

Region 1 Roundup  
by Ian Randal Strock  
Region 1 RVC  
(written October 31, 2018)

Last month, I said the bulk of my Mensa efforts were an RG, a bit of national marketing, and pre-meeting discussions. This month is feeling somewhat repetitive on that score: In October, I attended an RG, participated in some national marketing, and engaged in several pre-meeting discussions. This time, however, there was also an actual AMC meeting.

In October, American Mensa's sponsorship of the NPR radio game show *Ask Me Another* continued. Two more of our five sponsored episodes taped nearby, and I and several members of Greater New York Mensa continued staffing the shows, offering promotional material and talking with audience members at the tapings. The guests at the two shows we attended were comedian Nick Kroll (on October 3), and comedian Ronny Chieng and actor Michael C. Hall (on October 15). Both those episodes should soon be available at <https://www.npr.org/programs/ask-me-another/>, or on your NPR radio station.

Late in the month, I attended Boston Mensa's Wicked Good Regional Gathering (at the Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg, Massachusetts). To me, this is an oddball RG, because the location is a resort hotel/water park. It's a great weekend for families (and there were a lot of children at the RG), but some long-time RG attendees may feel uncomfortable with this atypical location. Ignoring the water park, and focusing solely on the RG events (in our private convention space) is entirely possible (although this year, I found the water park a wonderful diversion). I had several Mensa business conversations with interested members, and the bulk of my RVC Chat session was taken up with a discussion of the agenda for the then-upcoming AMC meeting.

On October 30, the AMC held a nearly two-hour long telephonic meeting, the main purpose of which was to discuss six proposed amendments to the American Mensa Bylaws. We voted to send four of them to you, the members, on the ballot in next April's election. To my mind, three of those proposals are "housekeeping," while one carries major import. That big issue is a continuation of the conversations that started at the Annual Gathering, codifying methods of dealing with problem members. I'll be discussing the amendments (and my opinions of them) in greater detail as we near April, but if you're interested in the nitty-gritty right now, you can find the full text in the agenda for the meeting, which is available on the Mensa web site at [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org), click on "Read," scroll down to "Board meeting reports," and then select the meeting labeled "2018-10-30—Teleconference."

Since I'm discussing the upcoming election, this is also to note that AMC election season is upon us. The candidate petitioning window runs from December 1 to January 31, 2019 (and per an amendment adopted two election cycles back, all candidates for AMC positions are petition candidates; there is no nominating committee). Following that, all members who have paid their dues for the next year before March 31 will be eligible to vote between April 15 and May 15. I have already announced that I am seeking another term as your RVC, so my petition will be

available in early December.

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”). Also, if your group didn’t publish one of my columns, check out those newsletters; another group may have published it. 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 RG 2019: The Library at the End of the Universe in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (February 15–17). For more info, see <http://nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.php>.

Mid-Hudson Mensa’s Games Day: (May 4) at the Quality Inn & Suites in Fishkill, New York. For more info, contact Bill Hughes at [bill@blueskyballoons.com](mailto:bill@blueskyballoons.com).

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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

AG: American Mensa’s once-a-year five-day Annual Gathering, featuring the Annual Business Meeting, more than a hundred speakers, and more than a thousand Mensans.

RG: Regional Gathering: a weekend-long get-together hosted by a local group featuring speakers, games, events, and more with 100–400 of your closest friends you haven’t met yet.

ExCom: Executive Committee, in some groups known as Board of Directors: the members who have volunteered and been elected to take care of the day-to-day business of operation a local group. The local group version of the AMC.

LocSec: Local Secretary, aka president: the elected leader of a local group (the name comes from our British roots)

YM: Young Mensan: teenaged members and those younger

YAM: Young Adult Mensan: members in their 20s and 30s