The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

November

M-AURA

2026

It's Here!!

NTM

RG

XLV

Nov 26-29
So much to see,
So much to do
See Pages 4 & the insert for more details
Do register with enclosed 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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ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top:* Retired & Inspired take a break from walking the mall, C & K athy *Bottom:* Aanya getting ready for a ride in a Musketeer.

Back *Top:* Jayden prepares for takeoff. *Bottom:* Prisha and Reha after their successful Young Eagles flight.

New SIG ALERT: Mensans & MillenialZ SIG -

For young adult Mensans aged 21-35. Includes impromptu and loosely scheduled monthly outings to a variety of venues. If you want to join some fun Mensans your age on whatever adventure they take up next, just text **Esther Bellah** at 469.301.5600. You'll be added to the group and can join in on the conversation!

FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

CATHY ALLSHOUSE

Lately, I have been pondering (dangerous territory, I know)....how do creativity and intelligence intersect and do they influence each other? The reason for this reflection is that I have lately been noticing just how creative many of the Mensans I know are. I've seen their lovely works of visual art, seen Mensans create unique businesses, write novels, create music , etc. For example, TWO of our own North Texas Mensans, Esther Bellah and David Lambert, were published in the September American Mensa Bulletin Fiction Edition. I urge you all to read them if you haven't yet. They are both quite thought provoking. I congratulate both of them. Even I, trained and experienced as an accountant, have a creative side. Of course, creative accountants can land in jail, so my professional career was completely standardized, logical and legal. Remember Enron? I have exercised that creativity muscle through my passion for knitting. Even when I use someone else's pattern, I choose my own colors and fibers and might make adjustments. I end up with something unique and quite satisfying. I also exercise creativity in the kitchen and people usually like what I feed them. Naturally, I wanted more information and dove down the proverbial Google rabbit hole on the subject and here are some things I learned--compiled from the Mensa Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

- Traditional IQ tests—the gatekeepers to Mensa membership—primarily measure **convergent thinking**. This is the cognitive ability to synthesize information, apply logic, and deduce the single, correct answer to a specific problem.
- Creativity, by contrast, relies heavily on **divergent thinking**: the capacity to generate multiple, varied, and unstructured solutions from a single starting point.
- While many Mensans seamlessly blend the two, neuroscientists have determined a certain level of intelligence—historically pegged around an **IQ of 120**—is necessary for high creative potential. Below this threshold, IQ and creativity rise proportionately. Above this threshold, the direct correlation between intelligence and creativity essentially flattens or disappears. Because Mensa requires an IQ score at or above roughly 130, our population sits entirely above this threshold, effectively disproving my hypothesis that Mensans are far more creative than the average human.

Although the bottom of this rabbit hole proved a bit disappointing to me, I remain ever impressed by the accomplishments of my fellow Mensans. Therefore, I urge all of you to practice divergent thinking. In whatever way it presents itself to you. Create on, my friends! I look forward to seeing the results.

I also want to remind you all that in November each year, we hold our NTM elections for the Board to serve the following year. Please see **pg 12** for details and ballot. Please participate in making your voice heard in who shall direct North Texas Mensa in 2027. Thank you!

The Truth: North Texas Mensa Regional Gathering XLV Edition

By Karen Weston Brack, RG ChairM, RG Program ChairM

I won't lie to you. I like turkey and stuffing and listening to Great Uncle Sal's crazy political rants as much as the next person. But what really gets my engines running this holiday season is the North Texas Mensa Regional Gathering. Seriously.

It's a wonderful social and intellectual interlude in the midst of the holiday hullaballoo, which used to start right after Thanksgiving but now starts before Halloween.

At the RG, there's no agonizing over a menu or dishes waiting for you in the sink. All meals, drinks and snacks are included in the registration price. Well, the hot breakfast buffet is actually served by the hotel to all overnight guests. See, I told you I wouldn't lie to you. Your friends are there (including friends you haven't met yet), and Great Uncle Sal probably isn't.

We've got games. Poker, Maj Jongg (you asked, we listened), Cards Against Humanity, and any others you might bring to play. We've got the always popular Hootenanny-Sing-A-Long- Jam Session Thing. Bring your musical instruments and play along. Tastings this year include Whiskey, Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Fiery Foods. All tickets to the tastings will be sold on site. PLEASE be prepared to pay in cash or by check.

