

**Editor****Hello, My Fellow Mensans**

Welcome to new and returning Permian Basin Members.

We had a really good time at the First Thursday Lunch is a meet and greet for new, returning, and move in members. All members are also welcome. We are looking forward to hearing your views, any suggestions you have for programs, complaints, and answer questions,

I am disabled. I do what I can for My Family: Mensa. I apologize for missing PerMensas. It is also why we cannot host meetings. I find an extra need to ask my family, Permian Basin Mensans for help.

How about a Movie Night? We could meet at a local theatre or a member's house, pop some popcorn and groan, cry, or laugh together. How about workouts, we could bike, walk, swim, or sweat together in a gym. Has anyone tried a Poetry or Book Night? Call me or Robert, please; 432-570-6209, 432-889-6858 or 432-260-4002.

Volunteer Opportunities abound for the right person. Get your name in before the position you want is taken by someone else.

We have a winner! Congratulations to (your name could be here) in the PerMensa Error-Finding Contest.

Thank You,

**Shirley Volkman**

**Loc-Sec Speaks**

We Three Mensans escaped the Mystery Chamber on December 2, 2017!

It was the first experience of an escape room for all three of us. The experience is intense as each person is working on clues from clue books, mysterious wall writings, lock boxes, foot prints, and hidden latches. Each person has her own personal focus and strengths for finding clues and solving challenges. Searching has to be balanced with occasional quick meetings of the team to bust past mental stuck places.

I was surprised by the intensity of our mental focus. I enjoyed working with my team members and learned to appreciate their different styles of puzzle solving.

We did the "Last Chance" <http://www.mysterychambermidland.com/>

You pay \$5 per person, Permian Basin Mensa pays the rest.

Let me know when you want to do Royal Quest. We'll join you!

**Robert**

Dear Mensa friends,

Shirley is back! Out of the hospital. We have a PerMensa again.

The second Escape Room adventure on January 13, 2017 was fun. It was intense. It was challenging. It was crazy. I was fortunate to have five other Mensans with me. Otherwise I would have died before escaping.

I look forward to dining with you, seeing you at a program, or being rescued by you from the bizarre dangers of an Escape Room.

**Robert**

**Loc-Sec Speaks**

Fellow Mensans!

I enjoy meeting new and old Mensans at our Dine-Outs and programs.

Last month we had the opportunity to learn about life on a remote Texas ranch during the 1930's. Our member Nellie Fields grew up on a ranch located south of Stanton and Big Spring during the hard times of the Depression. She remembers many things when questioned! I wish we had a recording setup for her reminiscences. Especially because I am racking my brain to share with you some of the things she told us.

Ok. Here's one. Nellie, being a girl, was not allowed to ride the horses. Her brother could. He had all the fun! But riding was too dangerous for girls.

Nellie did get to work in the garden. The garden was extensive and important to provide variety for the family diet.

I want to hear your story too.

**Robert**

**RVC November 2017**

I distinctly remember a moment at a Regional Gathering a few months ago. A member who had only ever participated online was attending his very first event. He and I had been friends for a long time through various Mensa Facebook groups, and I had been encouraging him to attend an event. It was only a few hours into the RG, but this member could not stop smiling. He looked over at me and said, "This. This is Mensa."

I was recently asked to answer some questions about my history in Mensa and it made me get a bit nostalgic. Mensa frequently holds a special place in the hearts of its members. Many members have stories about what Mensa means to them like the one I just shared. In fact, we often have so many stories that it's hard to pinpoint exactly what it is that makes Mensa important to us. It can be challenging, especially when you are trying to perfect an "elevator pitch." However, that pitch is exactly what I hope you will all try to perfect.

Mensa's value to its members is key to our growth as an organization. Every member of our organization has the opportunity to be a brand ambassador. You can share your experiences with your friends and family. I have often heard members describe Mensa as their "tribe." Many have said that the connections made through Mensa make this organization their family of choice. So why not choose some of your other friends to join that family?

In October, the Mensa Voucher Program was rolled out. All members with an email address on file with the office should have received an individual code that can be used for one free proctored test session or one free review of prior evidence to qualify for Mensa. This is a fantastic way for you to be that brand ambassador. Rather than simply throwing an open call on Facebook to whomever responds first, I would suggest that you think of a specific friend or family member. Share your code and your stories with that person. They will begin to feel their own connection to Mensa even before they take the test.

