

Region 1 Roundup  
by Ian Randal Strock  
Region 1 RVC  
(written November 1, 2017)

The big news this month comes from the national office: American Mensa's Executive Director Pam Donahoo announced her impending retirement from the society. After nearly 20 years on the job, she is leaving us in mid-November for a new challenge. Per our contingency plans, her assistant, Trevor Mitchell, will assume the duties of acting Executive Director. Trevor has been with Mensa for several years, knows the organization, and has the continuing support of all the very capable staff, who will be staying on. The AMC has appointed a transition committee to investigate our best next step, and that committee will be reporting to us at our December meeting.

Continuing a theme I mentioned last month, communication is key. I was recently discussing a local group's plans for the future with several members of that group's Board of Directors. It seemed that they were diametrically opposed in their views of what they ought to be doing. It was only after several long conversations that I was able to tease out the reasons for their differences: it wasn't obstinacy on either side. The issue was that each was reasoning from a different foundation of facts. And those facts weren't in conflict, it's just that neither side was looking at the whole picture. In short, when you find yourself in conflict with another member, or another group of members, don't assume it's an unsolvable argument. But try to explain why your view is what it is, and get the other side to do the same. You may find that you're both working with different parts of the same picture. And once you know each others' assumptions, then you can combine your efforts for the good of Mensa and your local group.

And on to good stuff: I've just returned from Boston Mensa's Wicked Good Regional Gathering. Just about as many people there as last year, some excellent program items, lots of good people and conversations, some fun activities (costume contest, trivia competition, puzzles, creative activities), a wonderful environment to bring the whole family... you start to get the idea that this is a wonderful RG, and it lived up to what I've come to expect from Boston Mensa.

At my RVC session at the RG, I had a request from a member that I ought to share with all of you. Bob Smith of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa commented that Region 1 used to be home to several other Regional Gatherings that have fallen by the wayside. He suggested that perhaps several local groups might pool their volunteers to form a truly regional RG (as opposed to each local group needing to fully staff an RG). If you or your group has any interest in participating in such an undertaking, let me know, and I'll connect you all to see if something can be done.

I've urged you before to read the newsletters from nearby local groups, to see if they're hosting activities in which you'll want to participate. Similarly (and this is especially for you editors in Region 1), do feel free to accept calendar entries from Mensa members outside your local group. Those additional events in your calendar can only add to the appeal of Mensa for your members, and it costs you nothing to have a calendar that will be that much more full. And remember, you can always access all of American Mensa's local groups' 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. 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 New Hampshire Mensa’s Silly Walks to the End of the Universe in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (February 16-18, 2018): see <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.php/> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/92543464390/>

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