

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

I'm writing this column a little later than usual, because today was the regularly scheduled AMC quarterly meeting, so I held off to report on the results of the meeting. The AMC meets quarterly to transact the business of American Mensa. But this was planned as a telephonic meeting, resulting in—I think—a somewhat abbreviated agenda. Nevertheless, we were productive. All four of the items of new business were passed (to my mind, three were simple house-keeping changes). The other one, however, was another step in our continuing efforts to make Mensa the organization we will all feel proud to belong to: it was a further clarification of an event host's rights to keep the atmosphere at in-person Mensa events friendly and welcoming. We also discussed the upcoming Mensa International election, with an eye toward nominating candidates for the ballot. To read the full agenda (and by the time this report appears, the mini-minutes), check out <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>.

In other November news, NPR taped the fifth of the five episodes of *Ask Me Another* that American Mensa sponsored. The guests were actor Dascha Polanco and comedian Mo Amer. Once again, I and your fellow Mensans from Greater New York Mensa were there, talking Mensa with audience members (potential new members) and having a great time. The episode is already posted (November 16) at <https://www.npr.org/programs/ask-me-another/>, or on your NPR radio station. I also gathered a few Mensans to attend San Diego member Richard Lederer's presentation at New York City's Hunter College, promoting his new book, which was a fun evening of word play. And then there was the local gathering welcoming a traveling Mensan from out of town (this was planned individually, but you can have the same kind of interesting interactions with Mensans from elsewhere by participating in SIGHT).

Today is also the first day of American Mensa petitioning season: the time when members offering to serve on the AMC seek signatures on a petition in order to qualify for the ballot (which will be distributed in April). Electronic petitions are available from December 1 until January 31 (and paper petitions have been circulating for several weeks). Full details, including the list of members seeking your signatures, are available at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2019-board-election/>. And last month, I announced that I'm seeking re-election as your RVC, so I'm asking for your signature on my petition (<http://www.us.mensa.org/petition?id=176>). I also urge you all to consider signing petitions for other candidates (there is no limit to the number of petitions you may sign).

I've been told that, from time to time, I seem to repeat myself from one month to the next (not the entirety of my column, but some parts). That's true. While many groups in our Region publish a monthly newsletter, and run my column in each issue (for which I thank you), not every local group publishes their newsletter monthly, and not every group that does runs my column every month. So if you are reading it each month, thank you for your tolerance. And if you're not, well, that's why I point out that 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://www.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 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.

—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

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)

SIGHT: the Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers
(<https://www.us.mensa.org/connect/sight/>)

YM: Young Mensan: teenaged members and those younger

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