The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

September

M-AURA

General Meeting

Saturday the 19th

Paul and Anne Whiteman on Whiskey

2026

Group #750

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ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top:* July Munch Bunch'ers at BJ's in July: *(l-r)* Sandy, Leslie, Roger, Jen, Pam, Ralf, and Jim
Bottom: July Poker Best in Show *(cw from top)*: 1st - Allen Garner 2nd-Carlos Navarrete--3rd-Mitch McCarsky

Back Fin and Samruthi are among those that "struck it rich" at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Ft Worth. This is about as close as you can get to the facility, if you want to keep your camera.

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.
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FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

CATHY ALLSHOUSE

Happy September to all my North Texas Mensa friends. After all the hot weather we've had this summer, I'm so glad that September is here! Based on my time as a student and as the parent of students, the new school year start always feels as much of a "New Year" as does January 1st. I love new starts, fresh experiences, new ideas and challenges.

I want to recognize all the many, many volunteers who help behind the scenes and visibly to make things happen in North Texas Mensa. There are many! Board members, committee members, gathering organizers, test proctors and organizers, SIG organizers, scholarship committee judges, newsletter editor, gifted youth volunteers, party hosts and others. I thank you all whole-heartedly. We couldn't have the wonderful experiences we do in North Texas Mensa without all of you!

After a busy summer, we have a number of things planned for you to enjoy this fall. Here's a short list of what is coming up: dining outings of all sorts, gifted youth and adult book discussion groups, an outing to the aquarium, poker, a whiskey program/tasting, board gaming, gifted youth copiloting small planes and much more. Whew that's a lot! It will NOT be boring around here. I urge you to consult the calendar for all the pertinent details and to plan to attend some of these activities. These gatherings are the times where we can really get to know one another and experience deeper connections.

Also coming up in October is the New Member's Party on the 17th and very importantly, the regional gathering in November over the weekend after Thanksgiving--see **pg 5** for more information. These are both terrific events so, "Save the Date" for these Mark your calendars.

As always, I very much appreciate the opportunity to serve you all as your NTM President.

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: Anvika Dubbaka, Trevin Fugere, Sihwan Joo, Immanuel Mosley, Tyler Tran, Aanya Veeramachaneni

Moving to NTM: Stacie Cannon

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Jessica Albrecht, Phil Heath, Mike Mumford, Russell Rosario

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

HURRY!

REGION 6 VICE CHAIR — LAURA HATTON

Hi everyone,

Thanks for your patience with this month's column and forgive me for its length. This is a topic that's come up repeatedly, affects the majority of our groups, and is something I feel passionate about. Today, I just happened to get triggered by it again.

When I think about those of you—OtherPenny and Cathy and Patsy G come to mind first, but certainly not only—doing so much for your local groups, and then think about other groups struggling to get even ONE person to step up, I feel so frustrated.

But overall, I think it very well could be our own fault-not the fault of individuals, but the fault of a Mensa mindset we've allowed to develop over time.

I want to be especially careful about the ending of this column. When I say that sometimes we need to "get out of a chair," I absolutely do not mean that our longtime volunteers should step away. Quite the opposite. We desperately need their / your/our experience, institutional knowledge, commitment, and willingness to mentor the people coming behind us. I am profoundly grateful for the people who have kept groups functioning, sometimes almost single-handedly, when nobody else would do the work.

What I mean is that we (Mensa) have to make it easier for someone new to pull up a chair beside us and then resist the temptation to tell them exactly how they must sit in it.

We can't ask people to step up and then make them feel that every position is already owned, every tradition is untouchable, or every new idea must first pass the "we tried that once" test.

At the same time, we can't expect exhausted longtime volunteers to simply disappear and hope somebody magically takes over. We need both: the people who know where we've been and the people who may see possibilities for where we could go next.

That's the spirit in which I wrote this. It's not a criticism of the people doing the work. It's a challenge to all of us—including me—to think about whether we're creating organizations that people actually feel invited to help shape.

And to those of you who keep showing up, month after month, when it would be much easier not to: thank you. Please don't interpret “get out of a chair” as “go home.” We clearly, desperately, need you at the table.
We may just need to scoot over a little.

