

Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
Region 1 RVC

Last night, I joined a bunch of local Mensans at a nearby bar to cheer on one of our own: Greater New York's Megan Williams was a contestant on *Jeopardy!*, and though she didn't win, she performed admirably. Way to go, Megan!

Have you or any members of your local group done something laudable? Let me know, so we can all celebrate with you.

Tomorrow, July 1st, I officially take office as our new Regional Vice Chairman (RVC). I'm looking forward to taking on those responsibilities with a mix of excitement and apprehension. In my corner, I know I have the counsel of my predecessor, Lisa Maxwell, and the rest of the American Mensa Committee (AMC). I also have the assistance of appointees and potential volunteers like you. The first two appointments I've already made are to reappoint Greg Draves as Regional Scholarship Chairman, and Matthew Grob as Regional Ombudsman. There are other positions for which I'll be seeking volunteers in the coming days and weeks, but Mensa is an active, ever-changing organization. So if you have an urge to get involved on a regional level, or have a suggestion for something we ought to be doing, please let me know.

You're reading this column deep in the summer doldrums (or the time of exciting outdoor activities, depending on your view of the seasons—I'm more of a cold-weather person), though I'm writing it a few days before traveling to Florida for the Annual Gathering (AG). I'll be working hard for most of the time there, but I expect to take some time out to have a little fun, meeting new friends, hanging out with old friends, and being overwhelmed by the feeling of two thousand Mensans in one hotel. If you've missed the AG (or even if you were there, and now need another intense dose of Mensa), I'm planning to attend Metro Washington Mensa's Pandemic Regional Gathering (RG), August 19-21 (<https://pandemicrg.wordpress.com/>). It's not in our region, but I had a very good time when I went last year. And a scant fortnight later, there's Mensa of Northeast New York's RechaRGe, September 1-3 (see <https://www.facebook.com/events/317046818648267/>). I'd been hearing good things about this RG for several years before finally attending for the first time last year. I'll certainly be back this year, and hope to see you there!

Hey, local groups: there's still room on the calendar, if you're itching to host your own RG. Our regulars include New Hampshire in February, Boston in May, Maine in June, Albany in September, and Boston again in November. A lot of Region 1 folk also trek to Central New Jersey in March. But that leaves a lot of the calendar open for your plans.

And if you're not ready to plan something huge like an RG, tell us what your group is doing on a local level. I know my local group has several versions of weekly and monthly dinners, games days, business discussions, bicycling events, trivia gatherings, speaker events, and more. Have you come up with something fascinating for your local group? Share it with me/us, so that others can try it, too.

And regardless of how frequently (or infrequently) your local group's newsletter appears, how often (or rarely) you can attend local events, there's 24-hour-a-day conversation going on in Mensa's various online fora (mostly centered on Facebook). If you're having trouble finding them, nudge me online for some pointers.

—Ian Randal Strock

917-755-6935
RVC1@us.mensa.org