

From the RVC:

Things are pretty quiet just now, so I'm going to take this opportunity to talk about one of my favorite subjects: Gatherings. As you read this, the year's first Regional Gathering in Region 6, Gulf Coast Mensa's SynRG in Houston, will probably be history, but there will be plenty of other upcoming opportunities for you to find out why Mensa Gatherings are so popular, if you've never attended one. Next up, of course, is the Big Kahuna of Gatherings, the Annual Gathering, Mensa's annual national convention. Held in Reno, NV this year, from July 4th through July 8th, the AG will attract about 2,000 Mensans for four days and nights of games, workshops, speakers, dancing, partying, and general merriment. You can still be one of them. See your copy of the Mensa Bulletin for more information, or check the AG website (www.ag.us.mensa.org).

Another Regional Gathering comes up over Labor Day weekend in Round Rock, TX, where Lone Star Mensa will put on the 2012 version of LoneStaRG. A little shorter and smaller than the AG, but featuring many of the same opportunities to interact with your fellow Mensans. Details will be available soon.

Then, at Thanksgiving, you can attend North Texas Mensa's RG, Feast of Pleasures and Delights XXXIII in Dallas. One of the oldest and largest RGs in this part of the country, the Dallas RG moves to a new hotel this year, but will continue to provide the same North Texas hospitality and entertainment as before. More information will be coming along in the near future.

Last, but certainly not least, you can spend the first weekend in December with your fellow Ms in the party capital of our region (if not the nation), New Orleans. Yes, in 2012 New Orleans Mensa returns to the Gathering circuit for the first time since 2005, when they hosted the AG. (You may recall a little unpleasantness that followed shortly thereafter, but I'm sure the two events were not related.) Anyway, NOM is back in the RG business in a big way, with a downtown hotel on the St. Charles streetcar line just a few blocks from the French Quarter and the casino. Details are still under development, but watch for a listing in the Mensa Bulletin soon. Needless to say, I'll be mentioning this again soon as well.

And now for something completely different: a couple of months ago, I asked for your input regarding the filling of vacancies in the office of Regional Vice Chairman. As I expected, I heard from only four people, two of whom were completely satisfied with the current system. Brian Bloch obviously feels very strongly about this, but apparently the other 5,000 or so of you have no immediate concerns regarding this matter, so I'm going to let it drop.

Roger Durham