NTM RG Programs are known for being wide ranging and wonderful. Yes, people, NTM favorite Bruce Jones will be coming back! Our program includes: Social/Emotional Intelligence, I Am Number, Intro to Mah Jongg, Near Death Experiences, Whiskey 101, The Human Heart, a Royal Murder Mystery and many more.

Register early at https://www.northtexasmensa.org/rg_event/ and save some money. And check back for program info and news as it develops. News and other announcements will also be posted on the NTM and Region 6 Facebook groups.

Our hotel is Holiday Inn Express & Suites North Dallas at Preston, 6055 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy, Dallas, TX 75240, (972) 404-4500. When you reserve, be sure to tell them you are with the North Texas Mensa Regional Gathering. Our room rate is only guaranteed until Nov. 6th, so reserve your room today.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Looking to volunteer? Got a good joke to share? Contact Karen Brack, kwbrack18@gmail.com

P.S. I almost forgot to mention that the hotel has an indoor pool.

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

In September we took to the skies to have some fun flying in (and flying) a small plane. It is a very much more visceral experience than in an airliner, you feel every bump and vibration. There was a wide variety of planes used, from Cessnas to Bonanzas to a Musketeer. As I have mentioned to some, the Young Eagles program is an experience that is available outside of Mensa, just go to youngeagles.com to look for flights coming up in the local area (just ask Beckett, who has completed over 20).

For this month, we're bringing back an event we last did in 2022, an introduction to archery. It was a lot of fun last time, and I think we can have a good time again on the 21st.

Lastly, I want to cover the event we have coming up in January (*?¿?¿* I can hear you thinking). In September we voted on what kind of new, engaging in-person event people wanted, and the most popular (by rank and votes) was public speaking. So this is a call for those that are interested to start preparing a five to ten minute talk on something you would like to share with the group. We will plan for a Saturday in January for everyone to have their chance to present. Please let me know if you are interested in presenting so I can work out the logistics.

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: Caitlin Dolt, Thomas Drew, Damian Farry, William Gibson, Cambree Hickman, Sebastian Horne, Sydney Horne, Ryker Mercer, Lucas Mou, Seth Phillips, Leonardo Zuno

Moving to NTM: Ema Gerin, Christine Pybus, Gia Thakkar

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Richard Frith, Derek Saunders

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

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

Jeffrey "Organ Attack" Bromberger, Walton Hebert, Chris Thompson, Alan Henderson, Caitlin Dolt, David McKamie, David Morehead, Joseph Padian, Charles Batson, Jack Silvey, Lee Smith, William Halliday, DaWane Wanek, James Robertson, Bruce Davis, Joshua Cox, Kevin O'Meara, Carl Hayes, Caroline Sibley, Sara Hawkins, Leza Mesiah, Aaron "I'm *Acting*"Adair, Morgan Nelson, Lloyd Jensby, Alin Voicu-Comendant, Michael Blazin, Lynn Harris, Chuck "all in" Briggs, Cookie Neely, Bryan Taylor, Geoffrey Doke, Adil Nota, Alec Haney, David Picard, Thomas Laney, Erica Hilton, Mark Iwashika, Lynn Melder, Matthew Taylor, Raymond Szczesniak, Jeff Leskiw, John Shivers

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
01 12:30 pm GY book club	**02** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**03** 2 pm R&I Mall Walk 7 pm Beer Garden	**04** 1 pm VDG	**05** 1 pm Lunch Group 7:30 pm NTM Board Meeting	**06** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**07** 10:30 am Mensa Testing 1 pm VDG
08 2 pm Bright Ladies SIG	**09** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch 9 pm *M-Aura* Calendar	**10** 2 pm R&I Mall Walk 7 pm Beer Garden 9 pm *M-Aura* All-Copy	**11** 1 pm VDG	**12** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**13** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch 7 pm Texas Hold 'Em	**14** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Singles Chat 'n Chew
15 7 pm **ELECTION TIME!**	**16** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**17** 2 pm R&I Mall Walk 7 pm Beer Garden	**18** 1 pm VDG	**19** R&I at the Arboretum 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**20** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch Later time, this month only	**21** 1 pm VDG 4 pm Small Group Mtg 7:30 pm Games SIG
22 1:30 pm Eclectic Book Club	**23** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**24** 2 pm R&I Mall Walk 7 pm Beer Garden	**25** 1 pm VDG	**26**	**27** 1 pm VDG	**28** 1 pm VDG
29 **RG Ends**	**30** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	2026	REMEMBER			

