

1Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
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(written July 3, 2019)

I'm writing this a little bit late (sorry, editors), from the Annual Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona. This is actually the early morning hours Wednesday morning; registration opens at noon, and then there will nearly five full days of Mensans talking, laughing, learning, playing, meeting, enjoying, dancing, doing, eating, drinking... well, I expect it to be a fantastic time! And I urge you, if you've never been to an AG, to try to get to one (next year in Kansas City, again the July 4th weekend; 2021 in Houston in August [so it can do double duty as a World Gathering]; 2022 in Reno).

And if you haven't experienced a Mensa gathering, maybe you want to start a little smaller, with a Regional Gathering. They're like mini-Annual Gatherings, and closer to home (though they do have them—and you're welcome at them—all over the country). Coming up near us, we have Mensa of Northeastern New York's RechaRGe over Labor Day weekend in Albany, New York, and Boston's Wicked Good in October. I'll also be going to Metropolitan Washington Mensa's Pandemic in the middle of August (they, too, throw a good party, though it is a bit more of a trip).

Speaking of Gatherings, June started, for me, in Maine, at their fourth (four! It's getting to be a regular event) Best Fun & Games mini RG evah. It was a lower-key version of a Gathering; no programming, just games and socializing. I met several new Mensans, talked Mensa business with several more, and had a wonderful time. And in response to a comment I had this past month: the reason I keep talking about Gatherings in my column is because they're a very important part of my Mensa experience, and if you start experiencing them, I imagine you'll be hooked, too! Also (ulterior motive): the more you love Mensa, the more likely you are to keep renewing your membership, which is good for the organization, and good for those who haven't met yet you, but really want to.

A bit of heavier business from the past month: On Saturday, June 29, the AMC held an emergency teleconference to consider a report from the Hearings Committee. The AMC concurred with the report and recommendation, expelling a member from Mensa (details are available at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>). It's a sad and serious thing we do, when Mensa has to remove a member from the society. The process is onerous and deliberate, because it is an action fraught with import, but ultimately, done for the good of Mensa.

A bit of upbeat thinking: I had a conversation with another RVC yesterday (the business discussions begin at the AG even before the AG begins), who had a good suggestion. We frequently talk about the next generation of Mensa, encouraging our young members to be more active. And in most groups, that's difficult because it's hard to form a critical mass of young members to interact with each other. At the same time, as members mature and start families, they frequently become less active because they're spending time with their spouses and

children. So here's a thought: there's no reason we have to segment and separate all these subgroups. Why not try planning a family-friendly event: good for young Mensans to attend with their families, good for adult Mensans to attend with their children. Mensa qualification frequently runs in families: in my family, both my father and sister are also members (my mother just doesn't do tests, but she's always welcome to participate). It's quite possible that the parents of our young Mensans are Mensa-eligible, and the children of our adult members. So include them all, see what happens. (And let me know of your good experiences, so I can share them with others!)

If you're looking for more Mensa events than just what you see in your local group, remember 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 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:

Mensa of Northeast New York's RechaRGe: (August 30–September 2) in Albany, New York. For more info, see <https://mensaofnortheasternny.wordpress.com/>

Boston Mensa's Wicked Good RG: (October 25–27) in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. For more info, see <https://rg.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