

From the RVC:

Most of the business that comes before the American Mensa Committee is originally dealt with by one of the AMC committees before it comes up at an AMC meeting. For that reason, committee memberships can be an important part of a Regional Vice Chairman's job. Last term I was a member of two AMC committees, the Intellectual Property Litigation Committee, and the Name and Logo Committee. IP Litigation is the committee that recommends the commencement of any legal action against outside parties who infringe upon Mensa's trademarks, and I have been reappointed to that committee. Name & Logo is the committee that rules primarily on granting permission to Mensa members and organizations for the use of the Mensa name and the m-and-globe symbol within the organization. This term I am the chair of that committee, and in that capacity I am also an ex-officio member of the Licensing and Marketing Committees, which deal with contracting with outside interests for use of the Mensa name on their products, or Mensa endorsement of products and services marketed to our members. These committees, chaired by Development Officer Bob Bevard of South Texas Mensa, are quite significant, because our outside income from marketing and licensing deals was more than \$200,000 last year.

Also this term I have been appointed to the Finance and Audit Committee, a very important committee that deals with all of our organization's financial affairs; everything from making recommendations on employee salaries, to budgets for various officers, to the amount of dues increases. I specifically asked for a seat on this committee because I wanted to be able to tell you that I know where every dollar of your money is going. That is not true of all AMC members, because when the AMC gives final approval to the annual budget, the money is appropriated in broad categories, and it's not always easy to tell everything that may be included in a particular budget category. The Finance and Audit Committee, on the other hand, looks at every individual line item. I want you to know that I will make every effort to be sure your money is spent wisely.

A couple of months ago, I told you about a newsletter exchange service being set up for our region. I'm happy to report that this service is now up and running, under the guiding hand of Asst. RVC Jeff Dommene of Lone Star Mensa. If you would like to receive an email version of the newsletter of every local group in Region 6 that publishes their newsletter electronically, all you have to do is send an email to R6NewExch-request@lists.us.mensa.org, with the word "subscribe" in the subject line, and Jeff will add you to the list. This list's email address has been added to the distribution list of every local group in the region, so as each local newsletter is sent out, a copy will go to the server at the National Office, where it will automatically be forwarded to you. (If you change your mind, just email the same address with "unsubscribe" for the subject, and you'll be removed from the list.)

Don't forget the upcoming Regional Gatherings: LoneStaRG XIII in Round Rock over Labor Day weekend, and Feast of Pleasures and Delights XXXII in Dallas over Thanksgiving weekend.

Roger Durham