

From the RVC:

This may be a short column this month, as the deadline is upon me and I'm still recovering from a week in Oregon. The Annual Gathering in Portland was well-attended, with more than 2,000 members and guests registered, and a good time was generally had by all, although I must say that Hospitality this year left a great deal to be desired. The hotel didn't have enough meeting space to handle our requirements, so Hospitality was relegated to the parking garage. That's not as bad as it sounds, however, as the space was well lighted and air-conditioned, and curtains and carpeting had been brought in to transform it into a meeting hall. Unfortunately, though, virtually everyone was disappointed in the lack of food, except during mealtimes, which may have been due to the cost of the aforementioned curtains and carpeting.

Speaking of AGs, about the only matter of substance that came up in the meeting of the American Mensa Committee was the approval of a bid to hold the 2015 AG in Louisville, KY. That will follow Reno next year, Fort Worth in 2013, and Boston in 2014. Other than that, the AMC meeting dealt mostly with appointments. Bob Bevard of South Texas Mensa was reappointed as Development Officer, as was Greg Timmers, our Director of Science and Education. Brian Reeves was appointed as our new Communications Officer, and Rob Salkin was appointed Membership Officer. Jeff Dommonge of Lone Star Mensa was reappointed as Assistant RVC for our region. No motions were submitted for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting.

Leslie and I stayed over for a couple of days after the AG to do some sightseeing. Portland is a beautiful city with a lively downtown, full of shops and restaurants, with an excellent light-rail system that's free within the downtown area. Monday, the final day of the AG, ended with an impressive fireworks display, fired from a barge on the Willamette River, which separates downtown from the rest of the city. On our last day there, we rented a car and drove up the Columbia River Gorge as far as Bonneville Dam, stopping at most of the 11 waterfalls in the Gorge, and touring the dam with its locks and fish ladder.

That's all for now. Don't forget Lone Star Mensa's upcoming RG in Round Rock, just north of Austin, over the Labor Day weekend! See LSM's website for details and a registration form. If you don't have a computer or internet access, but are interested in signing up for one of our region's RGs, drop me a note at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238, and I'll send you a registration form.

Roger Durham