The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

M-AURA 2025

November

Speakers • Games • Food
Music • Friends

NTM RG XLIV

Nov 27-30 Dallas

Also: Get Out *And* Vote!!! —election Nov 16 ...Info enclosed

New Members ...

Near And Far

Group #750 **CONTENTS** Issue #**569** DLXIX

NTM PRESIDENT / NEW MEMBERS PARTY RECAP	**3**
RC 6 COLUMN / WONDERFUL!	**4—5**
NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR GRID	**6**
EVENTS LISTING / GIFTED YOUTH / B'DAYS / NEW MEMBERS	**7—13**
ELECTION MATERIALS: BALLOTS, CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS	**14-20**
BOARD PROCEEDINGS / OFFICER LIST	**21-23**

RG registration form —see pages 25-26

For membership info, contact Chris Cree, 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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ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top:* Braxton poses with the rocket he won in a drawing at the DARS Fall Classic. *Middle*: New Members Party *raison d' être*: Bo (who came in from Texarkana—props), and Carol with Russell. *Bottom:* Audra, and Gifted Youth new members Joon & Hannah with their mother Daisy

Back *Left*: Deciphering CODE NAMES we have, *l-r* Al, Ignatz, Paul, Kevin, Lauren, Roger, Bryan, and Cathy. *Yes, "The Godfather" was a* ***novel*** *(by Mario Puzo) that involved* ***racketeering***.
Right: September poker winners: *(l-r)* 2nd - Chuck Briggs; 1st - Doug Fix; 3rd - Anne Whiteman
Bottom: New Members Party Hosts, Barbara Guzak and James Peterson

FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

CATHY ALLSHOUSE

During the month of November in the US, we sometimes focus on aspects of our lives for which we are thankful. I know that I am very thankful for the opportunity to be in the company of you amazing people, members of North Texas Mensa. I really do mean that, by the way. I very much enjoy hearing proper grammar, multisyllable words used correctly, along with wry humor. I also very much enjoy that people don't think I'm a (total) nutball when I talk about a great museum, a great book, or how I'm dying to play scrabble. You lovely people even laugh at my sarcastic one-liners. Being in the company of intelligent people fills my soul. Before the pandemic, I would have called myself an introvert. During the pandemic, I learned that I'm more outgoing than I thought. I was thrilled when it became safe for us to gather again and threw myself into activities with my Mensa friends.

Intelligence and friendship have a complex relationship, with some studies suggesting that highly intelligent people tend to have fewer, higher-quality friendships. This is often because they prefer deep, meaningful conversations over small talk, find socializing mentally draining, and are selective about who they spend their time with, often prioritizing intellectual pursuits over social ones. On the other hand, research also shows that the quality of friendships is vital for human well-being, and intelligent people may seek out friends with similar cognitive abilities. Of course, this does not mean that Mensans can't enjoy the friendship of people at all intelligence levels.

So, I urge you all to consider how lucky we are to have the company of our NTM friends and go do something fun with some of them! Like go to our RG right after Thanksgiving! Join the group in person on Sunday, November 16th for our general meeting where we will hold elections for NTM leaders for 2026. And vote! And socialize and enjoy the company of your amazing Mensa friends.

FUN TIMES AT THE NEW MEMBER'S PARTY!

Many, many thanks to Barbara Guzak and her husband James for opening their lovely home to North Texas Mensa for the new members party in September. Around 40 party goers enjoyed lovely snacks and visiting with friends, new and old. We had 8 new members in attendance -- some newly minted Mensans and a couple of people who rejoined after many years away. The weather even cooperated by being cool enough to enjoy the lovely patio and garden area. People really enjoyed catching up with old friends. *—Cathy Allshouse*

RC 6 COLUMN *by Penny Robe*

Happenings at American Mensa

North Texas Mensa (NTM) has its Regional Gathering (RG) at the end of this month! Please join NTM for the Feast of Pleasures and Delights over Thanksgiving weekend, November 27-30, 2025. Doors open Thursday evening and events go into Sunday afternoon. NTM RG program description is at https://www.northtexasmensa.org/index.php/rg-events/rg-program

This month is the special election for RVC6, the Regional Vice Chair of our region. On your ballot for RVC6 are two well-qualified people: Felicia Davis and Laura Smith (alphabetically). Voting is November 1-30. All voting will be electronic. Please review the candidate petitions and take the time to vote for your preferred candidate.

