details, check out: northtexasmensa.org/rg_event/.

As we approach the upcoming holiday season, let's remember that gratitude is more than a momentary feeling; it's a transformative practice that can boost our well-being, strengthen our relationships, and build resilience throughout the year. What's one thing you will do today to express your gratitude and make a positive impact?

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

September brought perfect flying weather to the area, and more than a dozen of us got to take to the skies as part of the Young Eagles program. I think everyone had a good time, except perhaps for one: "the lady doth protest too much, methinks". Maybe it will look better in retrospective, like my kids and our Grand Canyon hikes. Just so everyone is aware, Young Eagles flights are offered year-round in various locations, check youngeaglesday.org for more information.

This month, we are planning a little different flight plan, gliding around that Dallas landmark, White Rock Lake. November should bring very pleasant weather for an afternoon on the bike path. Not a race, just a chance to get out into nature. Studies have been done on a concept called the "Attention Restoration Theory", where it has been demonstrated that people who get a chance to interact with nature find that it helps refocus the mind, when compared with those exposed to an urban or office environment.

Looking ahead to December, the plan is to deliver Meals On Wheels on Christmas Day. This is a nice way to help out how we can. Deliveries will take an hour or two, and we have a cadre of trained Meals On Wheels deliverers to assist on your route (all with the same last name, for some reason). As always, if you have any ideas for an event or want to host something, please let me know and we will get it worked out. Thanks.

NORTH TEXAS MENSA PRESENTS:

FEAST OF PLEASURES AND DELIGHTS XLIII

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 1, DALLAS

Come join us for entertaining events, including great speakers, a variety of games, an indoor pool, delicious tastings, and other interesting and enjoyable activities.

This RG will truly please and delight one and all, so come socialize with your Mensa family and friends for another fun-filled Thanksgiving weekend! The hotel provides breakfast daily for registered guests, and the RG registration fee includes 3 dinners and 2 lunches in Hospitality. Full weekend registration (age 13+) is $120 until October 31 and $150 after, including walk-ins. Children 6-12 are half-price, and those 5 and under are free. Day rates are $75 for Friday or Saturday. Hotel is Holiday Inn Express & Suites North Dallas at Preston, 972-404-4500, $109, guaranteed until November 14. Register at northtexasmensa.org. For more information, contact Laura Stuart at 214-641-2520 or lrstuart@earthlink.net.

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**2** 12:15 Mensa Testing 10:30 am Mensa Testing
3 12:30 pm Gifted Youth Book Club 8 pm Brainstorming SIG	**4** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**5** 7 pm Beer Garden	**6** 9 pm *M-Aura* Calendar Deadline	**7** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM 9 pm *M-Aura* All-Copy Deadline	**8** 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**9** 7 pm Singles Chat 'n Chew
10 2 pm Bright Ladies SIG 8 pm Brainstorming SIG	**11** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**12** 7 pm Beer Garden	**13**	**14** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**15** 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**16** 2 pm Mensa Foundation Speaker Series 4 pm Small Group Meeting
17 3 pm GY cycle White Rock Lake 4:30 pm SFRM —speaker 6 pm NTM Board Meeting 7:30 pm NTM **ELECTION DAY** 8 pm Brainstorming SIG	**18** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**19** 7 pm Beer Garden	**20**	**21** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**22** 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch 7 pm Texas Hold 'Em	**23** 6:30 pm Games SIG
24 1:30 pm Eclectic Book Club 8 pm Brainstorming SIG 01 Dec **(RG Concludes)**	**25** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**26** 7 pm Beer Garden	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**

NTM's Regional Gathering

~November 2024~

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 (not on Thanksgiving)
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)

7:00 - 9:00 PM HOTDAM (not on Thanksgiving)
Hang out Together with Denton Area Mensans
Location: **Cafe Brazil**, 501 W University Dr, Denton, TX 76201 Meet us for games, revelry, and more. Look for the owl statuette on the table. 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 (not on 29 Nov)
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)

SUNDAYS
8:00 PM Brainstorming SIG *(from mid MI Mensa)*
Location: **Zoom Meeting**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHNoJsdz09
Meeting ID: 829 0860 0785 Passcode: 1234
SIG's main purpose - Opportunity to brainstorm ways we do things.
Contact: **Ken Lawrence** MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com

November Events

02 SATURDAY

12:15PM – 2:30PM – MENSA Admissions Testing
Location: **Carrollton Public Library - Hebron & Josey Branch:** 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)

