

1Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
Region 1 RVC
(written February 1, 2019)

The bulk of my Mensa participation in January was preparing for and then participating in the Finance Committee's budget meeting. At this writing, we haven't finalized the budget for the 2019–20 year, but we will soon. It's a large budget, about 400 lines long on the main page, plus two dozen supporting pages that are even longer. And by the time you read this (or soon after), there should be a presentation available on the national web site for those of you interested in digging into the nitty-gritty of just how this \$4.5 million organization of ours makes and spends its money.

Coming up very soon (again, depending on when you read this column) is Central New Jersey Mensa's Snowball Regional Gathering, the weekend of March 1–3. CNJM is not part of Region 1, but their RG is very nearby for a very large percentage of our membership (the hotel is 28 miles from my house). Snowball is one of the longest-running Gatherings in the country, and they know what they're doing, so I urge you to attend. Another reason you might want to attend is because this year, Snowball is hosting the March AMC meeting, at which we'll be discussing the budget and other important issues. I urge you to come and see how our national board of directors transacts its business. (This is the closest the AMC has come to meeting in Region 1 in a long time.) For more information on Snowball, see <http://www.cnj.us.mensa.org/snowball.html>.

You know that old saw about feasts or famine, right? Snowball is part of the feast aspect of Gatherings. It's a scant fortnight after New Hampshire Mensa's RG, this year entitled *The Library at the End of the Universe* (Portsmouth, New Hampshire, February 15–17). Support your fellow Region 1 folks, and incidentally have a great time: they, too, really know what they're doing. I'll be there, and hosting the charity auction. For more info, see <http://nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.php>.

In other Mensa business news, depending on when you're reading this, we may be smack dab in the middle of membership renewal season. I know my Mensa membership is very important to me. So important, in fact, that I've been renewing every year for the past 36 (I joined while I was in high school). This year I finally took the plunge, and admitted to myself that I'll want to be around for a while, so I splurged and paid for a life membership. Part of that "splurge," however, was looking back on paying annual dues every year for 36, adding up the cost in my mind, and mentally kicking myself for not getting a life membership back when I joined (at the time, it was a scant \$200, which was a great deal; now it's closer to actuarially correct amount, so a bit more money). I urge you to renew, too.

If you're getting this column a little later, renewal season is wrapping up as we enter into election season. We elect the members of the AMC (our national board of directors) every two years. And based on the number of petitions I saw being circulated, I don't recall an election with more candidates on the ballot (I think there are about 35 people running for the 15 elected

positions). I urge you to do your research, find out about the people offering to serve you on the AMC, and vote in the best interests of American Mensa. There are also several Bylaws amendment proposals on the ballot for your consideration. I'd be happy to discuss any of the races or issues with you, either at a Mensa event, or via email or telephone.

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 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.

Boston Mensa's Cape Cod Mini-RG: (May 10–12) in Dennis Port, Massachusetts. For more info, see <https://cape.bostonmensa.org/>.

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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)

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