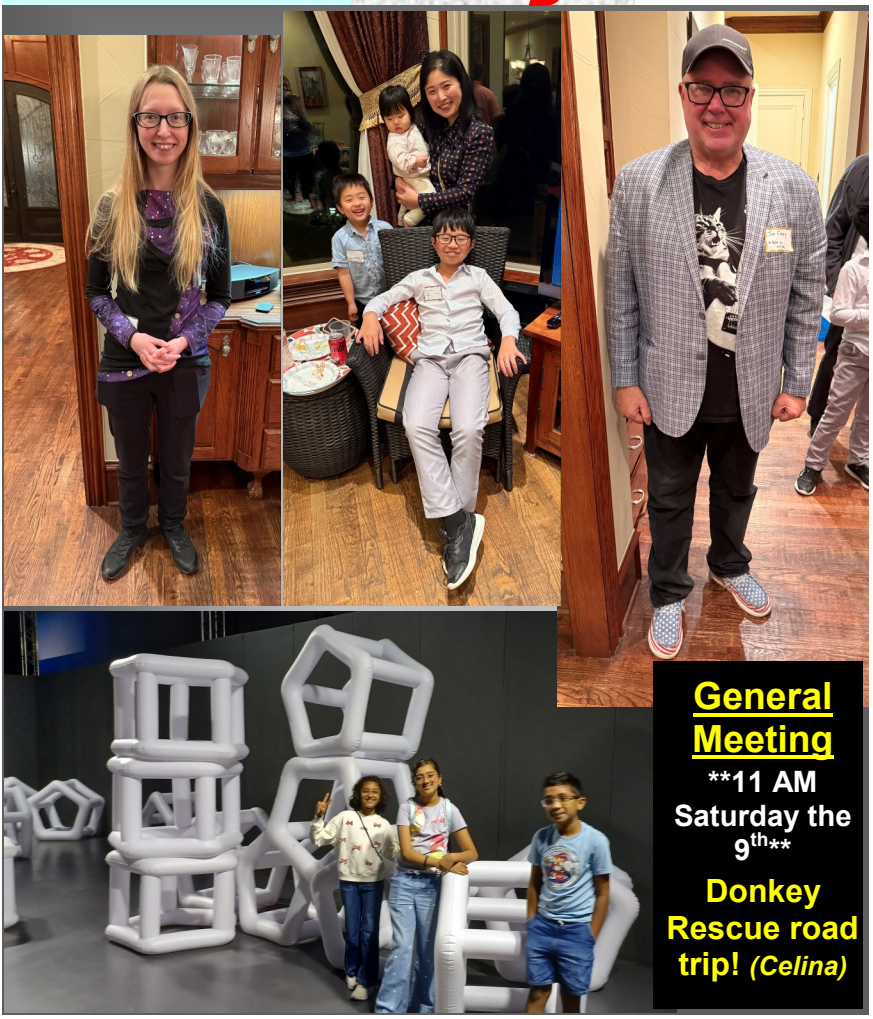
The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

M-AURA May 2026



General Meeting

****11 AM Saturday the 9th****

Donkey Rescue road trip! *(Celina)*

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ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top:* New Members at the NMP *(l-r)*: Anna Reinke, Kaz K and his family, Joe Conry. *Bottom*: Prishaa, her sister, and a friend explore Crazy Love for Polygons (umm, pentagonal prisms) at the Balloon Museum

Back *Top Left:* March poker winners *(l-r)*: Gerald Law - 1st Doug Fix - 3rd, Laura Stuart - 2nd *Top Right:* Ada *Center:* AI Data Portal, both at the Balloon Museum. *Bottom:* Suzanne and Rick as part of the Hell's M Party At Sea 2026 (see pg 5)

Letters, Stories, Travel Misadventures and More!
Isolated M SIG monthly newsletter serves as a communication forum for Mensa members around the world -- currently 80 countries.
Electronic issues free! Visit IsolatedM.com for more information

FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

CATHY ALLSHOUSE

Welcome to the month of May, my NTM friends! As the seasons change, so do the opportunities for curiosity. Every time I meet up with you lovely people, I am floored by the sheer, unadulterated brainpower in the room--and the fun we have using it! That brainpower and fun were in evidence at our recent new members party. Such a lovely evening and thank you to all who helped pull it off, especially Chuck and Elizabeth Weis who hosted us and all the people who brought nice goodies to eat. I would like to challenge you to "get curiouser". We all know that Mensans are great at acquiring knowledge, but I want to urge you to put that knowledge to work in a way that sparks joy. Bring a friend or prospective member to a meeting or SIG event or volunteer your special talents and experiences for a presentation at a general meeting or the RG. Or just bring your special energy to one of our many upcoming events.

Curiosity is our superpower. When we share what we learn--whether over coffee at a Mensa meetup or in casual conversation over dinner--we amplify that joy.

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: Andrew Miller, Lila Olickan-Danicic, Satya Patel

Moving to NTM: Robert Bradford, Mark Chavez, Sara Ferrari, Olivia Leonard, Gillian Steele

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Robert Baxter

We welcome you all, and look forward to seeing you at future functions!

Howdy!

SFRM ZOOM TALKS IN MAY: (info at sfmensa.org)

May 9, 4:30 CT: Becoming a space fairing society
Register: https://space-talk.link/MAY
May 17, 4:30 CT: Why the Scopes trial is still relevant
Register: https://livepresentation.link/MAY

REGION 6 VICE CHAIR — LAURA SMITH

What Does an Engaged Mensa Community Look Like?

I got a glimpse of it this week in Baton Rouge and it was something special!

Baton Rouge Mensa had been having challenges getting volunteers and group participation. They hosted an Open House Member Appreciation and Recruitment event, and I counted more than 20 attendees. In a group of just 94 members, that's not just good—that's outstanding. It's a reminder that engagement isn't about size; it's about intention, effort, and creating a space where people actually want to show up.

Their LocSec, Charles, did a phenomenal job. From the moment you walked in, it felt organized, welcoming, and unmistakably Mensa. There was swag, there was laughter, and there was a room full of curious, interesting people connecting in real time. I had the chance to meet several new members, and while my trivia team didn't exactly bring home a win, I can confirm we had a great time trying.

If you've ever wondered where to start—or how to get more involved—this is it. Show up. Say hello. You don't need a title or a plan. Just being present is where it begins.

And if you're ready to take that one step further, our Annual Gathering in Fort Worth this July is the perfect place to dive in. If you've never attended a Mensa event or haven't yet found your people, this is the one I always recommend—and it's right here in our own backyard. I'll be hosting a meet and greet and would truly love to meet you there.

And before we get there, don't forget—**SYNRG: Back to the Future** is just around the corner. Gulf Coast Mensa is bringing the energy this Memorial Day weekend, and it's shaping up to be something you won't want to miss.

Laura and members of BR Mensa

HELL'S MENSANS PARTY AT SEA *Suzanne Wills suzwills@swbell.net*

In March, 53 Mensans, including Rick Barsan and me, traveled to SE Asia for the Hell's Mensans Party at Sea on Norwegian Cruise Line. We sailed from Taipei to Singapore with stops in Hong Kong China, Caron and Puerto Princesa Philippines, Kota Kinabalu Malaysia, Muara Brunei Darussalam, Bangkok and Ko Samui Thailand. A stop was scheduled in Ho Chi Minh but there was no berth for the ship. Rick and I went on shore excursions In Hong Kong, Puerto Princesa, Kota Kinabalu, Muara, Pattaya and Koh Samui. In Hong Kong we went to the top of one of the many mountains on a funicular. The hike at Kota Kinabalu was steep and wet! At Puerto Princesa we learned about the Palawan massacre, one of many horrors of WWII. 139 US POWs were killed, only 11 survived. We toured the Royal Regalia Museum in Muara. Very impressive! It is good to be a sultan! The Pattaya Floating Market is just a place to shop. The island of Koh Samui is lovely. We had the best meal of the trip at a resort there. Beth Weiss, the trip organizer, arranged several group dinners on the ship, a hang out room and a group photo. Thank you, Beth. While we were happy with the Hell's M's arrangements, we were not impressed with the cruise line. On other cruises we have heard good talks about the history, religion, politics and climate of the places we were seeing. On this cruise we got only entertainment. Of course, it is a party SIG! Rick's pictures are here. SE Asia Photos
Or here: https://photos.app.goo.gl/8ViVFZPoprZYwSUY9
The next Party at Sea is planned for 2028 from Santiago to Buenos Aires. Beth says to search the NCL site for South America, Feb 2028 dates and it will come up.

MAY 2026

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

~May 2026~

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

~WEEKLY EVENTS~

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY / SATURDAY

1:00 PM M Virtual Discussion Group (VDG) SIG *(from mid MI Mensa)* Location: **Zoom Meeting**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09 Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234 It turns out that some Mensans enjoy talking to others about a wide variety of subjects. Other Mensans simply enjoy hearing other points of view. The problem is getting enough of us together. We can do that through Zoom
Contact: **Ken Lawrence** MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com

May Events

02 SATURDAY

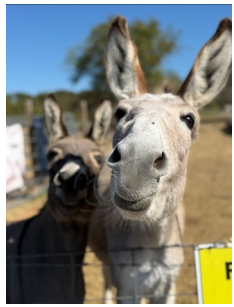
1:30PM –Wine Tasting in East Texas
Location: **Enoch's Stomp (Barrels Tasting room thereof)**: 871 Ferguson Rd., Harleton, TX 75651 (903.400.4422).
Enoch's Stomp is an East Texas (Harrison County) vineyard and winery with a tasting room that offers various Texas wines along with a limited food menu featuring appetizers, pizza, and sandwiches. For more information, including the Barrels Tasting Room menu, visit their website, enochsstomp.com. Harleton is an unincorporated community located near State Highway 450, just off FM154. The Barrels Tasting Room Saturday hours are 12:00 noon till 8:00 PM, and according to the website, reservations are NOT necessary, so there is no need to arrive by 1:30. (That's just when I plan to be there, Mensa sign in hand.) www.enochsstomp.com
Contact: **Cookie Neely:** syntaxcop@gmail.com 903.235.8681

03 SUNDAY

12:30PM CST - NTM Gifted Youth Book Club
(First Sunday of each month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**
At this meeting, we will be discussing **The Girl Who Drank the Moon** by Kelly Barnhill**.**
Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

07 – THURSDAY

7:30PM - 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)



Special day and time, this month only!

09 SATURDAY
11:00 a.m. General Meeting – with DONKEYS!! (You bet your ass!)

Location**: Donkey and Equine Rescue USA, 929 KC Robinson Lane, Celina, Texas 75009**
Just off Preston Road (the main drag in the Celina metroplex) at the intersection of Preston and Sunset Boulevard, behind Brookshire's grocery store.
May's General Meeting is on a different Saturday this month, and that's not all that's different! Bring the whole family for this one. It's going to be FUN!
At the NTM Regional Gathering last Thanksgiving, one of the break-out programs was about a donkey rescue in nearby Celina. This month, instead of talking about donkeys, we're going to visit them! We'll meet at the rescue at 11:00 a.m. for a brief introduction to the rescue and what they do and then enjoy a BYO picnic. Then, after a short tutorial on how to interact with the donkeys, we'll go out to meet them. Brushes and other grooming tools will be available for those who want to get up close and personal with the donkeys, and you can bring carrots, and apples (or equine treats) if you want to feed them snacks. There is a house on the property with bathrooms, a kitchen, and air conditioning for anyone who needs a break. Please RSVP so we can have enough tables and

chairs set up.
Contact: **Karen Brack**, 214.477.1151, kwbrack18@gmail.com.