03 SUNDAY

12:30PM - NTM Gifted Youth Book Club
(First Sunday of each month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**
At this meeting, we will be discussing ***The Serpent's Secret*** by Sayantani DasGupta.
Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.396.8160, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

09 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 Calendar Deadline (The 9th of each month)
Contact: **Calendar Chair, Sara Hawkins**: (calendarchair@northtexasmensa.org, or 214.801.4704)

10 SUNDAY

2:00PM – 4:00PM Bright Ladies Brunch
(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)

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)

16 SATURDAY

2:00PM – 3:30PM Mensa Foundation Speaker Series 2024
Location: **Zoom Meeting**
Explore the Mensa Foundation Speaker Series in 2024 - an immersive journey into the realms of intelligence and giftedness In collaboration with esteemed partners such as the Gifted Development Center (GDC), the Dabrowski Center (DC), and Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG), the Mensa Foundation Speaker Series offers captivating 90-minute virtual sessions that dive deep into the world of intelligence and giftedness. Uncover new perspectives and ignite your intellectual curiosity.
November Speaker: **Kate Arms:** Autopsychotherapy
Registration and Fee Information: https://mensafoundation.ticketspice.com/mfss2024

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)

17 SUNDAY

3:00PM NTM Gifted Youth Bike the Lake

Location: **Bath House Cultural Center:** 521 E Lawther Dr, Dallas, TX 75218
Let's meet at the Bath House and then do a pleasant ride around White Rock Lake. We can travel at a comfortable pace for all and stop when we want for a break. I have a tandem someone can borrow if they like.
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.396.8160)

4:30PM – San Francisco Regional MENSA Speaker Series: The Enigma Machine

Location: This is a Zoom presentation/ Please register at: https://livepresentation.link/SignUp . During WWII the Germans used a machine that was supposed to encrypt communications beyond the possibility of deciphering. If the allies hadn't obtained an Enigma machine and devoted considerable resources to decoding the German military communications, the outcome of WWII may have been very different.
Contact: **Judy Unger**: (judy@photobyjudy.com; 714.356.4873)

6:00PM- 7:00PM - Board Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)

Location: **Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas**: 5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas, or
Zoom Video: 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. Following the Board Meeting there is usually time for socializing before the program. If you prefer, you may also attend via Zoom –

links above.
Contact: **Gunny Hartman, President**: (president@northtexasmensa.org)

7:30PM – Program Following the Board Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)
Location: **Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas**, 5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas, or Zoom (see links above)
Program: ***NTM ELECTIONS***—be there, be mailed, or be uncast

22 FRIDAY

7:00PM – NTM Scholarship Foundation Friday Texas Hold 'Em
Location: **Bill & Ellen Rock's Home "The Rock Pile"**: 701 Victorian Drive, Allen, 75002
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. And as always, if you feel sick or if you have Covid, please stay home!
RSVP: Please RSVP to **Bill Rock**: (972-396-8160 (landline) / william.m.rock@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Thank you!

23 SATURDAY

6:30PM – Games SIG
Location: **Bill & Ellen Rock's Home "The Rock Pile"**: 701 Victorian Drive, 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)

24 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
The book selection for this month is ***Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*** by Olga Tokarczuk. 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)

28 THURSDAY through
01 DEC SUNDAY
The one you have been waiting for

NTM REGIONAL GATHERING

Location: **Holiday Inn Express North Dallas**:
6055 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240
The place to be: entertaining events, including great speakers, a variety of games, an indoor pool, delicious tastings, and other interesting and enjoyable activities.
Contact: **Laura Stuart**: (214.641.2520 or lrstuart@earthlink.net.)

ARGUMENT AGAINST THE PROPOSED NTM BYLAWS

by Randy Brack

I'm Randy Brack, and I've written every version of the NTM Bylaws since 1985. I chaired this year's NTM Bylaws Committee until I resigned after the Board voted to change what I recommended. I'd like to give you two reasons you should vote against the proposed bylaws in the upcoming election.

First, the proposed bylaws change holding Board meetings and publishing the M-Aura from monthly to "at least quarterly" [Articles V.1 and IV.1.]. Quarterly newsletter publication means that any SIG, calendar, official business, etc. may be out of date before you read it in the M-Aura.

In addition, the following text would be dropped from Article IV, Section 2 of the current bylaws:

"Draft minutes of each meeting of the Board shall be published in the newsletter within 50 days thereafter."

