

Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
Region 1 RVC
(written January 29, 2018)

Mensa is the smart-people's club, so I have to ask: what did you do with your brain today?

A couple of local group issues have recently been dropped in my lap, and I can trace their causes to miscommunication and conflicting memories. When it's two people talking, always try to communicate clearly. But when it's your local group's Board of Directors/ExComm: minutes are very important. The minutes of your meetings are the official record of the actions your group has taken, they are history. Please make sure your secretary is properly recording the minutes. If you're using audio recording, it's easier to get an accurate account of what happened, but even hand-written minutes can work. In the two specific instances I was dealing with, there was some question of what the boards had done and how they could move forward. I asked for their minutes of the specific meetings under discussion, and what I received was unclear. Take a look at Robert's Rules of Order for a guide on preparing minutes, or look at the AMC meeting minutes as good examples (us.mensa.org, pull down the "Read" menu to "Board meeting reports," then select a meeting). They need to include each section of the agenda and any actions taken at that point. For motions (formal actions of the board, including spending money, appointing volunteers, and so forth), the precise wording of the motion is required, as well as the vote (number voting for, number voting against, and number abstaining from the vote). For groups with smaller boards, it may be easier to list each vote as a roll-call vote (name of each person voting each way). Please: minutes are important. While they are there for you, they are also for those of us who weren't at the meeting, but need to know what happened. Thanks!

In January, I sat in on the AMC Finance Committee's budget meeting, to get a better understanding of how we manage our organization's \$4.5 million budget. I'm hopeful for our future, especially under the capable (and fiscally conservative) hands of Treasurer Deb Stone, Chairman LaRae Bakerink, and the rest of the committee.

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 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/>

Upcoming Region 1 Regional Gatherings:

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/>

Maine Mensa's Fun & Games mini-RG in Portland, Maine (April 27-29): for more info, contact LocSec Anne Allen at durhamme@yahoo.com.

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
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