NTM RG XLV

~November 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

NEW-ish

2:00 PM —R&I Walk the Mall
Location: **Northpark Mall**, 8687 N Central, Dallas, 75225
Join the Retired & Inspired folks for mall walk during the month of November at NorthPark Mall. Several of us did this in past and really enjoyed it. We meet up at the fountain in front of the Dillard's store.
Contact: **Cathy Allshouse** (callshouse1@aol.com)

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

Not Thanksgiving

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)

Not Thanksgiving

6:45 PM HOTDAM
Hang **O**ut **T**ogether **W**ith **D**enton **A**rea **M**ensans
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

Not 27 Nov

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

November Events

01 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 Last Dragon on Mars** by Scott Reintgen**.**
Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

05 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)

07 SATURDAY

10:30 AM -12:45 PM Mensa Admissions Testing

Location: **Dallas Public Library – Timberglen Branch Classroom** 18505 Midway Rd, Dallas, 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.

Please note that local Mensa testing will be ending in December

Contact: **Rebecca Raymond**: (ntmtesting@northtexasmensa.org)

08 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)

09 MONDAY

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 TUESDAY

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)

13 FRIDAY

7:00 – NTM Scholarship Foundation Friday Texas Hold-em

Location: **Paul & Anne Whiteman's Home:** 4424 Ringgold Lane, Plano, TX 75093

The next Texas Hold 'Em will be at the home of Anne and Paul Whiteman, on Friday, November 13th. 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: **Anne Whiteman** (214-868-4410/ anne.whiteman@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

14 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 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)

15 SUNDAY

Special day this month only

7:00PM – November General Meeting

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 2027.

19 THURSDAY

(Time TBD) Retired and Inspired at the Arboretum

Location: **Dallas Arboretum**, 8525 Garland Rd., Dallas 75218
We're going to the Dallas Arboretum to view their lovely holiday displays. Admission for seniors is $22 if you don't have a membership —see www.dallasarboretum.org. The twelve days of Christmas display is being retired after this season, so it's the last chance to see them! Please RSVP to Cathy at callshouse1@aol.com so we can arrange meetup time, carpooling, etc.
Contact: **Cathy Allshouse** at callshouse1@aol.com

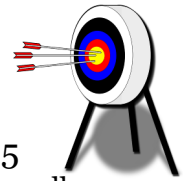
21 SATURDAY

4:00PM – 6:00PM - Small MENSA Meeting Canton / Wills Point (Third Saturday of each month)

Location: **We meet in each other's homes on a**

rotating basis
We will send out a reminder about a week before each meeting giving this month's location and subject matter to be discussed. Purely a discussion group; no games, no food fests, no partying. Enjoy the exchange of thoughts and ideas without contention!
Contact: **Gerard Brohman**: gbrohman@live.com

5 PM – 6:30 PM – Gifted Youth try Archery



Location: **Arjun Archery Academy:**
6104 Lafayette Drive, Frisco, 75035
Let's take a shot at archery. This is an introductory class, all equipment provided. $25 per person.
Contact: **Bill Rock**: 972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com

7:30PM – Games SIG

Special time this month only

Location: **Bill Rock's Home**
"The Rock Pile": 701 Victorian Drive, Allen, 75002
We have some classic board games and some new ones, and I'm happy to try anything you care to bring over. Snacks and soft drinks will be available.
Contacts: **Bill Rock**: 972.415.5302 william.m.rock@gmail.com

22 SUNDAY

1:30PM – 3:00PM - Eclectic Book Club (Fourth Sunday)
Location: **Half Price Books Mothership**: 5803 E NW Hwy, Dallas, TX 75231
This month EBC is reading **By Any Other Name** by Jodi Picoult. 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)

26-29 THURSDAY through SUNDAY

NTM RG XLV
The RG is the **biggest event** NTM does each year. Expect great speakers and activities and games. See page 4 for more details, and see the centerfold registration form to sign up.
Contact: **Karen Brack**, kwbrack18@gmail.com

NTM ELECTION SECTION

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 2027 Board of Directors. At the meeting, each candidate will be allowed to present a three-minute campaign speech before you vote.