This deletion is interesting for two reasons:

The deletion would be required if the newsletter were published quarterly. Draft minutes could not be published in a timely manner.

The original text is not shown in the recently published bylaws, thereby not showing that the text would be deleted. I wonder about this omission.

Someone may tell you that the Board has no intention of changing to quarterly meetings and newsletter publication. That may be true. However, future Boards may change their minds. Printing the M-Aura does cost money. But then, you should get something for your dues. In case you don't read the financial statements, NTM has over $20,000 of your money. The only thing ensuring monthly meetings and M-Aura publication is the bylaws requirement.

The second reason to vote against the proposed bylaws is the change in Article VII, Section 3 that would no longer require a two-thirds majority to amend the bylaws. The proposed change requires only a simple majority.

The NTM Bylaws is the document that contains the basic rules for governing the organization. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th Edition [56:50] states: "The bylaws should always prescribe the procedure for their amendment, and such provision should always require at least that advance notice be given in a specified manner, and that the amendment be approved by a two-thirds vote."

I submit that our bylaws are too important to be changed by a simple majority vote.

Article VII, Section 2 of the NTM Bylaws states: "The balloting deadline shall be no less than 90 days following the first publication of the proposed amendment (s) in the newsletter." The 90-day period allows for pro and con debate. Early voting in person at the November general meeting is allowed, but is against the spirit of the 90-day requirement, because it curtails debate.

For these and other reasons, I urge you to vote against the proposed NTM Bylaws, whether you vote in person or by mail. I can be contacted at mrbrack46@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Argument in Favor of Proposed Bylaws

by Chris Cree

American Mensa has announced the Minimum Standard Bylaws. All chapters must amend their bylaws to reflect these minimum standards.

The proposed NTM bylaws do exactly that.

The bylaws should be a framework for how to operate the chapter, not an exhaustive compendium of mandates.

This board has no intent to change distribution of the M-Aura from monthly to quarterly or bimonthly. However, the flexibility needs to be there for any future board to make decisions for the fiscal health of the organization. In addition, the board needs to act quickly when it acts and do so in a regularly scheduled or specially scheduled meeting. Changing the bylaws is an

arduous process. A board vote is not.

Every hypothetical brought forward by Mr. Brack could be addressed and resolved in a board meeting to ensure that the bylaws are being adhered to.

Your duly elected NTM Board of Directors unanimously approved this document.

Chris Cree, Bylaws Committee Member, Board Member at Large

NTM ELECTION

everything you always wanted to know about the election (but were afraid to ask)

It is election time! At the November General Meeting, you will be able to meet the candidates for the NTM 2025 Board of Directors. At the meeting, each candidate will be allowed to present a three-minute campaign speech before ballots are collected by the Election Committee.

The members of the Election Committee are Jeffrey Bromberger (Chair), Andy McKellar, Cookie Neely, Ken Roberts and Eric Hartman, Jr.

Voting Instructions

Ranking of Candidates

a) For each office, the voter shall rank the candidates numerically in order of preference by assigning the number "1" to the voter's first preferred candidate, "2" to the voter's second preferred candidate, and so on, until all candidates for the office have been ranked. The voter's ranking of the candidates for a given office must form an unbroken ascending sequence of positive integers, starting from one and increasing in increments of one, using the decimal system of counting, and must be written in standard Arabic numerals.

b) In any race, if the voter chooses not to rank the candidates numerically, the voter may make a check, "X", or similar mark next to the name of only one candidate. Such mark will be counted a number one vote for that candidate.

Returning of Ballots

a) Balloting by Mail

a. Each voter shall mail his or her ballot in an envelope on which the voter's name and address are clearly legible in the upper left corner. The ballot may, at the voter's option, be sealed inside a blank envelope before being sealed in the mailing envelope. Ballots must be mailed to the Chairman of the Election Committee and received no later than the deadline date shown on the ballot, which shall be Friday, November 15th in the case of general elections. Ballots received after the deadline date shall not be counted. Ballots must be counted within five days of the deadline date.

b. A mailing envelope may contain more than one ballot, so long as the name and address of each voter is shown as required above.

b) Balloting in Person

a. NTM members may vote in person at a meeting called for that purpose, which will be the November meeting of the membership. The Election Committee will have blank ballots available at this meeting.

b. Members may fill in the ballot at the meeting or prior to the meeting. At the meeting, the member will hand the completed ballot to a member of the Election Committee, who will verify the voter's membership. Only currently valid members will have their ballots counted.

Questions?

