

Region 1 Roundup  
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Much of what I would probably write about in this column will be happening in the next couple of days. I'm writing this a day early because tomorrow I'm leaving for Houston, Texas, and the AMC meeting this weekend. On the agenda are several appointments and presentations, as well as the report of the Transition Committee (which I mentioned last month) giving us guidance on how to proceed as we seek a new Executive Director for American Mensa.

Something new that will be appearing on our agenda is a discussion of Mensa success stories. Several of our National Representatives (the representatives of American Mensa on the International Board of Directors: our Chairman, First and Second Vice Chairmen, and Treasurer) are quite taken with this feature of the International Board meetings, in which members discuss successes they've had at home, so that others might emulate them. For future iterations, I urge you all to consider what has gone well in your local group, and please share it with me. The concept is to find things that have worked well, that have improved the Mensa experience for the members, and share those projects/efforts/successes with other groups that can copy—or even improve on—them.

News from around the Region: This month, I've granted a local group approval for a variance from their own bylaws. This is the second time I've had to do something like this since I took office in July. In neither case were the local groups in danger of falling apart, or acting in ways contrary to the continued health of the group or of Mensa. But I'm using the incidents to urge—in the strongest manner possible—that all local group officers and volunteers (especially those first taking office) make it your first priority to read (and understand) your local group's bylaws, along with any continuing resolutions, standing motions, or actions still in effect (whichever term your group uses). Secondly, it would be a good idea to familiarize yourself with the bylaws of American Mensa (which include the minimum standards bylaws that are automatically a part of every local group's bylaws). This also dovetails with a suggestion I made a few months ago: as you're reading through your bylaws, etc., make note of all the deadlines spelled out in them (deadline to appoint a nominating/election committee, month during which an annual business meeting must be held, requirement for an audit, and so on), and keep that calendar of deadlines handy as you transact your local group's business. Knowing what's coming in the next few months is much easier than scrambling about to catch up with a missed deadline.

Remember, the newsletters (and calendars) from your nearby local groups are available to you 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"), and I urge you to share your events with those surrounding groups' calendar editors. 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/>

And registration and hotel reservations are now open for next summer's Annual Gathering, in Indianapolis. For all the details, and to join American Mensa's big annual get-together, see <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>

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