

From the RVC:

AMC News: At the meeting of the American Mensa Committee in September, your Board of Directors voted to repeal the prohibition against e-mailing Local Group directories. Until now, local groups were not permitted to e-mail their group directories to members, due to privacy concerns regarding the ease of forwarding such communications to non-members, accidentally or otherwise. Modern scanning technology and other developments, however, have largely made this policy moot. Consequently, your group may now distribute a local directory by e-mail, either as part of your local newsletter or as a stand-alone document. Local officers are urged to remember, however, that they must not distribute the monthly membership list sent to your group by American Mensa, as these lists may contain information which your members may not have released for publication. Upon request, the National Office will be happy to provide your local group with a list specifically for local directory purposes, which has been redacted to eliminate non-public information.

The AMC also voted to engage an actuarial firm to review the calculations used to set life membership dues, in order to verify that we are maintaining adequate reserves to cover the future liabilities for services to life members. The current formula for determining the cost of a life membership was last reviewed in 1999, and the Finance Committee wishes to be sure the underlying assumptions are still valid.

The weekend before the AMC meeting, I was in Round Rock for Lone Star Mensa's regional gathering, LoneStaRG XIII. The speakers were great, hospitality was bountiful, and I was pleased to see members there from North Texas, Gulf Coast, South Texas, Permian Basin, and New Mexico Mensa as well as the host Austin group.

While at the RG, I had the opportunity to look over the results of a survey taken of the membership by Lone Star Mensa. One of the questions asked members to identify anything they perceived as problem areas. Most of the responses were predictable, having to do with a lack of events in a particular area or involving a member's particular interests. I was somewhat puzzled by one member, however, who replied that a problem facing the group was excessive bureaucratic requirements by American Mensa. Now, I'm the first to admit that the AMC has a long and unfortunate record of over-reacting to one-time events, or what I call the "killing flies with a cannon" approach, but I'm not aware of it happening in the last few years. If any of you have any concerns about an excess of bureaucracy creating problems for your local group, please let me know. As always, you can reach me at rvc6@us.mensa.org, or by mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

Last but certainly not least, don't forget North Texas Mensa's upcoming RG in Dallas, Feast of Pleasures and Delights XXXII, over Thanksgiving weekend!

Roger Durham