If you have any questions related to the election, please feel free to contact the Election Committee Chair at:

Jeffrey Bromberger, Chair

360 Murray Farm Road, Apt. #5206

Fairview, TX 75069

Phone: 646-541-9305

Email: jbromberger@gmail.com

NORTH TEXAS MENSA ELECTION BALLOT
2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

_____ Cathy Allshouse

Secretary:

_____ Becky Van Uum

_____ Eric “Gunny” Hartman, Sr.

Vice President:

_____ Chris Cree

Treasurer:

_____ Paul Whiteman

Board Member at Large:

_____ Chuck Weis

_____ Maria Hall

_____ Thomas Russell

_____ Byron Haney

_____ Doohi Lee

_____ Charles Rigsby

_____ Elsa Gamble

_____ Phillip Tocci

_____ Glenn Harrison

_____ Sue Garrett

_____ Juan Faura

_____ Jonathan Bethune

Mark all your votes as described in the instructions and bring this ballot to the MENSA general meeting on November 17, 2024, or mail it to:

Jeffrey Bromberger, Chair
360 Murray Farm Road, Apt. #5206
Fairview, TX 75069

To be counted, this ballot must be delivered to the Election Committee before the ballot counting. Mailed ballots must be received by midnight on Friday, November 15, 2024.
If we don’t have it, we can’t count it, and if it’s late, the fact that it’s postmarked on or before that date and time is irrelevant.
Please remember that the NAME and ADDRESS of the voter MUST BE LEGIBLE for your vote to be tallied.
----------————————————————————————-

2025 NTM Board Nominees' Biographical and Campaign Statements

For President:

Cathy Allshouse

Bio: I am a native Dallasite, returning a couple of times after moving to other places. I joined Mensa around 15 years ago in the Gulf Coast chapter. After one of those returns in 2016, as an empty-nester, I sought out Mensa and started becoming more active in the group. As an accountant by profession, I have enjoyed being the North Texas Mensa Treasurer for the last two years. I am wholly committed, both personally and professionally, to the non-profit sector and have had professional training in the management of such entities. I've had a marvelous time in North Texas Mensa and have met so many outstanding people. I would consider it a privilege to continue to serve the chapter.

For Secretary:

Eric "Gunny" Hartman

Bio: Gunny holds degrees from Texas A&M, Dallas Seminary, and Oxford University. He completed PhD coursework in Rhetoric at UTA, but wound up later earning a doctorate from Liberty University. He's pastor of Providence Church in Rowlett and teaches English & Speech at Collin College. Aside from time in England, Gunny has lived in Texas since 1982, graduating from Cedar Hill High School. Married since 1993, Gunny has four kids, one of whom is a Mensa member, and he's Opa to a granddaughter and a grandson, obviously future Mensans. From St. Louis, Gunny is an avid Cardinals baseball fan.

Campaign Statement: I'm a life member and have served in various roles, including on the board as president, vice-president, secretary, and board member at large. I'm excited about the prospect of serving on the board in 2025 as secretary again. I hope we can work as a board to increase member retention and member satisfaction, as we endeavor to increase the value members receive from their membership. To that end, I humbly ask for your vote.

For Board Member At Large:

Charles Rigsby

Bio: Born 10-01-1940; U.S. Army, enlisted personnel, 44 months, Nuclear Weapons Specialist; Abilene Christian College (University), B.S., major Psychology, minor English: University of Texas, Austin, MSSW, Social Work; employed as professional social worker, 14

years; 9 years as an A.C.S.W. designee; employed 33 years as a licensed NYSE stock broker, 24 years of that time was also as a Certified Financial Planner; married 56 years; religiously conservative Christian, politically moderately liberal; the last two are individually distinct.

Elsa Gamble

Bio: My name is Elsa and I am a 5th grader at Greenhill School. Since I am half Romanian, I enjoy spending my summers in Europe and learning about other cultures. I am fluent in English and Romanian, and I am currently learning Spanish. My favorite sport is volleyball, and I play on a National Team. I enjoy learning piano and singing with the Dallas Symphony Children's Chorus. My biggest passion is math, so I study with Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, and I am on the US National Honors Roll for international and national competitions.