Both candidates have agreed to participate in an RVC6 candidate forum on Saturday, November 29 at the NTM RG. I am moderating the candidate form. This falls within the voting window, so there is time to hear from them in person before you vote. If you have questions that you'd like me to ask the candidates, please send them to me at penny.robe.mensa@gmail.com.

The voting window is November 1-30, 2025. Find the most current election information at

https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/election/amc-2025-special-election/

The next meeting of the AMC, American Mensa's board of directors, is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2025 in person at the national office in Hurst, Texas, and it is expected that the newly elected RVC6 will attend. Info on AMC meetings is available at

https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/

It has been my honor to serve in this interim role of regional coordinator during a time of transition for American Mensa. As a former Girl Scout, I endeavored to leave things better than I found them.

Save the date for Gulf Coast Mensa's RG SynRG May 21-25, 2026.

Our next Annual Gathering is in Fort Worth, Texas July 1-5, 2026. Registration opens this month, with early bird registration discounts available. Details can be found at https://ag.us.mensa.org/

Ways to reach me as your Regional Coordinator: email: penny.robe.mensa@gmail.com or rc6@us.mensa.org; snail mail at 1901 N Central Expy Ste 200, Richardson TX 75080; or talking to me in person at Mensa events.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR…

No, I'm not talking about planning festive dinners for 18 people with 29 dietary restrictions. I'm not talking about dreading what conspiracy theory Uncle Dave will be ranting about at the table, or Great Aunt Sophie's Lime Jello Salad Surprise that she insists on bringing every year (are those *hot dogs* in there?!?). And I don't mean crowded stores, long lines and incessant holiday music everywhere you go starting in mid-October.

I'm talking, of course, about the North Texas Mensa Regional Gathering: *A Feast of Pleasures and Delights*. It's held during Thanksgiving weekend, opening at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 27th and continuing through Sunday, November 30th. It's a weekend of great programs, games, speakers, food, drinks, contests, tastings and more, with your Mensa friends and family, old and new.

In previous articles we've talked about many of the speakers who are featured, but what else is there to do at the RG? Wear your best ugly holiday sweater and figure out whodunnit in *Holiday Horror!: Murder at The Office Ugly Sweater Holiday Party*. Was it you? Test your knowledge at the Trivia Contests. Exchange views on the hot button topics of the day in the Debate Room. Play Texas Hold 'Em. Play Dirty Bingo. Join in the Hootenanny Shindig Sing-Along Thing. Partake in one – or more – of the wonderful tastings (beer, wine, chocolate and more). Play in the hotel's indoor pool.

It's a weekend chock full of good stuff. Don't miss it. There is more information about the RG, the price, meals, speakers and the hotel, and a registration form in the M-Aura and online at https://www.northtexasmensa.org/rg_event/. Don't miss the most wonderful time of the year!

***Still have questions? Contact Karen Brack at* kwbrack18@gmail.com.**

2025 November

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

NTM Regional Gathering XLIV

~November 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)

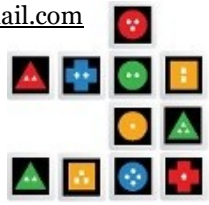
6:45 PM HOTDAM
Hang out Together with Denton Area Mensans
Location: **Sidewalk Cafe**, 2900 Wind River Lane, Denton, TX 76210
Meet us for games, revelry, and more. See YOU 'round!
PLEASE CALL OR TEXT CONTACTS FOR MORE INFO
Contact: **Deb Ramsey** (940.391.9657) or **Christie Miller**, (940.765.0429)

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



November Events

01 SATURDAY

6:30PM – Games SIG (early this month)
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

02 SUNDAY

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

06 Thursday

New-ish Date and Time

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)

08 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)

09 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)

9:00PM – M-Aura Calendar Deadline (The 9th of each month)
Contact: **Calendar Chair, Jonathan Bethune**: (calendarchair@northtexasmensa.org, or 214.801.4704)

10 MONDAY

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

14 FRIDAY

7:00 – NTM Scholarship Foundation Friday Texas Hold-em
Location: **The Estate of Anne and Paul Whiteman:** 4424 Ringgold Lane, Plano, TX 75093
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 also as always, if you feel sick or if you have Covid, please stay home!
PLEASE RSVP: **Anne Whiteman** (Text: 214-868-4410) or anne.whiteman1@gmail.com.

15 SATURDAY

9:30AM—11:45AM — Mensa Testing

Location: **Dallas Public Library – Timberglen Branch Conference Room**: 18505 Midway Rd., Dallas, TX 75287
50% off testing in October. 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)

16 SUNDAY

November 16 SUNDAY

1:00PM Gifted Youth Hanging Around...on a climbing wall
Location: Movement Climbing Gym 525 Talbert Drive, Plano 75093
We've been stretching our minds lately, let's get out and stretch some arms and legs too. Cost: $29/person, (includes a harness).

$22 (12 and under)
Contact: Bill Rock: (972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

4:30PM – San Francisco Regional MENSA Speaker Series
Location: **This is a Zoom meeting.** To register for this presentation, visit https://livepresentation.link/NOV. You will receive a confirmation email from Zoom that will contain the link needed to join the presentation.
Topic: **Silent Service** As the U.S. Navy Submarine Force celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2025, this presentation will provide a brief history of submarines in the Navy and their contributions to the nation.

7:30PM – November General 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
Program: **The NTM Election.** Your chance to hear the candidates speak, and vote in person if you have not done so by mail. Democracy in action. Help determine what direction NTM will take in 2026.

23 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 *A History of the World in 6 Plagues: How contagion, class, and captivity shaped us, from cholera to Covid 19* by Edna Bonhomme. 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)

27 THURSDAY *through* 30 SUNDAY

NTM RG

Location: **Holiday Inn Express & Suites North Dallas at Preston:** 6055 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240
This is it, by any measure (square feet, square arms, stanzas, slices of pizza) our biggest bash of the year! Four days of fun, food, and activities. See details on page 5, and sign up using the registration form enclosed.

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Editors note: below and on page 20 are campaign statements for the upcoming RVC 6 election (not part of the NTM election)

Candidate Statement: Felicia M. L. Davis for RVC6

THANK YOU for getting me on the ballot - now I need YOUR vote! **Log in to the Mensa website to cast your vote starting November 1st.**

As RVC6, I want to make Mensa as easy as possible for us to get together, engage with intellectual peers, and have fun. I am a leader who inspires others, removes barriers, and resolves conflict. My weaknesses - maintaining a well oiled machine. Which means I won't be your RVC6 forever because I am a fixer - the person you call to get things going and set up future leaders for success. As a leader with over 15 years of experience working at a Fortune 500 company and a master's in organizational management, this is my specialty.

But I can't do it alone. I need your vote and then I need your help to make Mensa what you want it to be.

A **dream** written down with a date becomes a **goal**.
A **goal** broken down into steps becomes a **plan**.
A **plan** backed by **action** makes your **dreams** come true.
We've all got the dream.
I make them goals with a plan.

And together we take action!

For details of my plan of action see last month's article and check out my Candidate Profile on the Mensa website. Feel free to reach out to me at Felicia313@gmail.com or 316.519.9738 for how I can help your chapter today. Because it's all volunteer and we can collaborate for change now, regardless of title.

Now go vote!

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

I always try to steal…I mean borrow good ideas from other groups. One of the ideas that sounds like it might be very workable and useful to some of our members is a "Teen SIG" group. These would be the 13-17 year olds in our group setting up events specifically for them. If you are interested in helping with something like this, please let me know and we can work out the details.

In September we got to see lots of rockets (complete with red glare, especially the high power ones) at a field in the suburbs of Gunter. One of our members who attended (Braxton) won a rocket in a drawing, and got to fly it a couple of times before the end of the day. He also got up close and personal with a "lawn dart", where the chute failed to deploy and the rocket came back down to earth in a hurry. At his feet. Lots of rockets, a little sunburn, and a good time was had by all.

For this month, we will be moving up in the world, as long as we have a belay. Momentum has a wide variety of climbing walls to try, suitable for all skill levels. Who is interested in reaching for a different challenge to achieve new heights?

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

Matthew Rhodes, Jeffrey "point and shoot" Bromberger, Walt Hebert, Chris Thompson, David McKamie, Joseph Padian, David Morehead, Daniel Barrientos, Charles Batson, Jack Silvey, DaWane Wanek, William Halliday, Lee Smith, Joshua Cox, James Robertson, Bruce Davis, Kevin O'Meara, Carl Hayes, Caroline Sibley, Gail Spurlock, Sara Hawkins, John Hamilton, Aaron "Hamlet" Adair, Leza Mesiah, Morgan Nelson, Cookie Neely, Chuck Briggs, Alin Voicu-Comendant, Lynn Harris, Michael Blazin, Karen McCoskey, Bryan Taylor, Adil Nota, David Picard, Mark Iwashika, Thomas Laney, Erica Hilton, Lynn Melder, Raymond Szczesniak, Jeffrey Leskiw, John Shivers

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: Blair Brown, Jasraj Joy, Dayeon Lee, Joonwoo Lee, Landry Nelon, Owen Sivie

Moving to NTM: Mallory Culbert, William Plaskett, Kay Shapiro**

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Shannon Barnhill, William Carson, Sarita Smithee

We welcome you <u>all</u>, and look forward to seeing you at future functions! ***(preferencing in from sunny Palm Harbor, Florida)*

HOWDY!

NTM ELECTION

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

Come to the November General Meeting to meet the candidates for the NTM 2026 Board of Directors. At the meeting, each candidate will be allowed to present a three-minute campaign speech before you vote.
The members of the Election Committee are Lauren Ogden (Chair), Chris Cree, Randy Brack, and Karen Brack.

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 a mark will count as a number one vote for that candidate.

Returning of Ballots

a) Balloting by Mail
a. Each voter shall mail their 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 Chair of the Election Committee and received no later than Saturday, November 15th for general elections. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted.
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 16th meeting of the membership at 7:30 PM. The Election Committee will have blank ballots available.
b. Members may fill in the ballot at the meeting or prior to the meeting. After the speeches, the member will hand the completed ballot to a member of the Election Committee, who will verify the voter's valid membership.

Questions?

If you have any questions related to the election, please feel free to contact the Election Committee Chair at:
Lauren Ogden, Chair
4114 Newton Ave Apt 117
Dallas, TX 75219
Phone: 972-207-1776
Email: lrngdn76@gmail.com

NORTH TEXAS MENSA
2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

President:

_____ Cathy Allshouse

Secretary:

_____ Eric “Gunny” Hartman, Sr.

Vice President:

_____ Esther Bellah

_____ Mark Magazu

Treasurer:

_____ Paul Whiteman

Board Member at Large:

_____ Chuck Weis

_____ Aaron Adair

_____ Philip Tocci

_____ Courtney Nall

Mark all your votes as described in the instructions and bring this ballot to the NTM general meeting on November 16, 2025, or mail it to:
Lauren Ogden, Chair
4114 Newton Ave Apt 117
Dallas, TX 75219
To be counted, this ballot must be delivered to the Election Committee before the ballot counting. Mailed ballots must be received by midnight on Saturday, November 15, 2025. 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 counted.

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NTM BYLAWS REFERENDUM BALLOT

I approve the adoption of the new NTM Bylaws as approved by the Board of Directors and previously published in the October 2025 M-Aura.

YES _____ NO _____

Mark your vote and bring this ballot to either the November or December 2025 NTM General Meeting. Ballots sent by mail, using the previous instructions, must be received by January 4, 2026. Mail to the same address as above:
Lauren Ogden, Chair
4114 Newton Ave Apt 117
Dallas, TX 75219

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2026 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 16 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. It has been my pleasure to participate in several SIG's and have met so many lovely people in our local group. My day job is as an accountant for a 501C3 entity, so I am quite confident in the management of volunteer and non-profit groups.

Campaign Statement: Having served North Texas Mensa for several years, most recently as President in 2025, Treasurer and Member-at-Large prior to that, I am fully comfortable with leading this local group and would consider it a privilege to continue to serve the chapter.

For Vice President:

Esther Bellah

Bio: At 15, I circumnavigated the globe, traveled the Trans-Siberian Railway, and skipped a year of high school. By 20, I had earned a NATO medal for civilian support in Operation Joint Guard.

Since then, I've published children's stories, earned a Master's in

Educational Leadership, and spoken nationally on bilingual education. I've served in my church's Worship Arts, Drama, Writing, and Children's Ministry and on my city's Public Arts Board, including as chairwoman. Passionate about family time and fishing with my husband, I would be honored to bring creativity and leadership to the role of NTM VP.