THE XLV CALIBER RG *by Karen Brack*

Hello, Mensans! If you've been around for a while, you're probably aware of our biggest event in NTM. If you are a newer member, this may be news to you. Every November, over Thanksgiving weekend, NTM hosts its annual Regional Gathering (RG).
After (or instead of) the holiday dinner, Mensans and their guests start converging on our home for the rest of the weekend. This year, that home away from home is The Holiday Inn Express on LBJ near Preston Road.
The RG is a weekend of games, tastings, speakers, food, drinks, tournaments, entertainment and whatever else we can come up with. But it is so much more than that. It's the special camaraderie, conversations and — for better or worse — humor that we only get to experience in the company of our fellow Mensans.
There is a Registration Form in this M-Aura that you can use to sign up. Register early to save money! There are also information and a registration form on our website: **https://www.northtexasmensa.org/rg_event/**. And keep your eye on **https://www.northtexasmensa.org/index.php/rg-events/rg-news** for updated news about the RG and developments. You'll see we need volunteers to make this event happen. Check out the list online. You might find something suited to your abilities and talents. News and information will also be posted on the Facebook groups for NTM and Region 6, so there are many ways to keep current with RG developments.
If you want more information, or see a way that you can add to the RG, please contact me. I am looking forward to hearing from you.
Karen Brack —**North Texas Mensa RG Chair**
kwbrack18@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SEP 2026		**01** 7 pm Beer Garden	**02** 1 pm VDG	**03** 1 pm Lunch Group 7:30 pm NTM Board Meeting	**04** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**05** 1 pm VDG
06 12:30 pm GY book club	**07** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**08** 10:30 am R&I Dallas Aquarium 7 pm Beer Garden	**09** 1 pm VDG 9 pm *M-Aura* Calendar Deadline	**10** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM 9 pm *M-Aura* All-Copy Deadline	**11** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**12** 9:30 am Mensa Testing 1 pm VDG 7 pm Singles Chat 'n Chew **New Time!**
13 2 pm Bright Ladies SIG	**14** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**15** 7 pm Beer Garden	**16** 1 pm VDG	**17** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**18** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch 7 pm Texas Hold 'Em	**19** 1 pm VDG **5 pm General Meeting** 4 pm Small Group Mtg
20	**21** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**22** 1 pm R&I Lunch 7 pm Beer Garden	**23** 1 pm VDG	**24** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**25** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**26** 9am-4pm GY Young Eagles 1 pm VDG 6:30 pm Games SIG
27 1:30 pm Eclectic Book Club 2:30 pm Theodore Talk	**28** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**29** 7 pm Beer Garden	**30** 1 pm VDG	OCT	NOV	DEC

~September 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

September Events

03 – THURSDAY

7:30PM - Board Meeting (First Thursday of the month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**: 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)

06 SUNDAY

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

08 TUESDAY

10:30 AM – Retired and Inspired Outing to the Dallas World Aquarium
Location: **Dallas World Aquarium** 1801 Griffin St, Dallas 75202
From the cloud forest to the depths of the Orinoco, this zoo/aquarium has it all. Senior admission $28.95. Please RSVP to Cathy Allshouse at callshouse1@aol.com so we know who to expect. We may want to

meet up to drive there together to simplify parking.
Contact: **Cathy Allshouse:** callshouse1@aol.com

09 WEDNESDAY

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 THURSDAY

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)

12 SATURDAY

09:30—11:45 AM 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.
Contact: **Rebecca Raymond**: (ntmtesting@northtexasmensa.org)

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)

13 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)

18 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, September 18th. 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.

19 SATURDAY

5 PM – General Meeting: Developing a taste for Whiskey by Paul and Anne Whiteman

Location: **Discovery Village North Dallas**, 5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas, or **Zoom Video**: us06web.zoom.us/j/81692083286?pwd=UWFmMlVvRUpiazBZNldHcmxwSGpvZz09 Meeting ID: 816 9208 3286, Passcode: 448903

What's the difference between whiskey and whisky? Between whiskey and scotch? Between whiskey and rye? September's program for our General Meeting will be a presentation of the art of making whiskey. It will be at the same place, Discovery Village, but this month the meeting will start at 5:00 PM. Why the time change? The Happy Hour starts at 5:30 PM. This presentation will include samples of whiskey for your consumption. ALWAYS DRINK RESPONSIBLY! We will not serve enough to impair most people; however, you know your limits. While you are enjoying some libations, we will talk about how whiskey is made, what makes different whiskies taste different, and maybe a little history of the industry. If you like whiskey, you won't want to miss this. Even if you don't like whiskey, you're sure to enjoy the presentation.

Paul and Anne Whiteman will be presenting. Both are certified as Level I Whisky Sommeliers by the Wizard Academy in Austin, Texas.

