

From the RVC:

As I write this, I have just returned from the Annual Gathering. This year's AG, hosted by the Gen-X SIG and held in Dearborn, MI, was very well attended, with over 2,000 Ms registered. The AG itself was terrific, and afterwards I stayed over an extra day to see the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, which were absolutely mind-boggling.

Several fairly controversial items were on the agenda for the meeting of the American Mensa Committee, including a total redesign of the National Hearings Committee, removal of the two Past Chairs from voting membership on the AMC, and revision of the new election procedure for the National Ombudsman. All were narrowly defeated, largely due to overwhelming opposition by the Regional Vice Chairs, who mostly joined me in voting against all three proposals. At the Annual Business Meeting, a number of motions were introduced, but all failed by substantial margins. Meanwhile, the Elections Committee met to count ballots for the election of a new National Ombudsman. Dave Cahn, of Metropolitan Washington Mensa, was the winner. He will take office on August 1 for a six-year term, replacing Eldon Romney, who has served in that capacity for the last ten years.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Lone Star Mensa LocSec Don Drumtra suggested that I remind everyone that the membership directory on the American Mensa website is searchable by ZIP Code. If you live in a rural area remote from the bulk of your local group's membership, you may live close to the boundary of a neighboring group. You can search the national directory for members living in nearby ZIP codes, and possibly get them to join you in some Mensa activities, even though they may be members of some other local group.

Don also suggested that I remind everyone that Mensa is very much a do-it-yourself organization – you don't need approval or permission from your local group to schedule activities; just send a write-up to your group's calendar chair or editor telling when, what, and where your planned activity will be, and wait to see who shows up.

My question last month about printed versus electronic publications attracted a number of replies, all but one arguing strongly against doing away with paper editions of newsletters and other Mensa publications. This confirms my own opinion that this is a bad idea, and I will continue to oppose such proposals. In next month's column, I'll talk about the failed proposal to revamp the Hearings Committee – what it was, why it failed, and what I think we ought to do in its place. Meanwhile, don't forget the Lone Star Mensa Regional Gathering, coming up over Labor Day weekend in Round Rock, just north of Austin. See their website for details.

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