Campaign Statement: When I took the Mensa test in my mid-30s, I just wanted to know if I could've qualified for GT as a kid. I was shocked to find out I had actually qualified for Mensa! That feeling of "being discovered" has never left me, and I want others to experience the same joy and sense of belonging.

One of my first roles was serving on the Mensa Foundation scholarship committee, where I loved reading scholarship essays. As NTM VP, I would bring my leadership experience and creativity to strengthen recruitment and inspire engaging activities—whether outdoors (fishing, anyone?), creative writing, or exploring more of the Mensa world together. I would be honored to serve our chapter in this role.

Mark Magazu

Bio: I am a strategic architect for veterinary systems, capital, and institutional innovation — which is a fancy way of saying people hire me to imagine the future of veterinary medicine and make it real. I studied at MIT, Harvard, Georgetown Law, and Columbia, but the education I value most came from growing up in a veterinarian's home full of "broken" pets. My own home is now animated by Max, a blind yet uncannily precise cat; Rocket, a ferret with refined thieving instincts; and Dolores, a banana-sized lizard currently kicking cancer's butt. In all things, I value purpose, service, and efficiency.

Campaign Statement: If you view the role of Vice President as maximizing goodness for NTM and its members through strategic thinking, strong organization, and mission advancement, I may be a good candidate. Bonus if you believe my pets will make good advisors.

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 2026 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:

Chuck Weis

Bio: I have lived in the Dallas area for most of my life after graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Mathematics. I have worked in the defense industry building rockets and some intelligence services. I have led large defense projects, served on the board of directors for the local chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, local Knights of Columbus board of directors, and on various homeowners association boards.

Campaign Statement: I hope we can develop increased membership participation in the many opportunities Mensa offers to collaborate and converse.

Aaron Adair

Bio: Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Bachelor of Arts in Speech degrees from Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Master of Arts degree in Theatre from East Texas A&M University; Ph.D. in Humanities from The University of Texas at Dallas. Professor of Theatre at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, adjunct faculty in Theatre at East Texas A&M University, and adjunct faculty in Humanities at Southern New Hampshire University. Background includes voice, musical theatre, acting, directing, film, and Shakespearean studies. Aaron has two wonderful sons and has served on previous NTM boards in the past, including as Member-at-Large, Vice President, and President.

Campaign Statement: I have enjoyed being part of Mensa since 2003 and have loved meeting and befriending some really fun, interesting, and caring people in North Texas Mensa. I currently serve as Vice-President of the NTM Scholarship Foundation and would enjoy becoming more involved in Mensa leadership during the coming year.

Philip Tocci

Bio: I am a Dallas-based finance professional focused on asset-secured lending and structured products at Goldman Sachs. Beyond my career,

I'm passionate about architecture, education, and cultivating curiosity across disciplines. I write a publication called Aether Insights exploring the intersection of finance, design, and human potential, and I'm developing community initiatives that blend music, art, and mentorship. A lifelong learner and Texas native, I believe Mensa represents not only intelligence but imagination, ethics, and fellowship. I hope to help our chapter grow as a network for curiosity, creativity, and civic engagement in North Texas and beyond.

Campaign Statement: I'm running for Board Member-at-Large to help strengthen North Texas Mensa as a hub for dynamic thinkers, bridging generations, professions, and passions. My vision is to make our chapter a place where ideas are exchanged as easily as friendships, and where intelligence finds expression in service, creativity, and collaboration.

Professionally, I work in structured finance at Goldman Sachs, navigating complex systems that demand analytical precision, ethical clarity, and long-term vision, all skills I would bring to the board. I also organize cultural and philanthropic projects that connect communities through music, architecture, and storytelling.

If elected, I will focus on three goals:
Broaden engagement through events that blend intellect and culture.
Strengthen mentorship between young and established members.
Elevate Mensa's public image as a force for thoughtful innovation and civic contribution.

Together, we can make curiosity our community's greatest currency.