Election Committee

NTM is pleased to announce the Election Committee for the 2026 election Anne Whiteman (Chair)214-868-4410 anne.whiteman@gmail.com, Mitch McCarsky (706)270-4316 , mitch@mccarsky.com, Ken Roberts, krobs@yahoo.com 214.240.3823

Voting Instructions:

Voting for Candidates

a) For each office other than Board Member At Large, the voter shall vote for up to one and only one candidate. More than one vote will invalidate the ballot's vote for that office (which does not affect votes for this election, since all of the non-BMAL office positions are unopposed).

b) For the Board Member At Large positions, the voter shall vote for up to three and no more than three candidates. More than three votes for the Board Member At Large positions will invalidate the ballot's vote for that office (which DOES affect votes for this election).

Returning of Ballots

a) Balloting by Mail

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 in order to determine current membership in North Texas Mensa. The ballot may, at the voter's option, be sealed inside a blank envelope before being sealed in the mailing envelope to ensure anonymity. Ballots must be mailed to the Chair of the Election Committee and received no later than 5 PM on Sunday, November 15th, 2026, for general elections. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted. If it is late, the fact that it is postmarked on or before that date and time is irrelevant.

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

NTM members may vote in person at a meeting called for that purpose, which will be the November 15th, 2026 meeting of the membership at 7:30 PM (fellowship starting at 7:00 PM). The Election Committee will have blank ballots available. 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:

Anne Whiteman, Chair 4424 Ringgold Lane, Plano, TX 75093
Phone: 214-868-4410 (Texting is best. If calling and no answer, please leave a voicemail) Email: anne.whiteman1@gmail.com

NORTH TEXAS MENSA
2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

President:

_____Eric “Gunny” Hartman

Vice President:

_____Bill Rock

Secretary:

_____Susan Hawthorne

Treasurer:

_____Paul Whiteman

Board Member at Large (Vote for up to 3 candidates):

_____ Aaron Adair

_____Wade Baggette

_____Blair Brown

_____Robert “Bo” Hatridge

_____Matt Taylor

Mark your votes as described in the instructions on p12 and bring this ballot to the NTM General Meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2026, 7 PM, or mail to:

Anne Whiteman, Chair
4424 Ringgold Lane
Plano, TX 75093

If you mail your ballot, you must include your name and address on the envelope in the Return Address area and it must be legible, so current Mensa membership can be determined. If you wish to remain anonymous, put your ballot in a blank envelope within your mailed envelope. In order to be counted, mailed ballots must be mailed to the Election Committee and received by 5 PM on Sunday, November 15, 2026. If it is late, the fact that it is postmarked on or before that date and time is irrelevant.

Bonus Ballot as they say in Chicago, "vote early, vote often". Please also vote for members of our scholarship foundation board:

NTM Scholarship Foundation
2027 - 2029 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT
President:

_____Anne Whiteman

Vice President:

_____Aaron Adair

Treasurer:

_____Roger Durham

Secretary:

_____Paul Whiteman

MENSA Election Statements from 2027 NTM Board Candidates

President

Eric "Gunny" Hartman

Biographical Statement: 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 pastors Providence Church in Rowlett and teaches English & Speech at Collin College. Aside from two stints in England, Gunny has lived in Texas since 1982, graduating from Cedar Hill High School. Married since 1993, Gunny has four kids, including a Mensa member, and he's Opa to two grandkids, obviously future Mensans. From St. Louis, Gunny is an avid Cardinals baseball fan.

