

Editor**Hello, My Fellow Mensans**

Welcome to new and returning Permian Basin Members.

How about a Movie Night? We could meet at a member's house, pop some popcorn and groan, cry, or laugh together; or we could walk, swim, or sweat together. 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 Volkmann

Permian Basin Mensa September 2017 Events**First Thursday Lunch**

Thursday, September 7, 2017, 12 noon

Little Hunan Restaurant (Chinese)

3102 West Cuthbert, Midland, Texas 79701, 432-262-2223

Dine-out in Odessa, Texas

Friday, September 15, 2017, 5:00 PM (note earlier time!)

Taste of India Restaurant

3001 E. Business Loop 20 (inside Ramada Inn), Odessa, Texas 79761, 432-332-4973

Mensa Games Afternoon at Astral Castle

Saturday, September 16, 2017, from 2-4:30 PM

Astral Castle Games Room

10 Meta Drive, Midland, Texas 79701

(in the strip mall at the northwest corner of Wall St. and Andrews Hwy.)

Bring your favorite game. We will have "Snake Oil" and others.

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Thursday, September 21, 2017, 12 noon

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Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 7:00 PM

Rue 432 - Cajun Bistro (Cajun & American cuisine)

106 S. A St., Midland, Texas 79701, 432-218-7542

Dine-out in Odessa

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 7:00 PM

Barn Door Restaurant and Steakhouse

2140 Andrews Highway, Odessa, Texas 79761, 432-337-4142

Book Notes

[LEVEL 4] Virus Hunters of the CDC

Joseph B. McCormick, M.D.

Susan Fisher-Hoch, M.D.

With Leslie Alan Horvitz

Published in 1996, updated in 1999, published by Barnes & Noble, it was primarily written after the first Ebola outbreak and before the current outbreak (2013-14), but addresses earlier outbreaks, and less well known diseases like Lassa and Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic fevers also. The book addresses the efforts the authors and some others had to exert to primarily identify various outbreaks of hemorrhagic fevers and other illnesses in Africa and elsewhere over the years. Exactly what disease they were dealing with was a primary concern, and some of the hemorrhagic fevers imitate less lethal diseases early on. Ebola for example can be confused with malaria in it earliest stages.

It is rather an eclectic collection of situations and efforts but interesting none the less. Several tales of the efforts the virus hunters had to go through to get laboratory “facilities” to obtain, maintain, store, and ship specimens to get testing done at the CDC and elsewhere. For example, how do you refrigerate specimens when the electrical system is not working? Simple, you have to fix it yourself or find some enterprising individual to fix it for you. Many facilities so prevalent here in the U.S. were simply non-existent in parts of Africa.

Many of their locations were not readily accessible by road or air. Some of the “roads” were tracks only in a sparsely settled countryside and if there was no way to get there by road there was often a small nearby airstrip. On one trip by air, the crew of the airplane was not a bit enthused about flying into Ebola country. They landed at a small strip and the crew, never opening their outside doors or any windows, simply shoved them out the cargo hatch, slammed the hatch shut, and immediately took off again for fear they would get Ebola by simply getting to close to anyone at the airstrip.

The authors often addressed the issue of medical care in the Ebola regions. They noted that the doctors and nurses were often very good, but were hampered by a lack of hospital beds, staff, and supplies. There were often too many patients for them to deal with and could do nothing for many of them. In one small area, Ebola was spread by contaminated syringes as the clinic only had 4 syringes and they reused them. The authors also noted that many of the rural people often did not seek medical care in the cities as they feared the hospitals and doctors themselves would cause Ebola.

The book contains 36 chapters and a few appendices. It may be read therefore in small stages as each chapter is a story unto itself. It is a stark reminder that humans in the developing world face dangers that we in the industrialized world do not often face, as we see almost daily with the news from west Africa and Ebola. The book is an easy read and quite interesting if you are interested epidemics and the like, as am I. Our deadliest foes are often seen only under a microscope and they can wreak havoc.

Sue T. Reid, Midland, Texas October 27, 2014

(Thank You, Sue! Great report and now I have got to read this book. I send many hugs to you and yours.)

RVC Report July 2017

September marks the opening of the Mensa Foundation scholarship program. Scholarships are available to anyone who is attending an accredited educational institution, whether or not they are a member of Mensa. Scholarship awards from the Foundation are based solely on the applicants' essays. There is no consideration given to grades or financial need.

I hope that you will consider donating to the Foundation, either with a financial gift or a gift of time. The scholarship program relies on hundreds of volunteers who judge the thousands of essays that are submitting each year. Carla Young is serving as the Regional Scholarship Chair for Region 6 again this year. If you are interested in judging essays at the regional level, please reach out to her at scholarships@region6.us.mensa.org. You can learn more about the Foundation (and make a contribution) at www.mensafoundation.org.

One of the charges of the national Membership Committee is to review potential member benefits and determine what new benefits may be added to our offerings. One of the newest opportunities is called Rated M – The Mensa Marketing Research Panel. Members have the opportunity to participate in surveys and be compensated for each survey in which they participate. If you are interested, head over to <http://tinyurl.com/RatedMensa>.