Campaign Statement: I am applying for a Mensa Board Member at Large position because I want to expand my leadership skills, learn how a board operates, and make a positive impact on the organization.
My leadership experience so far includes:
- I received the Greenhill School's Helen Misura Leadership Award in 2024. This award is given to the 4th grade student who most exemplifies the qualities of Scholarship, Sportsmanship, Citizenship, and Leadership.
- I represented the student community at two important events: Founders Day and the Prospective Families Event, where I gave speeches about why families should join Greenhill.
- I was elected Choir President for the 2023-2024 school year, where I helped the teacher and students make important group decisions.
My hope is that I get to know the Mensa organization better through a board position and continue to travel the world and meet my Mensa peers.

Byron Haney

Bio: I grew up in Brownwood, Texas. I attended Texas A&M as a fourth-generation Aggie with the goals of spending my life in service, and contributing to Christendom. Following graduation, I spent 10-years in financial services, and then moved my family from busy Houston to rural, quiet Franklin, Texas. There I served as the Director of the Brazos Valley Financial Fitness Center and on the boards of many charities in the Brazos Valley.

All the while, I pursued a passion for education and learning, earning three master's degrees, studying engineering and finance, and finally graduating from Baylor Law School in 2021.

Campaign statement: It is an honor to be nominated to serve Mensa…it is even more of an honor to have that opportunity in my local region, and to be part of growing North Texas – Mensa.
I assume that you, like myself, have identified that there isn't a lot of opportunity to meet outside of the Metro-plex. It is my stated goal of finding ways to connect with those underserved Mensans (and Mensans-to-be) that haven't found a way to engage. A mind is a terrible thing to waste…if there are minds in the forests of north-east Texas that are looking for a place to flourish, I want to provide them fertile soil among our ranks to grow as tall as the loblollies. As a Board Member at Large, I will discharge my stated duties, and look for ways to leverage every technology and resource to make NT-M the best it can be.

Ballot --NTM Bylaws Update
Mark your vote for the update and bring this ballot to the MENSA general meeting on November 17, 2024, or mail it to:

Paul Whiteman
4424 Ringgold Lane
Plano, TX 75093

If balloting by mail, use the process described on page 14. Votes need to be received by 05 Jan 2025, which is when the voting for the bylaws update is closed. See the October M-Aura for the proposed changes to the bylaws.

————————————————————————-

I approve the adoption of the new NTM Bylaws as approved by the Board of Directors and previously published in the October 2024 M-Aura.

YES _____ NO _____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! The following NTMers add another candle to the cake in November:
Matthew Rhodes, Walt Hebert, Jeffrey "deadeye" Bromberger, David McKamie, Roger Burke, David Morehead, Joseph Padian, Micah Prude, Charles Batson, Jack Silvey, DaWane Wanek, William Halliday, Lee Smith, Joshua Cox, Bruce Davis, Kevin O'Meara, Carl Hayes, Ramzi Sayyid, Gail Spurlock, John Hamilton, Sunny Sinclair, Sara "calendar wizard" Hawkins, Aaron Adair, Leza "huzzah" Mesiah, Morgan Nelson, Michael Blazin, Cookie Neely, Lynn Harris, Chuck Briggs, Karen McCoskey, Bryan Taylor, Bill Johnston, David Picard, Thomas Laney, Erica Hilton, Mark Iwashika, Raymond Szczesniak, Lynn Melder, Jeff Leskiw, John Shivers

End of an era: NTM's last 3526... Savor it well.

(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
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Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)

Name: VAL BEASLEY

Addr 1: 519 TIFFANY TRL

Addr 2:

City, State ZIP: RICHARDSON, TX 75081

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Name: BILL ROCK

Addr 1: 701 VICTORIAN DR

Addr 2:

City, State ZIP: ALLEN, TX 75002

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Name: BILL ROCK

Addr 1: 701 VICTORIAN DR

Addr 2:

City, State ZIP: ALLEN, TX 75002

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 Percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of all the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give it's name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give it's name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
AMERICAN MENSA LTDF	1351 BROOKSIDE DR, HURST, TX 76053

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or more of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → X

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:

☒ Has Not changed During Preceding 12 Months

☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement below)

PS Form **3526**, July 2014

For the inevitable conclusion, please turn the page....

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h. Total (Sum of 15f. and g.) ▶		473	482
i. Percent Paid (15c. Divided by 15f. Times 100) ▶		100.00%	100.00%

* if you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

16. Electronic copy Circulation		
If present, check box ▶		
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b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a) ▶	467	478
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☐ I certify that 50% of all my distribution copies (electronic and Print) are paid above a nominal price

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	Title	Date
VAL BEASLEY	PUBLISHER	

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties)

PS Form **3526**, July 2014

AG 2025 IS IN CHICAGO!