Contact: **Cathy Allshouse, President**: (president@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

22 TUESDAY

1 PM – Retired and Inspired meet for lunch

Location: **Henks European Deli/Bakery**, 5811 Blackwell St., Dallas 75231

Let's celebrate the first day of Autumn! And the Equinox!

Contact: **Cathy Allshouse:** callshouse1@aol.com

26 SATURDAY

9 AM Gifted Youth Young Eagles

Location: **McKinney Airport**

1508 Industrial Blvd, McKinney, TX 75069 Gifted Youth "copiloting" small planes. All slots are currently taken.

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

6:30PM – Games SIG

Location: **Bill Rock's Home "The Rock Pile"**: 701 Victorian Drive, Allen, 75002

I 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.

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

27 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 *Blindsight* by Peter Watts. 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)

2:30 PM Theodore Talk: The title of the September Theodore Talk is "How to Communicate with Someone Who Disagrees with You". This virtual event will take place on Zoom September 27. In our highly polarized societies, chances are good that you have run across someone who disagrees with you. Whether you just want increased harmony or you want to get your views across despite the hostile terrain, both can be achieved with key communication strategies. Even people who are highly resistant to you and your ideas can lower their guard and embrace your information if you (a) identify which of the prevailing cognitive obstacles is behind an audience's resistance to your facts and (b) communicate in a way that targets the underlying reasons for the resistance (which are often not the same reasons your audience thinks are driving his/her/their resistance). This presentation will help you understand what is happening in the brain of someone who disagrees with you and will arm you with surprising (yet practical) strategies for persuading even the most averse audience and achieving better discussions and relations in the process.
Mensan Jenny Grant Rankin, PhD, has taught these strategies at Columbia University and the University of Cambridge, as well as in her books and Psychology Today online column, and while training federal agents, researchers, business executives, educators, and others on the best ways to share information.
Register for this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/yppyp84x
Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, as long as you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording

NOMCOM SLATE

The NTM Nominating Committee is pleased to proffer the following slate of candidates to be considered for election to the 2027 NTM Board of Directors:

President: Gunny Hartman
Vice President: Bill Rock
Secretary: Susan Hawthorne
Treasurer: Paul Whiteman

Board Member At Large:
Aaron Adair
Blair Brown
Robert "Bo" Hatridge
Matt Taylor

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

Our visit to the Western Currency Facility was interesting, as always. I learned that approximately sixty percent of US currency is circulating outside the country. Of course, there are eight countries that use the dollar as their own currency, which is part of the reason. I also learned that over 90% of the currency printed is used to replace worn out notes. From the web site you can learn odd things like the fact that in January the WCF only printed $1's and $100's.

In September we have a perennial favorite back—the Young Eagles flights are always popular. Our Young Eagles connection has flown off to Houston, so we are tagging along with a local EAA chapter and their event. For those that were not able to snag a spot this time, there are other YE events going on "semi nearby" this month, in Gainesville the week before and in Mineola the same day as our McKinney event. Slots open at the end of August for these other events.

I frequently have asked for ideas for events. One of our new parents in the group has taken me up on the request, and has sent me a list of new ideas to think about:

1. Public Speaking - Student Presentations (5–10 min)
2. Group Discussions / Debates
3. Chess Tournament
4. Logic & Puzzle Competition
5. Book Talk / Show & Tell
6. Coding with Scratch or Robotics
7. TED-Style Kids Talks
8. Math Olympiad Puzzle Hour
9. Mock Trial or Mock Parliament
10. Icebreaker or brain teaser

What I need from others is any input on which of these (or even others that are not on the list) are most interesting to our members. Send me your top two or three, and I'll work towards making the event happen in the near future.

2027 NTM Board Election Committee

The NTM BOD is pleased to announce the Election Committee for the 2027 BOD:

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

Election Code Excerpt

The Nominating Committee has identified a slate of candidates for the 2027 NTM Board, as published in this M-Aura. However, if you would like to run for a position on the NTM Board, here are some things you need to know as shown in excerpts out of the NTM Election Code for Candidates running for the 2027 NTM Board of Directors:

Section 2: Nomination Rules

Rule 1

Candidates must be members of North Texas Mensa in good standing, and listed as a member of North Texas Mensa in the most up-to-date membership list, to be eligible for nomination to office. No person shall be eligible for nomination to more than one office in this election. A member who has accepted appointment to the Nominating Committee or the Election Committee is not eligible for nomination to office in this election.

Rule 2

All nominations shall include a signed statement from the nominee expressing his/her willingness to be nominated and, if elected, to serve and discharge the duties of the office. The term "signed" is interpreted to include facsimile and email signatures.