Courtney Nall

Bio: I have 24 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry in sales, marketing, training, and leadership. Currently, I serve as Director of Field Leadership Capabilities at Otsuka Pharmaceutical. I hold a B.S. in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University, an EdD in Organizational Change and Leadership, and an MEd from USC. A MENSA member since 2001, I am dedicated to community impact as Vice Chair of the SPCA of North Texas, supporter of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Army Scholarship Foundation. As an avid ultra marathoner, I run at White Rock Lake with support from my husband and our Westies.

Campaign Statement: I am honored to run for Board Member-at-Large for North Texas Mensa. As a long-time MENSA member, I value the unique community we share—one that celebrates curiosity, connection, and the joy of lifelong learning. With 24 years of professional leadership experience in the pharmaceutical industry and active service on several nonprofit boards, I bring both strategic insight and a collaborative spirit

to this role.

As Board Member-at-Large, I will work to ensure that all members' voices are heard, strengthen opportunities for engagement across our diverse community, and support programming that sparks connection and fun. I am deeply committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment where every member feels they belong.

Together, we can continue building a vibrant North Texas Mensa community that inspires, challenges, and connects us all.

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Editors note: below and on page 13 are campaign statements for the upcoming RVC 6 election (not part of the NTM election)

Candidate Statement: Laura Smith for RVC6

Mensa has always been a place where brilliant minds connect, challenge, and inspire one another. But we're facing real challenges: declining and aging membership, volunteer burnout, and divisive issues that distract from what makes this organization extraordinary.

This year, Region 6 had only **one group** recognized with a Jewel Award, which honors achievement in administration, leadership, events, and membership. While not easy to earn, the low number suggests that groups are struggling -most likely with engagement and volunteering. That's where I'm most passionate: helping leaders re-energize members, attract volunteers, and build thriving, vibrant communities.

If elected, I will focus on:

Membership Growth & Engagement: Modernizing events and communication, welcoming new generations while keeping long-time members energized.

Volunteer Sustainability: Reducing burnout by building a culture of appreciation, shared responsibility, and teamwork.

Transparency & Integrity: Advocating for openness in leadership and handling challenges in ways that build trust. Integrity also means following the rules—if we don't like them, we work to change them, not break them.

Reputation & Visibility: Highlighting our members' strengths, improving community involvement, and showcasing Mensa as a vibrant, positive force.

I bring professional leadership experience, a strong record of volunteer service, and a deep belief that Mensa should always be a place where every member feels they belong. Together, we can grow, adapt, and thrive, while never losing the heart of who we are.

— Laura Smith, Candidate for RVC6

NTM BOARD PROCEEDINGS- Sunday September 21st

Meeting was called to order at 6:07PM by President Cathy Allshouse at Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas (5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas). Also present were Treasurer Paul Whiteman, Lauren Ogden, Roger Durham and Board Member at Large Chuck Weis. VP Chris Cree, Penny Robe, Randy Brack, Karen Brack and Jonathan Bethune were present via Zoom.

1. Reports: The following reports were given.

President – Cathy Allshouse … The next Board meeting: 7:30 October 2, 2025 via Zoom. The general meetings/programs will still be in the Glen Lakes Room at Five Star Premier Residences in person.

There will be a New Members Party on September 27th. Volunteers are needed.

A joint ballot for bylaws and general election will occur in November. Laura Ogden to request candidates' statements in October.

NTM's letter of intent to host the 2027 Mind Games was submitted. Mensa National recommended that we withdraw from hosting 2026, then go to it to get experience, then use that experience, recruit more volunteers, and then apply for 2027 (there is already at least one other chapter applying for that year) We received a Mensa Emerald award for our activity, the only one in Region 6 to do so.

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

Secretary – Gunny Hartman … The minutes of the August 2025 meeting were distributed via email. The minutes were accepted without modifications.

Treasurer – Paul Whiteman … The website bill going to a board member, it needs to be sent to the board's debit card. Paul and Jonathan will sort this out.

As of 8/31/2025, NTM had $31,819.12 in total assets, which includes $8,158.98 in checking, $13,660.14 in savings, $21,819.12 cash on hand, and a note receivable of $10,000. The RG account balance was $1,500.00. As of September 21, 2025, NTM had $8,474.39 in checking, $13,660.14 in savings, and a note receivable of $10,000. The RG account balance is $2,865.02 after some RG ticket sales.

Membership – Chris Cree … Gained 14 members last month, to 1019.