"I'm vindicated!" says Daisy, Mrs. O'Leary's favorite cow. She asks you to join her in Chicago from July 2 through 6 for Mensa's 2025 Annual Gathering (AG).

The 2025 AG will be held in the downtown Chicago Hilton on south Michigan Avenue. The room rate is only $139/night for single, double, triple, or quad rooms. Yes, you saw that correctly! There will be free WiFi in hospitality and guest rooms. Included in your $279 registration price, good until **November 30,** will be four breakfasts, three lunches, and snacks – all available in hospitality.

Come be part of Daisy's herd as she explores the area around the hotel, located across from Grant Park, and also close to Buckingham Fountain, the Museum Campus (Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium), and Queen's Landing (where Queen Elizabeth II disembarked from her ship in 1959) on the lakefront. Milk your access to Chicago's wonderful sights. This will be THE annual gathering people will be mooing, erm, talking about for years to come!

Details on tours, the Gala Dinner speaker and special events are still being pasteurized, homogenized, and separated, and will be announced on the website as soon as they are packaged.

AG and hotel registration will be available November 1 at ag.us.mensa.org. Daisy and our AG Team look forward to seeing you there!!

Karen Gruebele and Allison Reeves — 2025 AG Co-chairs

NTM BOARD PROCEEDINGS-Sunday September 15th, 2024

NTM Board of Directors minutes for September 15, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Eric "Gunny" Hartman. President Eric "Gunny" Hartman.. Present in person were Vice President Ken Roberts and Secretary Paul Whiteman, Treasurer Cathy Allshouse, Present via Zoom: Board Members at Large Chris Cree, and Jonathan Bethune. Absent: Board Membership: Juan Faura.

1. Reports

President – Eric "Gunny" Hartman ... "Next Board Meeting: 6PM October 20, 2024 at Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas (5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas)

Election Committee Members: Jeff Bromberger (chair), Andy McKellar, Cookie Neely, Ken Roberts, and Eric Hartman, Jr.

Regional Gathering Chair: Roger Durham

Beware of Scam/Phishing attempts within NTM, particularly emails impersonating other board members with financial solicitation.

Secretary – Paul Whiteman ... The minutes of the August 2024 board meeting, were prepared by Hartman and emailed to the board. No changes.

Treasurer – Cathy Allshouse ... New members'Subsidy of $ 1109.44 was received from national. Expenses were $213.16, which resulted in a surplus of $896.28. Financial statements for 2024 YTD, January through August 18th, were distributed. We have had a positive YTD new income of $2,219.33. At the end of August total NTM assets at $26,472.17. RG account balance is $1,500. Report accepted.

Ombudsman – Roger Durham ... Nothing to report.

Membership – Ken Roberts ... 8 New members. 1 leaving. 182 lapsed. 5 Renewed. 15 Prospects.

Marketing – Vacant ...

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

Editor - email M-Aura shipped to printer Saturday. Two extra sheets this month for Election and RG flyer.

Gifted Youth – Bill Rock ... 12 families attended the electronics workshop. 16 Young Eagles will be going flying for September. October plans a trip to the ATTPAC.

Nom Com: Sept eitionn (sic) inclusions

Circulation Manager – Val Beasley ... No report

Scholarship – Lauren Ogden ... "Today opens the scholarship submission portion of the season: The link for the scholarship application portion of the program will be available on the Foundation website on September 15, and applicants will have until January 15 to apply. The link to access the application will be mensafoundation.awardspring.com/.

The new online platform changes my tasks a lot and the judges a little. As Chair, I no longer have to sort and correct labels on each essay by scholarship. I don't have to assign individual essays to judges. Most of my background prep work is gone. I do still need to recruit judges and train on scoring guidelines. Changes for judges include not being allowed to judge before January 15th, the platform will assign essays randomly from the pool of all essays submitted nationally, and no restrictions for judges who have family members

submitting applications. Otherwise, I'm still on the Scholarship Program Committee that is collaborating to develop new judge recruitment materials and new directions for using the online platform. Please send me any follow up questions you have. I'm currently working a job on Sunday evenings and cannot attend meetings. I hope to come in person in October though."

Web Contact – Andy McKellar ... Nothing to Report. Bethune has access to the site backend. Discussion about changing to Word Press for a small cost, a few hundred dollars. Audit underway by Bethune to investigate to scope of the change.

