

Region 1 Roundup  
by Ian Randal Strock  
Region 1 RVC  
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Following up last month's column, we've nearly finished dissolving Mensa of the Southern Tier and reassigning the 78 members there into surrounding local groups. It's a sad event, but ultimately will result in a better experience for those members.

Another sad event is that I'm currently dealing with one local group's board of directors. They're having problems because each of them wants what is best for Mensa, but their interpretations of their job responsibilities and how things ought to be done have been keeping them at each other's throats, rather than focusing their efforts on the members' experiences. I know it's difficult: we volunteer for these unpaid—but very taxing—jobs, and then we have to struggle to do what we said we would. But if we could just take a step back, and realize that the other person, too, is trying to do what's best for Mensa, it might make our tasks a little easier. And if coming to a detente is impossible, accepting each other without antagonizing each other can go a long way toward allowing us to get our work done.

But enough of the heaviness: this month also provided some (a lot) of the good things that Mensa brings. Early in the month, I attended RechaRGe, Mensa of Northeast New York's regional gathering. This is a smaller RG (in that the hotel doesn't provide a lot of room for speakers, and there's a much greater focus on games), but it's definitely a full-blown weekend of good times (including the fact that it runs an extra day, since they hold it over Labor Day weekend). Excellent meals on site, gaming until all hours of the late night, several fascinating speakers, and then twenty attendees couldn't let the weekend end, so we continued on to a nearby eatery for lunch before finally hitting the road. I met some new people, talked a bunch of business (there was both my RVC Rap Session and a leadership workshop led by Bill Zigo), and wondered once again why I was paying for a hotel room for the whole weekend, when I spent so few hours asleep.

In the middle of the month, I traveled to Texas to attend the AMC meeting at the national office (the meeting was held in a nearby hotel, but we also spent some time in the office: my first visit). This was the annual planning meeting, where we reviewed the five-year plan instituted by the previous administration and looked to the future. But it was also a great opportunity to finally get to know some of my fellow AMC members from around the country. The agenda for the board meeting was somewhat briefer than usual, but we did adopt a motion which closes a loophole for re-joining members accused of acts inimical who left the organization before charges could be brought.

Reviewing this column before finalizing it, it occurs to me that there is a recurrent theme: so many problems can be avoided if people simply talk to teach other as adults. If you have a problem with another member, discuss it with that person. If you can't, talk with the host or your local board of directors, and so on. Don't let it fester and escalate.

A suggestion: When you're publishing photos in your newsletter (and several groups do a great

job with publishing photos), remember to try to caption them. After you've seen three or four group shots from an event, they all start to look the same. But if you can caption them (tell the reader who we're looking at, what event, something), they become much more engaging.

Volunteers at all levels: LocSecs, editors, event coordinators, whatever it is you do for Mensa, please know that Mensa wouldn't be the same without you. But something to consider while you're doing your onerous unpaid job on behalf of Mensa: one of your key tasks, which is almost never written, is to find and train your successor. Whatever it is you're doing, you're not going to do it until the end of time, and one of the best legacies you can leave to Mensa is another volunteer, ready to step up and take over to do that job just as well as you've been doing it. Thanks for thinking about the future.

Repeating from last month: I write these columns every month, but some local groups don't publish a monthly newsletter, or may miss a month. If you're interested in a past column (mine, or my predecessors'), they're all (or will soon be) available on the Region 1 web site, [region1.us.mensa.org](http://region1.us.mensa.org). You can also look at other Region 1 newsletters. In fact, you can read those other newsletters on the Mensa web site (from the main [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org) web site, pull down the "Read" tab and click on "Local Group newsletters"), so you can check out other groups' calendars of events to expand your own Mensa horizons. And remember to keep up to date with the latest goings on in the region in Region 1's Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188180494045/>.

The upcoming Region 1 Regional Gathering is Boston Mensa's Wicked Good in Fitchburg, Massachusetts (October 27-29): see <https://rg.bostonmensa.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/events/310700256028655>

—Ian Randal Strock  
917-755-6935  
[RVC1@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC1@us.mensa.org)