Ombudsman – Roger Durham … Nothing to report

Marketing – Juan Faura … Logo development has incurred expenses, Juan to submit to treasurer. The store will include only basic items like shirts and mugs, to assess demand.

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

Gifted Youth – Bill Rock … September event planned for next weekend--model rockets in Gunter. October event Audubon center hike.

Editor – Bill Rock … "October issue (has just been published. No questions or concerns.

Scholarship – Lauren Ogden … Applications for the scholarship are open now.

Calendar – Vacant … Jonathan Bethune has now updated the calendar

Webmaster – Jonathan Bethune plans to advertise the RG to those outside the Mensa membership, but they must be accompanied by a member.

Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond … No one tested in September, 2 planned for October (half price month). One request for scholarship for the testing fee, but the requester did not follow up.

Social Media/Facebook - Collene Goldman … "The Facebook page continues to do well. There are other Mensa chapters that follow it and often share our posts on their Facebook pages. Thanks to the person who posted information about the RG on it.

Programs – Karen Brack … For September, Cathy Allhouse setup a games night.

Regional Gathering – Karen Brack … Numerous speakers have been lined up, but Karen is seeking more. The current Mr. Mensa is planning to attend. Registrations are coming in.

Bylaws Committee – see above regarding ballot plans

Nominating Committee – (Chair) Bill Rock … see above regarding ballot plans

Election Committee – (Chair) Lauren Ogden … see above regarding ballot plans

2. Actions: The following actions were taken.

Action to coordinate the meeting's Zoom link in M-Aura and meeting notices, Paul volunteered to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57PM.

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

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

2025 NTM Board Members At Large:

Jonathan Bethune	jbethune777@gmail.com 972.213.2715
Juan Faura	jafaura@gmail.com 817.937.7435
Chuck Weis	charlesdweis@gmail.com 469.271.4928

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 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 , 972.396.8160 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
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 972.415.5302 william.m.rock@gmail.com, Anne Whiteman: 214.868.4410 / anne.whiteman1@gmail.com, Laura Stuart: (214.641.2520)

Election Committee: Lauren Ogden (chair) 972.207.1776, lrngdn76@gmail.com Chris Cree, ccree@earthlink.net , 214.701.4681 Randy Brack, mrbrack46@gmail.com, 972.495.2659 The Alternate member is Karen Brack, 214.477.1151 kwbrack18@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW…??? North Texas Mensa receives a stipend from AMC of $.96 per month per member? September's M-Aura cost $1.51 per copy to print and mail?

Please consider switching from a printed and mailed M-Aura to electronic delivery.

You can do this by scanning the QR code above or following these instructions:
us.mensa.org - Log in. Then go to My Mensa—>My Membership Profile
Under My Account Links (Upper right hand side of page),
click *My Communication Preferences*, page opens with *Publication Preference* at the top. Edit to Electronic and Save. Scroll down and Save again

Thank you to those who have switched!! —*NTM Board*

North Texas Mensa Presents:

The Feast of Pleasures and Delights XLIV

Thanksgiving Weekend: Nov. 27 to Nov.30, 2025

Go to: https://www.northtexasmensa.org/rg_event/ to register on line.

North Texas Mensa is proud to announce our 44th 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.

BONUS! For the first time, we are adding programs and lunch on Sunday!

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!!

Our discounted room rate is $109 for any room. The rate is guaranteed through 11/7. 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 $125, 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, PayPal 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 and Program Chair Karen Brack at kwbrack18@gmail.com or 214.477.1151 for more information or to volunteer.

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The registration fee includes three catered dinners, three 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.

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In response to a frequently asked question, your non-Mensan spouse/partner/significant other/best friend/out of town guest, etc. is welcome to register with you. The more, the merrier.

Tastings!
Beer, Chocolate, Wine…and More!

"More details coming soon! "

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

If printing, be sure to choose "fit" under paper sizing and handling

North Texas Mensa Presents:

The Feast of Pleasures and Delights XLIV

Thanksgiving Weekend: Nov. 27 to Nov. 30, 2025

Name #1	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat Name Tag #1	
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Phone ( )	Email	
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? ☐ Text? ☐ Snail-mail?

Registration Fees: Includes 3 catered dinners and 3 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, Sun, - $40
$125 (postmarked by Oct 31, 2025)
$150 after Oct 31, 2025
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)* _____