Campaign Statement: I'm a life member and have served NTM in many roles, including on the board as president, vice-president, secretary, and board member at large. In addition, I oversee S.I.G.H.T., serve on the NTM Scholarship Foundation, and have been on the election & nominating committees. Through it all, count me among those who lament the challenges we've faced in member engagement, particularly when we have stellar events and programs that have disappointing turnout, especially post-Covid. I'm excited about the prospect of serving on the board in

2027 as president again. I hope we can work as a board to increase member retention, satisfaction, and engagement, as we endeavor to increase the value members receive from their membership. To that end, I humbly ask for (1) your vote and (2) feedback on what YOU would like to see NTM be/do in 2027 and beyond. Thanks!

Vice President

Bill Rock

Campaign Statement: if there is an at-large candidate running for VP, I will vote for them, as they are truly motivated to help the organization. Recommend you do the same.

Treasurer

Paul Whiteman

Biographical Statement: I am a retired engineer. I have been a Mensan for 20 years. For most of that time I have served in some leadership role, including most of the positions on the board of directors. My children are on their own now. It's just Anne (my wife) and me. I am always looking for new adventures and, as all Mensans, opportunities to learn.

Campaign Statement: Like all of you, I consider it an honor to be in Mensa. Unlike many of you, I enjoy being involved in Mensa. That is because we do so many interesting things in which I like to participate. And as treasurer, I realize the resources that our organization has to do these fun and worthwhile things. My hope in the coming term is that our resources go towards activities that you, the less active members, would like to see for our social club. If you will drop me an email with your ideas for our group, I will certainly put it before the board and lobby for our money to be spent on those pursuits that our members want. I also encourage more of you take the opportunities to serve North Texas Mensa.

Board Member at Large

Aaron Adair

Biographical Statement: B.M. in Vocal Performance and B.A. in Speech and Theatre Education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University; M.A. in Theatre from East Texas A&M University; Ph.D. in Humanities from The University of Texas at Dallas. Professor of Theatre and Director of Honors Program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University; adjunct graduate 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, including as Member-at-Large (current), Vice President, and President.

Campaign Statement: I have enjoyed being part of Mensa since

2003 and have met and befriended some really fun, interesting, and caring people in North Texas Mensa. I currently serve as Member-at-Large on the Board of Directors and as Vice-President of the NTM Scholarship Foundation, and would enjoy the opportunity to continue serving in NTM leadership during the coming year.

Wade Baggette

Biographical Statement: Wade Baggette has been a member of Mensa since January, 1983. He has served as a newsletter editor twice in areas other than North Texas. His interest in intelligence is nearly lifelong, and he competed his M.S. in Applied Psychometrics in 1994. Most recently, he presented at the 2025 Feast of Pleasures and Delights on "Intelligence and Intelligence Testing" and, also, at the 2026 PeachTreat in Atlanta GA virtually via Zoom on the same topic. He is a life member of Mensa.

Campaign Statement: Member-at-Large: Wade Baggette. Given my tendency to be overly ambitious and to over-commit, I am applying for the position that means I will have the minimum level of commitment and duties yet, at least some of the time, have the opportunity to participate in a service position in North Texas Mensa. Up front : I do NOT want to become involved in any disputes that involve local group politics. (Actually, NTM seems to be the best behaved of various entities I have observed. Really!) This is strictly a "worker bee" position for me.

Blair Brown

Biographical Statement: Hi, my name is Blair Brown! I joined Mensa over a year ago. I grew up in the North Texas area before attending Rice University in the mid 90's. From there, my career has progressed from consulting to analytics to operations with stints in Chicago and Colorado. My wife and I moved back to North Texas seventeen years ago to raise our family. When I'm not at work or a kid's event, I enjoy exercising, learning new hobbies, and spending time with friends. I'm excited to get more involved with the Mensa community.

Campaign Statement: I have only been a Mensan for a little over a year, but I'm ready to make up for lost time! I feel I can best represent the masses by running for the Member at Large seat. I am amazed by all the uniquely bright and talented Mensans I've met throughout the year, and I promise to help keep things fun and invigorating in 2027.

