

Region 1 Roundup
by Ian Randal Strock
Region 1 RVC
(written 31 December 2019)

Hello from the distant past! (Yes, I know: silly.) I'm writing on New Year's Eve; you're reading sometime in the new year. But the cycle of Mensa events is continuous: January to February to March... to November to December to January again. So take advantage of all your membership has to offer.

The big news this month was the AMC meeting in Chicago. The American Mensa Committee (Mensa's national board of directors) meets four times a year to discuss and transact the business of American Mensa.

I mentioned the agenda last month, that it was rather abbreviated. After I wrote that column, a few more non-controversial items were added (clarifying the dates of elections, appointing a new Bylaws Committee chairman, and clarifying an expense reimbursement requirement), all of which were adopted by acclamation. But the original agenda item was the one which engendered the most conversation and dissent. That item was to place a referendum on the next ballot, changing the terms of AMC officers from two years to three. There are logical arguments on both sides of the issue, and I could see a good reason to vote for it. But the members who contacted me before the meeting about that issue—all of them—opposed it. So at the meeting, I presented their arguments to the AMC, advocated against the motion, and voted against it. However, I wasn't able to convince a sufficient number of others, so it will appear on the ballot when next we have an election (April 2021). The reasons I'm telling you know are first, it just happened, and I make it a point to report on the business the AMC does as we do it. Second, because the AMC placing a referendum on the ballot is an implicit endorsement and recommendation that you vote for it. I want to clarify that I am not making any such recommendation. But if you want to discuss the issue with me, I'm always available to share my thoughts, and to learn yours. As usual, I'll be at the Region 1 Regional Gatherings, and I'll try to visit as many of the local groups as I can.

After the business part of the agenda, there were several presentations that took our attention, including a discussion of risk management (which looks to be a major, ongoing issue that will be taking our time and efforts for quite a while), a related discussion of liability, and an update on the strategic planning which was a focus of our September meeting. Those presentations are available for you to read on the Mensa web site, at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>.

The meeting wrapped up, as always, with comments from the members of the AMC. As I commented then (and reported in my last column), the annual American Mensa Mind Games weekend is coming to Region 1. Specifically, Maine Mensa's bid was chosen, and they'll be hosting it in April 2021. The four-day, intensive gaming weekend—during which game designers and publishers vie for the coveted "Mensa Select" seal—is only open to a limited number of members, so when registration opens late this year, jump on it.

I also urged my fellow AMC members to join us for the upcoming New Hampshire RG, noting that February is a great time to visit New England. I'll be there, and I hope you will be, too.

Beyond the trip to Illinois, my Mensa activity centered around my own local group: I attended our monthly trivia night (and got to co-host, because my day-job publisher persona was launching a new anthology), our monthly speaker, and our annual holiday party. That's not a lot of Mensa activity in a month, but I always enjoy whatever events I'm able to participate in. I urge you to seek out more Mensa events to attend, too. Remember, as a member of Mensa, you're welcome in every local group, so check out not only your own calendar (in this issue), but the newsletters and calendars of other local groups. 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/rnews.php>

Boston Mensa's Cape Cod Mini-RG: (May 8–10) in Dennis Port, Massachusetts. For more info, see <https://cape.bostonmensa.org/>.

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