A motion was made by Whiteman to appoint Jonahan Bethune as webmaster. Bethune was agreeable. Motion seconded by Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

Testing – Rebecca Raymond ... email New Report email. "We had 2 testers in our September session. 2 October sessions are on the books to coincide with the 50% off Mensa special, Octoberr (sic) being the only month with such discount.

Calendar – Sara Hawkins ... "The calendar is going great. I am behind updating the online calendar but will get caught up this weekend."

Programs - vacant.

Social Media/Facebook – Collene Goldman ... "Facebook North Texas Mensa Page Humorous posts are significantly more often viewed than serious posts. Facebook Page stats: Posts engagement: 1,884 Reactions: 873 Comments: 108 Photo views: 334

Examples of various post reaches (you can view in the attachments): 3708 - The cartoon about the kid being called a nerd 820 - Holding a stick & everyone looks like a piñata 1653 - GPS says turn left now 5280 - If people want to know why Gen X is always mad Most engagements are Friday night and Saturday.

The % of women and men who follow the page remains about equal.

Regional Gathering - Roger Durham ... Planning for the RG continues. A number of speakers have been signed up, and registrations are coming in. All committee positions have been filled, and tastings are being arranged. The hotel is looking forward to hosting us again, and has asked if we would consider a multi-year contract for 2025 and following. They have been very cooperative and easy to work with. The listing for the Bulletin and the national website calendar has been submitted; we are now listed in the on-line calendar, and hope to be in the October issue of the Bulletin. We need to send a registration form as an e-mail flash to all of Region 6.

The registration online is having issues. It is a new module.

Election Committee – Jeff Bromberger ... Will use a home address instead of a post office box for mail in ballots and complaints.

Bylaws Committee - Chris Cree, Roger Durham, and Paul Whiteman ... Proposed updated bylaws are published in the MAura. This will be included on the ballot.

New Member's party. Oct 25 at JJs $10 includes soft drinks snacks Beer and wine provided by NTM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM after a motion was made by Cree, which was seconded by Roberts, and passed.

submitted October 17, 2024 Paul Whiteman, Secretary.

NTM Board Members for 2024:

Blue italics = new

President Gunny Hartman	president@northtexasmensa.org 214.477.5047	139 Westminster Ave Murphy, TX 75094
Vice President Ken Roberts	krobs@yahoo.com	2208 Loch Haven Dr Plano TX 75023-5313
Treasurer Cathy Allshouse	callshouse1@aol.com 713.398.7963	8325 Meadow Rd., #149, Dallas 75231
Secretary Paul Whiteman	paulw@ieee.org	4424 Ringgold Ln Plano 75093

2024 NTM Board Members At Large:

Jonathan Bethune	jbethune777@gmail.com 972.213.2715
Chris Cree	ccree@earthlink.net 214.701.4681
Juan Faura	jafaura@gmail.com 817.937.7435

Want Your Ad in the *M-Aura*?

Interior Pages:

1/4 page (business card) is $15; 1/2 page is only $25; Full Page is $40

Note: All ads will be in color for eSubscribe

Region 6 Vice Chair: David McCallister, rvc6@us.mensa.org, 817.988.3283

~NTM Appointed Positions ~

Membership Chair
Ken Roberts, membership@northtexasmensa.org

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
Sara Hawkins
calendarchair@northtexasmensa.org

Web Page Contact
Andy McKellar
andy.mckellar@twc.com

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

Area Coordinators

Denton & Collin County, & Texoma Area
Pam Kittenbacher
972.727.3300
pamkittenbacher@gmail.com

East Texas
Cookie Neely
903.668.2097
syntaxcop@gmail.com

Program Chair—Open; Gunny Hartman, Acting

RG Chair
Roger Durham
durhamrog@gmail.com

Publicity Coordinator—Open

Volunteers Coordinator—Open

M-Aura Editor
Bill Rock , 972.396.8160
editor@northtexasmensa.org

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

Marketing Chair — Open

S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator
Eric "Gunny" Hartman
President
@northtexasmensa.org
214.477.5047

NTM Scholarship Chair
Lauren Ogden 972.207.1776
lrngdn76@gmail.com

Circulation Manager/ Publisher
Val Beasley 972.235.7105
valeria2@tx.rr.com

Gatherings Committee: Kevin Buchanan kevinbob@flash.net, 214.826.7725
Randy Brack, mrbrack46@gmail.com, 972.495.2659 , Karen Brack, 214.477.1151 kwbrack18@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Bill Rock william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.396.8160, Anne Whiteman, 214.868.4410 or Anne.whiteman1@gmail.com, Laura Stuart, (214.641.2520), Doug Fix, doug@dfix.org