Robert "Bo" Hatridge

Biographical Statement: My name is Bo Hatridge, im 33 and currently live in Texarkana, I work at a paper mill in the boiler house department. I received an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Texarkana College and id like to eventually return to college for

a bachelor's and possibly a masters degree. In recent years I have begun encouraging myself to engage with the world more. I am a Master Mason in Freemasonry, having reached the 32° degree in the Scottish Rite and working on the York Rite. I am also training to attempt the Spartan crossfit marathon in the spring.

Campaign statement: My goal as a member of mensa is to bring a local group to the Texarkana area. The closest groups are Dallas and Little Rock for Texas and Arkansas. I would like to start with a special interest group and when membership grows enough, start a full new local area. Being on the board as a member at large will allow me to see and experience the wide range of tasks and requirements for getting this project off the ground and successful. Creating events and activities for both current members and recruitment will be my main focus, second is understanding other offices on the board and the various responsibilities each holds.

Matt Taylor

Biographical Statement: I've lived in the Dallas area all my life. I have 27 years in software development and currently work as a software architect for a financial data firm. I have been married for 22 years and have two teenage daughters: one a high school senior and one a college freshman. My hobbies include camping, hiking and watching movies. I am an introvert and like to do deep research before making a decision.

Campaign statement: I joined Mensa this year and want to get the most out of my membership. I only have an abstract idea of what running Mensa entails, and I'd like to change that by gaining concrete experience. What I bring is an outsider's perspective and a sincere desire to pitch in and help out the community.

NORTH TEXAS MENSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PROCEEDINGS for October 1, 2026

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:36PM by President Cathy Allshouse. Also present virtually were Vice-President Esther Bellah, Treasurer Paul Whiteman, and Board Member at Large Aaron Adair.

1. Reports: The following reports were given.

President – Cathy Allshouse ... The next Board meeting will be November 5th at 7:30PM via Zoom. Cathy started a new SIG, "Retired & Inspired," which is somewhat self -explanatory. It's been well received thus far..

Vice-President – Esther Bellah ... The young Mensans, being the ones that are 18 to 40, have continued chatting. They had an Oktoberfest event in Addison last month. They are open to being an official SIG. They like the name "Mensans & MillennialZ." There will be a blurb in forthcoming M-Auras about it. Esther also had a story published in the September edition of the *Mensa Bulletin* entitled, *"She'll Never Know,"* on pages 28-31.

Secretary – Gunny Hartman ... Cathy submitted some notes in lieu of minutes for September.

Treasurer – Paul Whiteman ... At the end of August, NTM had $12,419.88 in checking, a note receivable for $10,000, and $15,398.43 in savings, for a total of $37,818.31. At the

end of September, NTM had $12,826.11 in checking, a note receivable for $10,000, and $15,398.55 in savings, for a total of $38,224.66. The RG account balance is $2,000.

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

Gifted Youth – Bill Rock ... "Approximately seven kids flew Young Eagles on the 26th. One for his 22nd time. October events are fossil hunting and college essay writing."

Editor – Bill Rock ... "No problems. November issue will be more pages due to the election and RG info included."

Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond ... "The AMC has voted last weekend to end all Local Group Testing effective December 31, 2026. Testers will be able to continue to test with us at the local level through the end of the year and then the National Office will be taking back all testing supplies and prospects will only be able to test via Private Testing going forward." NTM seems to be among the few chapters with a relatively robust testing program; "we've consistently hosted at least 13 tests per year (only one of which usually had no testers), and tested about 50 people annually." 2027 will not see any income nor expense related to testing, so the budget need not include testing. Rebecca will try to have as many tests as possible through 2026.

Webmaster – Jonathan Bethune ... He needs to send an invoice for SiteGround stuff and some site development stuff for the RG. He will endeavor to get that in to keep the expense on the 2026 budget.

Facebook – Collene Goldman ... "All is well with the Facebook page."

Programs – VACANT ... There was much discussion regarding ways to get better attendance at our monthly general meetings. Suggestions were solicited and are welcome. The New Members party is October 17th. Cathy sent a special email to new members who have joined within the last 15 months and has about a dozen RSVPs so far. The September whiskey program was attended by NTM members and some folks from the facility. He may present the same program again at the RG, including the same whiskeys. The election for the 2027 BoD will be the program in November. Nothing is set for December yet, but we will explore some manner of collectively viewing the lights in certain neighborhoods.