At the end of this month, North Texas Mensa is holding their annual Feast of Pleasures and Delights. This RG is yet another opportunity to spend some time with that family of choice. NTM always rolls out the red carpet and welcomes members from around Region 6 over Thanksgiving weekend. You can find more details and register online at <http://bit.ly/2hRVF48>. I hope that I will see many of you there.

As always, I ask that if you have any questions, concerns, or general comments, please let me know. I have created a simple online form where members can offer feedback on any topic, both by name or anonymously. You can find this form at <http://tinyurl.com/AML-R6-Feedback>. Of course, if you prefer, you can always contact me via email at [rvc6@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc6@us.mensa.org), phone at 512-779-3945, or snail mail at 10518 Horseshoe Bend Dr, Houston, TX 77064.

Taz Criss

### Taz Talks - RVC Column - December 2017

Another year is coming to a close, and many members and groups are looking at transitions. This is true at the national level as well, as the longtime Executive Director of American Mensa, Pam Donahoo, has moved on to a new opportunity after 20 years with the organization. I certainly wish her well on her new endeavors, and I am excited to see the opportunities for change and growth within Mensa going forward. The American Mensa Committee (AMC) has appointed Trevor Mitchell, a current member of our National Office staff, to the role of Acting Executive Director. A transition team, made up of five members of the AMC, has been charged with the task of reviewing our next steps to fill the role on a permanent basis. They will make a recommendation to the entire AMC during the December meeting.

Speaking of the December meeting – you're all invited! The AMC will hold its quarterly meeting on Friday, December 1 and Saturday, December 2 in Houston at the Doubletree Intercontinental. All members of American Mensa can attend the meeting to see the AMC in action. On the evening of Saturday, December 2,

### Taz Talks - RVC Column - December 2017 (continued)

Gulf Coast Mensa will hold its annual holiday party, featuring Annise Parker, former Mayor of Houston, as the keynote speaker. Members and guests are \$30 per person. You can register online at <http://bit.ly/2hvmUP2>. If you are traveling to attend the event from out of town, or simply want to ensure that you won't have to make a late drive home, you can reserve a room at the Doubletree for only \$89. Reservations can be made online at <http://bit.ly/2zEcpDN>.

December is also the time that people make charitable donations. If you have not yet found your worthy cause, I would ask you to consider donating to the Mensa Foundation. The Foundation awards tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships each year, as well as providing funding for many gifted youth programs and educational efforts. Your donations to the Mensa Foundation are tax-deductible. More information and an online donation form can be found at [www.mensafoundation.org](http://www.mensafoundation.org). You can also call the office at 817-607-0060 ext. 199 and speak to a staff member if you have questions or prefer not to donate online.

During the hustle and bustle of this month, I encourage you to take the time to attend a local Mensa event. Growing up in this organization, I have repeatedly found kindred spirits and some of the most fascinating people through conversations with my fellow members. It is my personal experience that the connections with fellow members are largely rewarding. So go forth and enjoy the top benefit of membership in this fantastic organization – other Mensans.

As always, I ask that if you have any questions, concerns, or general comments, please let me know. I have created a simple online form where members can offer feedback on any topic, both by name or anonymously. You can find this form at <http://tinyurl.com/AML-R6-Feedback>. Of course, if you prefer, you can always contact me via email at [rvc6@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc6@us.mensa.org), phone at 512-779-3945, or snail mail at 10518

Horseshoe Bend Dr, Houston, TX 77064.

I wish all of you a very happy new year.