Rule 3

A. The Nominating Committee will expeditiously send a Nomination Form to anyone upon request.

B. Additional nominations (other than from the Nominating Committee) may be made in writing to any member of the Election Committee prior to October 1. Such nominations shall be made and subscribed by three members in good standing of North Texas Mensa, other than the nominee.

Section 4: Candidates

Rule 1

Noncompliance with the provisions of the Bylaws, if not remedied, shall deny inclusion on the ballot.

Rule 2

Nominees are responsible for acquainting themselves with the rules

governing this election and complying with rules and deadlines thereof.

Rule 3

Each candidate may submit two statements: a written biographical statement not to exceed 100 words, and a written campaign statement not to exceed 150 words, as tallied by the word count feature of Microsoft Word. These election materials must be received by a member of the Election Committee not later than October 5. The Election Committee shall review these election materials. Each shall be cut from the point at which it exceeds the allowed word limit as determined by the word-count function of MS Word. No other changes shall be made. The Election Committee shall then forward the reviewed election materials to the Editor not later than October 10 for verbatim publication in the November M-Aura.

Rule 4

Nominees may advertise their candidacy as follows:

A. Nominees who submit election materials under Rule 3 authorize publication of this material in the M-Aura. The M-Aura shall not publish any materials advertising any individual's candidacy other than those forwarded by the Election Committee.

B. Nominees may make written request for a copy of the NTM membership list to be furnished by the Election Committee at the nominee's expense. Campaign literature may be mailed or emailed to the voters at the nominee's expense.

C. Each nominee may make a campaign statement, not to exceed three (3) minutes, at the November General Meeting.

D. Beyond these provisions, each nominee may distribute campaign material to eligible voters at their own expense.

Rule 5

Any candidate for office aggrieved by what the candidate considers an irregularity or defect in the election procedure may bring the matter to the attention of the Election Committee.

A. Complaints may be brought before the Election Committee. The Election Committee may, at its option, take the complaint under advisement for more timely disposition or may respond immediately.

B. Complaints made to the Election Committee should be as specific as possible, stating the particulars of the grievance and specific requests for remedial action. Complaints must be received by the Election Committee no later than 30 days following the election. These complaints shall be adjudicated within 14 days. Complaints made after the 30 days date must be made to the Board.

C. Appeal of Election Committee judgment must be made in writing to the Board. The appeal shall contain the original complaint, the response of the Election Committee, and other pertinent information. The appeal must be received by the Board not later than January 31.

2027 North Texas Mensa Board of Directors Election
Candidate Nominating Statement

As required under Section 5, of Article VI, ***Elections***, of the North Texas Mensa ("**NTM**") Bylaws, which Bylaws were adopted on January 6, 2026, I, _____, am a member in good standing of NTM, and hereby express my interest in nomination to the office of _____ on the **2027 NTM Board of Directors** and agree that if I am elected to such Office, that I shall serve and discharge the duties required thereunder to the best of my ability. Also provided below are the signatures of 3 NTM members who are in good standing of NTM and endorse me for this office.

_____
Signature

_____
Printed Name

_____
Date

_____
Signature 1

_____
Signature 2

_____
Signature 3

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! The following NTMers add another candle to the cake in September:
Michael Jarvis, Sally Fallis, Thomas Denton, John Parnell, Suzanne Wills, Catherine Fontaine, Gilbert Daniel, Jerry Bassett, Clif Bonner, James Goodnight, Howard LaGrone, Robert Hallam, Robert Frowe, Martin Mahony, Andrew Miller, Clifford McCarthy, Hannah Binti Mohd Zaman, Brett Wheeler, Mark Eitzen, Kristin Corr, Kirsten Faulder, Thomas Paholski, Steven Vazquez, Marisa Basso, Henson Rogers, Jessica Engster, Roger Durham, Benjamin Cohen, James Dobbs, Jeffrey Tarrant, Debra Hodges, Chris "double triple" Cree, Lisa Clark, Misty Simons, Michael Peters, James O'Reilly, Mary Turner, Kat "post trot" Walston, Bruce Zak

NORTH TEXAS MENSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Proceedings for August 6th, 2026

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:35PM by President Cathy Allshouse. Also present virtually were Vice-President Esther Bellah, Treasurer Paul Whiteman, Secretary Eric "Gunny" Hartman, and Board Member at Large Aaron Adair. Absent were BMALs Philip Tocci and Chuck Weis.

