

Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
Region 1 RVC
(written 2 December 2019)

I'm writing this column a couple of days later than usual, because I was spending time with my family for Thanksgiving. I hope your Thanksgiving was everything you wanted it to be, and that you enjoy the upcoming (or perhaps already-passed) year-end festivities.

November, however, was a generally slow month in terms of my Mensa responsibilities. The bulk of my efforts were several pre-meeting discussions with my fellow AMC members and with several of you members about the agenda for the quarterly AMC meeting, which will be this coming weekend in Chicago.

The week after Boston's RG (which I commented on in my last column), I traveled to Chicago for their RG, HalloweeM, as a regular attendee (since Chicago isn't part of Region 1). I'd never attended HalloweeM before, but had heard good things about it, and with the scheduling this year allowing me to attend both, I did. It was amazing. Nearly 600 attendees (second only to the Annual Gathering in terms of size) spent four very full days at a hotel with a large slate of speakers and activities. I'm not going to shill for them too much, other than to recommend the RG to you (there's a full write-up on my personal blog, at IanRandalStrock.com). While I was there, I participated in an AMC roundtable session (skillfully hosted by my counterpart in Region 4, Jon Gruebele).

The big news upon my return was the announcement that Maine Mensa will be hosting the annual Mind Games weekend in 2021! They've been bidding to host this event for several years, and this time around, finally convinced the site selection committee that they are the best choice to host. The four-day, intensive gaming weekend—during which game designers and publishers vie for the coveted "Mensa Select" seal—will take place in April 2021. But if you want to sample Maine's hospitality before the event, they've recently announced their upcoming 5th mini-RG (see below for details).

While you're waiting for 2021 to roll around, remember that there are other, more local, events happening all the time. As I write this, I'm looking forward to attending my local group's monthly trivia night, and then our monthly speaker, and later in the month a holiday party, and I haven't yet figured out when and where I'll be traveling to your local group. But I'll be reading through all the groups' newsletters to find those events in their calendars, and you can do the same. Remember, as a member of Mensa, you're welcome in every local group, so check them out. Their newsletters (and calendars) 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 at the End of the Universe: (February 14–16, 2020) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For more info, see <https://nhmensa.org/rgnews.php>

Maine Mensa's 5th Annual Fun & Games Mini-RG: (May 29–31, 2020) in Portland, Maine. For more info, see <https://mainemensawordpress.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.

ExComm: 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 of 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