

Region 1 Roundup  
by Ian Randal Strock  
Region 1 RVC  
(written December 31, 2017)

For their efforts testing potential new members, New Hampshire Mensa is one of the five local group Mensa Membership Month winners. Congratulations, New Hampshire Mensans!

At the AMC meeting in Houston, Texas, the beginning of December, our biggest issue was the transition from previous Executive Director. We received the Transition Committee's report, and spent half a day in discussions of what the committee learned and is suggesting, and decisions about our next steps. It's an important topic that should take some time: our last Executive Director was with the organization for twenty years. We are moving ahead with our search for a new Executive Director. Nothing has been decided yet, but our Acting Executive Director, Trevor Mitchell, does seem to have the support of the staff and knowledge of the organization, while still being relatively new to Mensa. It's an ongoing process that will take several months (as it should).

We also received four major reports: Second Vice Chairman Billie Lee discussed the implementation of the Higher Logic software package, which powers the new Mensa Connect online community. RVC6 Taz Criss gave a presentation on the new interactive leadership training project, which is shifting our training documents from printed handbooks to multiple series of online lessons. Membership Officer Henri Buccine-Schraeder discussed the results of the latest membership survey, which focused on internal and external communication and member participation. And Treasurer Deb Stone and Secretary Lisa Maxwell discussed the ASIE Project, which is attempting to codify, clarify, and clean up the all the motions passed by the AMC over the past several decades. We also discussed the process by which sites are selected for future AMC meetings and Mind Games competitions. At the moment, the Site Selection Committee is entertaining bids for the December 2018 and March 2019 AMC meetings, and I already know Greater New York Mensa is interested in bidding for one of them; it's a long time since the AMC met in the northeast.

Mid-Hudson's Bill Zigo, the recently appointed Coordinator of American Mensa's SIGHT program, is committed to bringing the program into the modern age, making it responsive to travelers and hosts, so that it can become a greater part of your Mensa experience. On December 12th, I participated in the program: a relatively new Mensan from Hong Kong contacted us via Facebook, and Sara London (the incoming President of Greater New York Mensa) took the lead in arranging a meeting in a Manhattan café. She reached out to me, and I was able to join them for an afternoon's coffee and discussion. And that's all it takes to be a good host: the willingness to meet with someone and talk with them. SIGHT hosts can do much more: act as a tour guide, offer sleeping space, whatever. But it doesn't have to be so complex. Consider extending that hand in greeting

to Mensans from outside the local area; it may help you expand your Mensa horizons, and make a new friend or two in the process.

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): see <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.php/> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/92543464390/>

And, though not in our region, Central New Jersey Mensa’s Snowball will take place in Iselin, New Jersey, on March 2–4. It’s a large, long-running RG that is remarkably close to many Region 1 members (the RG hotel is 28 miles from my house). Unfortunately, there won’t be any AMC members at the RG, because a scheduling mix-up has the AMC meeting in Denver that same weekend. But I urge you to travel to New Jersey for a weekend that’s always a good time.

And registration and hotel reservations are now open for next summer’s Annual Gathering, in Indianapolis. The cost of registration will be increasing on March 1st. For all the details, and to join American Mensa’s big annual get-together, see <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>

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

Glossary:

AMC: American Mensa Committee, the national board of directors

RVC: Regional Vice Chairman, a member of the AMC with responsibility for a specific region of American Mensa

Region 1: The northeast region of American Mensa, comprising New England, Northern New Jersey, and most of New York

ASIE: Actions Still In Effect, the resolutions adopted by the AMC, subsidiary to the bylaws

SIGHT: Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers