

NTM – North Texas Mensa
A local Group of
American Mensa Ltd
A NY Not-for-profit corporation

Board Meeting for November 20, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:12PM by Aaron Adair.

Present: President Aaron Adair, Vice-President Collene Goldman, Secretary Eric “Gunny” Hartman, Treasurer Paul Whiteman, and Board Members at Large Cathy Allshouse and Leza Mesiah.

Absent: Hutton Kinder

1. Reports

President – Aaron Adair noted that the next Board Meeting would be December 18, 2022 at 6PM at Five Star Premier Residences: 5455 La Sierra Dr, Dallas, TX 75231

Vice-President – Collene Goldman ... Vice-President has nothing to report.

Secretary – Eric “Gunny” Hartman ... The October 2022 Minutes, which were distributed by email and in person, were approved by unanimous assent.

Treasurer – Paul Whiteman ... The treasurer's report for October is as follows: “Bank accounts (as of Oct 31, 2022): Checking: \$9,334.98, Savings: \$14,028.94, Loan to Scholarship Foundation: \$10,000. Total net worth: \$33,363.92. This is an increase \$665.62 from August. A postage payment is now due. Val Beasley estimates that current postage is approximately \$190 per month.” Paul will get those paid, to Val which will be reflected in next month’s report. The storage fee has gone up to \$149 per month. We may look around, but may not find anything cheaper. The M-Aura costs us about \$700 per month.

Membership – Jeffrey Bromberger ... Numbers in parenthesis are last month’s numbers. As of Nov 20, Total Membership is 1163 (1142). Those members are 1134 Primary (1113), 267 Life (266), and 29 Additional (29). As of Oct 31, we have 12 new members (9), with 4 being new people (0), 7 rejoining (4), and 1 move-in (5). We have one renewal (1) and 19 prospects (11), with 7 having shown interest (0), 7 via practice test (8), 3 via testing voucher (2), 2 via prior evidence (0), and 0 via private testing (1). Some uncommon areas for prospects include Mineola, Troup, and Naples. Our three largest demographics by generation are Gen X, born 1961-1981, (31.5%), baby boom, born 1943-1960, (27.9%), and homeland, born 2001-2020, (22.9%) respectively.

Ombudsman – Roger Durham ... Ombudsman has nothing to report.

Election Committee – Randy Brack ... Election committee is present and we will have an election for the general meeting. The PO Box will be open another 30 days in case there are any challenges..

(Mesiah) **Scholarship Chair** – Lauren Ogden ... nothing to report

(Mesiah) **Publisher/Circulation Manager** – Val Beasley ... no report

(Mesiah) **Social & Communications** – Jessica Helphrey ... no report

(Mesiah) **Publicity** – Vacant ... Collene offered kudos to our beloved president Aaron Adair for getting the group photo from our NTM outing to the Cowboy’s AT&T Stadium in the *Mensa Bulletin* that national publishes. From Leza Mesiah: “For the last couple months I’ve been talking with Brian Richardson who is the coordinator of student internships at North Texas. And he’d like to present an internship to a Mensa inclined student to help us in PR recruitment of more members with emphasis on Millennials & Generation Z. Spring Semester makes sense. He’s wanting more specifics & a flyer. I volunteered to be that liaison since I’ve done

similar things before. Any ideas, needs or suggestions welcomed. Since the last meeting, Jessica & I have also discussed recruitment of this position. Nothing finalized.”

(Allshouse) **Calendar** – Sara Hawkins ... No problems with online calendar.

(Allshouse) **Webmaster** – Andy McKellar ... Nothing special on the website, but if anyone else would like to do the job, he'd be happy to defer and/or perhaps work with someone, but that someone would need knowledge of internet security and our content management software, Joomla.

(Allshouse) **Testing Coordinator** – Rebecca Raymond ... “We tested 7 total in October and 2 in November. Our December test is scheduled for December 10th at the Carrollton library (Hebron & Josey). I'm anticipating a decline in testing due to the holiday season, but we'll continue to host at least one test monthly at rotating locations. Andy Essary is certified as a Proctor, bringing our active count to 5!”

(Allshouse) **Programs** – Cathy Allshouse ... Tonight the program is the election of NTM officers and NTM Scholarship Foundation officers. December is the party.

(Kinder) **Gifted Children** – Bill Rock ... “Book club and movie events happened in November. For December, Holiday craft event returns and book club reads *The Lonely Ghost*.”

(Kinder) **S.I.G.H.T.** – Gunny Hartman ... Nothing to report

(Kinder) **Editor** – Bill Rock ... “M-Aura went to print on the 17th. Likely mailing on the 23rd.”

(Kinder) **Regional Gathering** – Karen Brack ... She's looking into a one day event space.

2. Old Business

- New Members Party Update – Jeffrey Bromberger... After spending many weeks looking, there were 7 options for locations presented, with some being more exotic and expensive and some being more restrictive with regard to outside food and drink. After his presentation and discussion, Venture X Braniff Centre (Lovers Lane at Lemmon) seemed the best option, though it's \$250 per two hours minimum, but NTM has the ability to afford it. The lounge holds 100 (3900 sqft), has high speed internet, and has fun views of Love Field. The 2023 board will explore and assign someone to the task or get some one to help.
- Semper Servitium Nominations – Aaron Adair noted that Karen Brack was nominated for the Semper Servitium award. Paul Whiteman made a motion to that effect. Collene seconded. Motion passed unanimously and with great alacrity. She will be formally honored at our program in December.

3. New Business

- Gatherings Committee Report – Randy Brack, on behalf of the committee that also includes Karen Brack and Paul Whiteman ... A proposal was made to the board last month about how to garner revenue for the Regional Gathering (and potentially scholarships) through outside sources, getting companies to underwrite our events. Having “north of 40 RGs” between them, the Gatherings Committee did a SWOT analysis (i.e., Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Strengths of the proposal submitted: Shows out of the box thinking and gets people thinking about how to support an RG. Some weaknesses: Ambiguous and one could infer that NTM is an educational organization, which it is not, though it does do charitable work. Proposal fails to understand the scale of the event and lacks detail. Opportunities: Could raise significant cash and/or increase profile of NTM in business community. Threats: Deals and usage of logo and Mensa name must be coordinated through National marketing director. Committee Recommendations: The NTM Board should thank Leza Mesiah for being proactive in trying to secure funding for an RG, but should not go forward with this type of sponsorship. Karen mentioned that some companies might be willing to donate bags for participants or lanyards or other branded items, but scale would be limited to the point where getting a sponsorship seems unlikely. Paul questioned whether the amount of work would be worth it. Leza noted that her proposal was more of a “1st rough draft idea” to start thinking about such avenues to pursue as it seemed we didn't have enough money. She would run things by the board before contacting national. No action was taken at this time.

A motion to adjourn was made by Collene Goldman, for which Leza Mesiah offered a second. The motion passed without opposition. Meeting was adjourned at 7:09PM.