In addition to more traditional benefits, we have two exciting partnerships that we believe will be a great opportunity for both entertainment and public awareness of Mensa. American Mensa and Mensa Canada recently entered into a partnership with Skyhorse Publishing to produce many game and puzzle books over the next four years. The first offering is expected to be available in November, so keep an eye out for it as you begin your holiday shopping list.

The second partnership is a global partnership with Hasbro. Several classic children's games have been re-released by Hasbro this summer, featuring the Mensa for Kids logo and a short list of what skills the game is designed to teach through play. It is expected that this partnership will continue to expand beyond the first four games (Perfection, Mouse Trap, Downspin, and Cranium Sculpt It), all of which are currently available at toy retailers across the country and on Hasbro's website, www.HasbroToyShop.com.

Don't forget about the two Regional Gatherings that will be held in the next few months. LonestarRG, hosted by Lone Star Mensa, will be held over Labor Day weekend at the Wingate Hotel in Round Rock, TX. You can find program details and register online at <http://bit.ly/2vtFCfW>.

North Texas Mensa will again hold The Feast of Pleasures and Delights over Thanksgiving weekend. This RG will be held at the Addison Marriott Quorum by the Galleria in Dallas, TX. Further details are available on NTM's website at <http://bit.ly/2hRVF48>.

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 or phone at 512-779-3945.

Taz Criss

Permian Basin Mensa Executive Meeting Minutes June 15, 2017– 2:00 PM

Home of Robert & Shirley Volkmann, 1302 West Indiana Avenue, Midland, Texas 79701

Call to order: 2:03 PM

Roll Call - David Nichols, Robert Volkmann, Shirley Volkmann, Mark McDonald (present, via telephone).
(Patti King, absent, due to funeral of relative)

Minutes of April 29, 2017 meeting approved. Nichols moved. passes 4/0.

Local Secretary – Robert: reports that Ryan Brooks has returned to Abilene. Robert recommends that Ryan be reappointed Abilene coordinator. Mark moves that all appointed officers be reappointed. Passes 4/0.

Testing Coordinator – Robert: we have test sessions scheduled for the next two weekends at the Centennial library in Midland.

Acting Program Chair – Robert: Requests authorization for hotel reimbursement for proposed program in Abilene. David moves, "up to \$200 reimbursement to Robert is authorized for a proposed Abilene program." Passes 3/0/1. (Robert abstains from voting). Prospect tool is active!

Treasurer – Mark: No major expenditures. Mark is not at his office so he cannot present a detailed report to this meeting.

Scholarship Chair—Mark: no report

Newsletter Editor – Shirley: requests book reports for PerMensa. Working on Libre Office/Open Office version of PerMensa.

Membership Officer & Children's Coordinator– Shirley: Do something with Minecraft for children?

Dine-out Chair – Shirley: Several dine-out places discussed.

Webmaster – David: Change "Webperson" to "Webmaster". David requests permission to go "mobile first" on the website as current best practice. Robert moves. Passes 4/0

Ombudsman – Ed Rowland: No report

Bylaws Review Chair – David & Robert: No report

Area Coordinators – Dennis Hein

Old Business

New Business

Next Meeting - October 21, 2017, 1:00 PM

Adjourn: David moves, 4/0, 2:35 PM

(These minutes are preliminary as they have not been approved as of September 2, 2017)

Signed, Robert G. Volkmann

LOC-SEC Speaks

Hello fellow Mensans!

This month's stamp is the "Total Eclipse of the Sun." This stamp is heat sensitive. Cold: It is opaque black. Warm: It shows a photo of Earth's moon.

I, and a couple of other members and guests, had a blast playing "Snake Oil" at our games afternoon in July. Repeat! September 16. "Snake Oil", and more.

Do you want to escape from the Mystery Chamber in Midland? There are two challenges: 1. Royal Quest, and 2. Last Chance (www.MysteryChamberMidland.com)

Let me know if you are interested in confronting the challenge. It should be even more fun with a group of Mensans and guests to solve the puzzle. We'll set a date.

Social Events are attractive for many of our members.

For some members social events are stressful, not fun. For these members Mensa offers Special Interest Groups for a less socially confrontational experience. If you prefer less socially demanding activities that's OK!

Let me know how Permian Basin Mensa can help you get what you need.

Robert

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: Open

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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

First Class Mail

Postmaster - If undeliverable, return to:
American Mensa, Ltd.,
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006

PerMensa is the official publication of Permian Basin Mensa. The subscription cost is included as part of the annual dues of American Mensa, Ltd. Subscription cost for members is \$10 /yr and for non-members is \$12/yr. Opinions expressed in PerMensa are the opinions of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the editor, the officers and directors of Permian Basin Mensa, or of American Mensa, Ltd. The editor reserves the right to edit published material.

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.



September 2017

Volume XXXIV Number 9

Contact: (432) 889-6858

MEETINGS, LUNCHESS, DINE-OUTS

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