Taz Criss

**Permian Basin Mensa Events January 2018**

**First and Third Thursday Lunch**

Thursday, January 4 & 18, 2018, 12 noon

Grand Buffet (Chinese)

2510 W. Louisiana Ave., Midland, Texas, (432) 688-8881

**Dine-Out in Midland, Texas**

Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 7:00PM

Candilijas Restaurant, 701 S. Marienfeld St., Midland, Texas 79701, (432) 704-5516

**Escape Room Challenge: The Royal Quest**

Saturday, January 13, 2018, afternoon

Call LocSec for starting time 432-889-6858, Mensa team will take the Mystery Room challenge  
702 Andrews Highway, Midland, Texas 79701

**Executive Committee Meeting**

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 1:00 PM

Home of Robert and Shirley Volkmann, 1302 West Indiana Ave., Midland, Texas 79701

All members welcome to attend, (432) 688-8881

**Permian Basin Mensa Events January 2018 (Continued)****Dine-Out in Odessa**

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 7:00 PM

Mi Piaci Italian Restaurant, 2607 North Grandview Avenue, Odessa, TX 79761-1607, (432) 362-8060

**First Thursday Lunch**

Thursday, February 1, 12 noon

Grand Buffet (Chinese)

2510 W. Louisiana Ave., Midland, Texas, (432) 688-8881

**Dine-Out in Midland**

Friday, February 2, 2018, 7:00 PM

Empty Bowls at Trinity School, Fundraiser for West Texas Food Bank

3500 W Wadley Ave, Midland, TX 79707, Attendees purchase handcrafted bowls and enjoys soup for dinner

**Dine-Out in Odessa**

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 7:00 PM

Barn Door Restaurant and Steakhouse, 2140 Andrews Highway, Odessa, Texas 79761

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

**Executive Committee:** Patti King, Mark McDonald, David Nichols, Robert Volkmann, and Shirley Volkmann.

**APPOINTED OFFICERS**

**Local Secretary:** Robert Volkmann (432) 570-6209; cell (432) 889-6858

**Treasurer:** Mark McDonald (432) 697-0358

**Editor:** Shirley Volkmann (432) 570-6209

**Scholarship Chair:** Mark McDonald (432) 697-0358

**Program Chair:** Open

**Bylaws Revision:** David Nichols

**Dining Out Chair:** Shirley C. Volkmann, (432) 570-6209

**Membership Chair:** Shirley C. Volkmann, (432) 570-6209

**Gifted Youth Chair:** Shirley C. Volkmann, (432) 570-6209

**Elections Chair:** Stephen Holmquest (432) 260-5388, PO Box 52990, Midland, Texas 79710-2990

**Testing Coordinator:** Robert Volkmann (432) 570-6209; cell (432) 889-5868, Testing fee \$40.00

**Proctors:** Dr. Ed Rowland, (432) 638-2781, Odessa, Robert Volkmann, Midland. (432) 570-6209; cell (432) 889-5868

**Ombudsperson:** Dr. Ed Rowland, (432) 638-2781, Odessa.

**SIGHT Coordinator:** Open

**Web Master:** David Nichols

**AREA COORDINATORS**

**San Angelo Coordinator:** Dennis Hein, (325) 224-8186

**Abilene Coordinator:** Ryan Brooks

**REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

**RVC (Regional Vice Chair) Region 6:** Taz Criss, [RVC6@mensa.org](mailto:RVC6@mensa.org).

## First Class Mail

Postmaster - If undeliverable, return to:  
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Editor is responsible for any unattributed material in the PerMensa.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th day of the month preceding the month of publication. PerMensa advertising rates, per issue, for members of Permian Basin Mensa: Business Card (2x2.5 in) \$5; quarter page - \$10; half - \$18; full page - \$35. Rate for non members are double.

Mensa is an international organization for which the sole membership qualification is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standardized IQ tests. Mensa is a nonprofit organization which exists as a means of assembly and communication for its members.

Mensa has no opinions, nor political or religious affiliations.

PerMensa

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Contact: (432) 889-6858

### MEETINGS, LUNCHESES, DINE-OUTS

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#### **0Escape Room Challenge: The Royal Quest**

Saturday, January 13, 2018, Call LocSec for starting time 432-889-6858, Mensa team will

take the Mystery Room challenge

702 Andrews Highway, Midland, Texas 79701

#### **Third Thursday Lunch**

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 12 noon

Grand Buffet (Chinese), 2510 W. Louisiana Ave., Midland, Texas 79701

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 1:00 PM

Home of Robert and Shirley Volkmann, 1302 West Indiana Ave., Midland, Texas 79701, All members welcome to attend, (432) 688-8881

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