1. Reports: The following reports were given.

President – Cathy Allshouse … The next Board meeting will be September 3rd at 7:30PM via Zoom. Cathy encouraged anyone who spends any money on NTM events to seek reimbursement, especially since it helps future boards to have an accurate view of expenses. The Nominating Committee is working to get candidates and will likely contact the current board members about their intentions for next year, if they have not already. Election Committee members were sought. Three names were suggested whom Cathy will contact. Cathy is looking to start a SIG called "Retired & Inspired." There was discussion about somehow changing our electronic delivery of the newsletter. Presently, members receive an email with a link to the M-Aura. A more web/email friendly option, whereby people wouldn't need to click or go anywhere to read the newsletter, might get more people to read it and know about our events. Cathy encouraged everyone to talk up the general meetings, in particular, when around other Mensans.

Vice-President – Esther Bellah … "Not an official group yet, but the Mensa Night Out event was held on July 30! Five members and two guests attended and two more connected to join in the future. They all expressed a great appreciation for the event and strong desire to continue meeting." (August 29th is being planned for a Karaoke bar for the next Mensa Night Out.) "We had two folks travel all the way from the Fort Worth group to attend the event! Hope to see it keep growing!" The September event will be Oktoberfest in Addison.

Secretary – Gunny Hartman … July minutes were distributed via email and accepted without modification.

Treasurer – Paul Whiteman … At the end of July, NTM had $11,547.00 in checking, a note receivable for $10,000, and $15,398.30 in savings, for a total of $36,945.30. The RG account balance is $1,500. Budget vs. Actual was shared

with an observation that the budgeted item for Member Parties is incorrect. It should be $2,000. Paul will correct that.

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

Gifted Youth – Bill Rock … "Disassembly day is set for Sunday. September event will be Young Eagles, but right now I am unable to find anyone that wants money for gas. I would still like a formal voted-on motion to give me permission to spend the money, should I be able to convince someone to take it."

Editor – Bill Rock … "September issue will have an extra sheet for election materials (bylaws excerpt, nomination form). Could possibly have additional page if RG registration is to be bound in."

Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond … "We had 3 testers at our August test - next test is September 12. We've had some issues with our testing email - backup gmail is live but we're still trying to figure out where to go next as far as retaining our current mailbox or trying to pivot to a mailing service & a gmail account (currently monitoring both). Hoping to have more to share next month."

Webmaster – Jonathan Bethune … Per Paul Whiteman, we had to renew our domain name registration as it had expired and it was in Paul's name. It's registered for another 5 years for about $270. He's also made efforts to have it renewed before expiration in the future. Email forwarding was having difficulties, but those are being remedied. Jonathan will send an invoice for RG website work and for SiteGround hosting expenses.

Facebook – Collene Goldman … "Facebook working well. A Mah Jongg (American Mah Jongg) weekly game for beginners and intermediate players will be starting on Wednesday, October 14 in the early evenings. There's no commitment to play every week because there will be substitutes available." Anyone who is interested should text or email Collene. (Contact information is inside the back cover.)

Programs – VACANT … Per Cathy, "Attendance for July's meeting was very low--only 2 NTM members (both board members) showed up and a 3rd person joined virtually." On August 15th, at 2PM, Jonathan Bethune will address artificial intelligence. September 17, Paul Whiteman will speak regarding different whiskeys, including a tasting, in the evening. October 17 will be the New Members Party with a Halloween theme, at Mensan Barbara Guzak's house in Coppell. November will be the election.

Nominating Committee – Anne Whiteman … Laura Stuart, Anne Whiteman and Mitch McCarsky are the members. They will be contacting our membership in several ways to determine interest. Anne joined the Zoom meeting and asked for suggestions for candidates and asked those on the Zoom call of their interest and/or intentions.

RG – Karen Brack … Paul Whiteman will be the RG treasurer. Cathy Allshouse will be the registrar. Hospitality has been broken into three roles, with other such areas broken up as well, to minimize the burden on any one person. There's a desire to get some new workers for the RG. Karen will use the roster of attendees from the past two years to solicit helpers. Semi-related to NTM, the 2027 North Texas Irish Festival is moving to the North Texas Fairgrounds (March 13-14).

2. Actions:

A motion to approve up to $150 for Young Eagles expenses for gifted youth was made by Gunny Hartman, seconded by Esther Bellah, and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

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:

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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
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Calendar Chair—Open

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RG Chair
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Volunteers Coordinator—Open

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Marketing Chair—Open

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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

Freedom
250

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 Click here to 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!!

Tastings!
TBA!

**More details coming soon! **

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 **NTMRG**
☐ 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”