Scholarship – David Lambert ... David is the new scholarship chair. He will touch base again later in the year to recruit those interested in helping to judge essays.

Election Committee – Anne Whiteman ... Some candidate bios and campaign statements have been received, but Anne will send a reminder that they are needed by Oct 5. The election team is lined up to come election night to help administer the election and count votes.

RG – Karen Brack ... There have been some registrations and the schedule is being set, including the acquisition of speakers. It will be again at the same hotel, Holiday Inn Express & Suites North Dallas at Preston (6055 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy, Dallas, TX 75240), over Thanksgiving weekend, 11/26-29. More registration and more details can be found at NorthTexasMensa.org. This is a great event requiring many volunteers, so anyone interested in helping should contact Karen Brack.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM.

New SIG Feeler: Mah Jongg

Who plays Mah Jongg? I know of a few NTM-ers who enjoy playing and want to start up a regular group to play. If you're interested, contact **Cathy Allshouse** at callshouse1@aol.com. It may turn into a special interest group.

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

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 RVC: Laura Hatton, 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
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pamkittenbacher@gmail.com

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

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

Publicity Coordinator —Open

Volunteers Coordinator—Open

M-Aura Editor
Bill Rock , 972.415.5302
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Social Media—Collene Goldman colleneg@gmail.com 469-503-3636

Marketing Chair –Open

S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator
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NTM Scholarship Chair
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Randy Brack, mrbrack46@gmail.com, 972.495.2659 , Karen Brack, 214.477.1151 kwbrack18@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Laura Stuart (Chair) lrstuart@earthlink.net, Anne Whiteman 214-868-4410 anne.whiteman@gmail.com, Mitch McCarsky (706)270-4316 , mitch@mccarsky.com

Election Committee: Anne Whiteman (Chair)214-868-4410 anne.whiteman@gmail.com, Mitch McCarsky (706)270-4316 , mitch@mccarsky.com , Ken Roberts, krobs@yahoo.com 214.240.3823

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North Texas Mensa Presents:

The Feast of Pleasures and Delights XLV

Thanksgiving Weekend: Nov. 26 to Nov.29, 2026

Go to: https://www.northtexasmensa.org/rg_event/ to register online.

North Texas Mensa is proud to announce our 45th 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 second 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 or Reserve your RG hotel room

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 11/6. 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 included in the room rate.

Registration: The early registration rate is $125, which ends on October 31. Starting November 1st, the rate will be $150 until November 25. The walk-in rate will be $165, so register early! Children 0-5 years of age are free. Older children (6–12 at time of the 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 Cathy Allshouse, 10702 Stone Canyon Dr., #128, Dallas, TX 75230. Or email her with questions: President@northtexasmensa.org 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, 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/curious neighbor etc. is *welcome* to register with you. The more the merrier!!

First Tastings Announced!

Extra Virgin Olive Oils ***Fiery Foods*** ***Intro to Whiskies***

ALL TASTING TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON SITE AT THE RG
PLEASE BE PREPARED TO PAY IN CASH OR BY CHECK.

North Texas Mensa Presents:

The Feast of Pleasures and Delights XLV

Thanksgiving Weekend: Nov. 26 to Nov. 29, 2026

Name #1	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun Name Tag #1	
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Phone ( )	Email	
Name #2	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun Name Tag #2	
Name #3	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun Name Tag #3	
Name #4	☐ All weekend, *or*: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun 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, 2026)
$150 after Oct 31, 2026 (received by Nov. 25)
$165 for walk-ins
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 ☐ PayPal
Credit card #: _____

Expiration date on credit card: _____ Security Code on card: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Cathy Allshouse,10702 Stone Canyon Dr., #128, Dallas, TX 75230
Questions? Email Karen Brack at kwbrack18@gmail.com

Many hands make light work. I'd like to volunteer for:
☐ Registration _____ _____
☐ Programs *(specify)* _____
☐ Games/tournament *(specify)* _____
☐ Lead a Tasting (specify) _____
☐ Hospitality (specify) _____
☐ Other *(specify)* _____

To print the registration form,
select print (that page only) and
under paper handing, choose “fit”