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 is 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: **Editor, Bill Rock**: (william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.415.5302)

10 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 All Copy Deadline (The 10th of each month)
Contact: **Editor, Bill Rock**: (william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.415.5302)

15 FRIDAY

7:00 – NTM Scholarship Foundation Friday Texas Hold-em
Location: **Bill & Ellen Rock's Home "The Rock Pile"**: 701 Victorian Drive, Allen, TX 75002
The next Texas Hold 'Em will be at the home of Bill & Ellen Rock, "The Rock Pile", on Friday, May 15th. 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.
PLEASE RSVP: **Bill and/or Ellen Rock**:
(972.396.8160 •/+ 214.356.5819,
william.m.rock@gmail.com

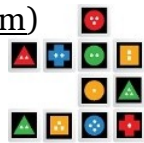
16 SATURDAY

09:30—11:45 AM Mensa Admissions Testing

Location: **Dallas Public Library – Timberglen Branch Classroom** 18505 Midway Rd, Dallas, TX 7528
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)



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

17 SUNDAY

1:30PM GY Visit the Frontiers of Flight (Museum)
Location: 6911 Lemmon Ave, Dallas, TX 75209
Let's take a stroll through one of Dallas' perhaps more overlooked museums. 35,000 artifacts including 40 vehicles, among them the only V-173 "flying pancake". Ages 13+ $20, ages 3-12 $12.
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

20 WEDNESDAY

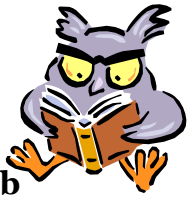
7:00PM – MADEATS

(Mostly Affordable Diverse Eating Around Town SIG)
Location: **Cris and John** (BYOB) **:** 6090 Campbell Road, Suite 136 Dallas, TX 75248 https://www.crisandjohn.com/
Rajas Con Queso Egg Rolls. Peking Duck Tacos. Birria Baos. Phorritos. No, these aren't the results of a crash between two food delivery drivers. They're menu items at Cris and John, a Mexican Vietnamese fusion restaurant that has been getting rave reviews and drawing huge crowds. When MADEATS tried to visit them at their old location the wait was over an hour long and parking was scant, so we just gave up. Since then, they've moved to a new, larger location with plenty of parking, so let's try again. BYOB. As always, MADEATS pleadingly requests (but does not require) that you RSVP.
Contact: **Karen Brack**: (kwbrack18@gmail.com; 214.477.1151)

24 SUNDAY

2:30 PM Theodore Talk: "National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame". This virtual event will take place on Zoom.
Join Bethany Dodson, Director of Research & Education at the National Cowgirl Museum & Hall of Fame, for an engaging discussion on the history and culture of cowgirls. The Cowgirl is where history meets horsepower, and fearless women take center stage. Located in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural District, it's the only museum in the

world that celebrates the grit, grace, and guts of the women who shaped the American West — and those breaking boundaries today. Through permanent and temporary exhibits, interactives, and powerful storytelling, the Museum highlights artists, ranchers, rodeo champions, activists, and trailblazers from all walks of life. It's not just about looking back — it's about inspiring the next generation of unstoppable women.
Register for this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/yc557kzv



5th Sunday—this month only

31 SUNDAY

1:30PM – 3:00PM - Eclectic Book Club
(Fourth Sunday of the Month)

Location: **Half Price Books Mothership**:
5803 E NW Hwy, Dallas, TX 75231

This month EBC is reading *The Humans* by Matt Haig. Eclectic Book Club picks are generally available in hardback, paperback or for e-readers. They should also be available at your local library.

Contacts: **Larry Strickler**: (lstrickler1@verizon.net or 972.495.8076) or **Bill Rock**: (972.415.5302 or william.m.rock@gmail.com)

NEW SIG ALERT

Do you play Mah Jongg? Are you retired and seeking engaging daytime activities that require brain activity? A few of us are exploring the idea of starting two new SIG's--a "Mensans playing Mah Jongg" and a "Retired and Inspired" SIG which will do various activities around our area, primarily in the afternoons. If you're interested in participating in either, please contact Cathy Allshouse at callshouse1@aol.com or chat with me at an event.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, June 20th, 2:00 PM.

June's "General Meeting" will feature Unplugged Commons (formerly Game Nights with JR) and an assortment of crazy, fun games. A game based on cheese? A Pride and Prejudice themed game? You'll have to show up to find out.

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

For March several of us headed over to the Balloon Museum. Less museum and more a set of interactive art exhibits (most at least tangentially tied to balloons or balloon-shaped objects). Many of the installations had objects that ranged from the touchable to the wearable to the punchable to the diveable. I might quibble that the butterfly only had four legs; I'm sure it was just "artistic license"....Sigh.

As I write this I have just come back from attempting to visit the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center. Once again the weather has thrown a monkey wrench into the works. This has happened two years in a row, so I get the message. I stuck out the rain, and the live (damp) bird show was interesting. I would recommend the First Saturday event to all, but if you go, please don't tell me, so that the weather will cooperate.

Still working on plans for the rest of the year; as always, if you have ideas or even general concepts of things you'd like to do, or activities you have heard about that sound interesting, let me know. You never know what we can accomplish till we try.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! The following NTMers add another candle to the cake in May:
Cathy "el Jefe" Allshouse, Barbara Guzak, Byron Haney, William Hawkins, Russell Reed, Christopher Ince, Terry McFadden, Glenn Cazenave, Ellice Smart, Richard Dutt, Kay Shapiro, Wilgus Creath, David Swart, Jennifer Perry, Michael Kane, Joshua Lempert, Nina Walker, Denise Bartosh, Paul Rosenbluth, Payton Ellenich, Clayton Goff, Lucille Hodges, Marie Blocher, Theodore Manikas, Valentine Belfiglio, Shaun McKinney, Pam Kittenbacher, Christine Healey, Michael Tushan

NORTH TEXAS MENSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Proceedings for March 5, 2026

Meeting was not held due to technology problems.

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

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

2026 NTM Board Members At Large:

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

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Interior Pages:
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Note: All ads will be in color for eSubscribe

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

~NTM Appointed Positions ~

Membership Chair
Ken Roberts krobs@yahoo.com 214.240.3823

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

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

NTM Ombudsman
Roger Durham
durhamrog@gmail.com
214.349.4521

Calendar Chair—Open

Webmaster
Jonathan Bethune
jbethune777@gmail.com

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

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

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

Program Chair
Karen Brack
kwbrack18@ gmail.com, 214.477.1151

RG Chair
Karen Brack
kwbrack18@ gmail.com, 214.477.1151

Publicity Coordinator—Open

Webmaster:
Jonathan Bethune
972.213.2715

Volunteers Coordinator—Open

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

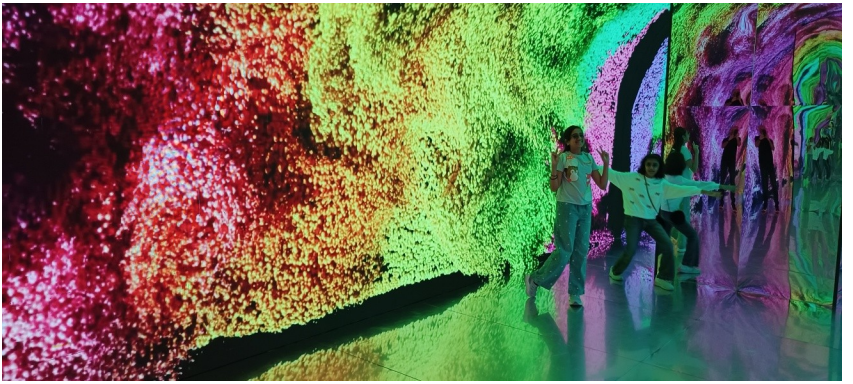
Social Media—Collene Goldman colleneg@gmail.com 469-503-3636

Marketing Chair -Juan Faura jafaura@ gmail.com 817.937.7435

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

NTM Scholarship Chair
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: Open
Election Committee: Open