Election Committee: Jeffrey Bromberger jbromberger@gmail.com (chair)
Andy McKellar, andy.mckellar@twc.com , Eric Hartman, Jr. JetHartman28@gmail.com
Cookie Neely, syntaxcop@gmail.com,

Xkcd.com:

MAN, YOU'RE BEING INCONSISTENT WITH YOUR ARRAY INDICES. SOME ARE FROM ONE, SOME FROM ZERO.
DIFFERENT TASKS CALL FOR DIFFERENT CONVENTIONS. TO QUOTE STANFORD ALGORITHMS EXPERT DONALD KNUTH, "WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN MY HOUSE?"
WAIT, WHAT?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT HE SAID WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT IT.

North Texas Mensa Presents:

Feast of Pleasures and Delights XLIII

Thanksgiving Weekend: Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, 2024

North Texas Mensa is proud to announce our 43rd Regional Gathering. Come join us for entertaining events, great speakers, a variety of games, a wonderful (indoor) Pool, delicious tastings and other interesting activities. The RG runs from Thanksgiving evening through Sunday. This RG will truly please and delight one and all. So come join your Mensa family and friends for another fun-filled Thanksgiving weekend.

Where: Holiday Inn Express & Suites North Dallas at Preston
6055 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy, Dallas, TX 75240
(972) 404-4500

Be sure to tell them you are with the North Texas Mensa Regional Gathering!!

Room rates are $109 for a regular room. The rate is guaranteed through 11/14. The rooms are enormous and come equipped with a mini-fridge, microwave and coffee maker. Plus, the hotel has a full breakfast buffet for all overnight guests.

Registration: The early registration rate is $120, which ends on October 31. Starting November 1st the rate will be $150, which will also be the walk-in rate. Children 0-5 years of age are free. Older children (6–12 at time of RG) are ½ the regular registration price on the day they register. See registration form for day rates. Check, money order or credit cards are accepted. You can register by using the handy form on the back and sending it to Registrar Laura Stuart, 11911 Greenville, Apt. 1118, Dallas, TX 75243. Call her at 214-641-2520 or email lrstuart@earthlink.net with questions. You can also call or email RG Chair Roger Durham at durhamrog@gmail.com or 214-349-4521 and Program Chair Cathy Allshouse: callshouse1@aol.com, (713) 398-7963, for more information or to volunteer.

****

Registration fee includes three catered dinners, two catered lunches,
continuous snacking opportunities, soft drinks, beer and wine,
all speaker events, parties, games, tournaments, etc.
The only events not included are the tastings, which are separately ticketed events.

****

Tastings!
Tastings! Tastings! Tastings!

****MORE DETAILS COMING SOON****

*****ALL TASTING TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON SITE AT THE RG*****

North Texas Mensa Presents:

Feast of Pleasures and Delights XLIII

Thanksgiving Weekend: Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, 2024

Name #1	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat Name Tag #1	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone ( )	E-mail	
Name #2	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat Name Tag #2	
Name #3	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat Name Tag #3	
Name #4	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat Name Tag #4	

Do you wish to be contacted via ☐ E-mail? or ☐ Snail-mail?

Registration Fees: Includes 3 catered dinners and 2 catered lunches, snacks, beverages, programs, entertainment, games, tournaments, speakers and all other events for the whole weekend! Tastings require the purchase of separate tickets to cover expenses.

Single days: Fri or Sat - $75
$120 (postmarked by Oct 31, 2024)
$150 after Oct 31, 2024
½ price for those 6-12 years of age
(Kids 0-5 years are *free)*

Registrant # 1 - $_____
Registrant # 2 - $_____
Registrant # 3 - $_____
Registrant # 4 - $_____

Total enclosed: _____

Payment: *check one* ☐ Money order
☐ Check payable to **NTM RG**
☐ Visa ☐ Master Card
Credit card # _____
Expiration date on credit card: _____ Security Code on card:_____
Signature:

Mail to: Laura Stuart, 11911 Greenville Ave Apt 1118, Dallas TX 75243
Questions? at lrstuart@earthlink.net

I'd like to volunteer for:
☐ Registration
☐ Programs *(specify)* _____
☐ Games tournament *(specify)* _____
☐ Speaker(s) Escort
☐ Hospitality
☐ Other *(specify)* _____