

From the RVC:

Well, another Annual Gathering has come and gone, with the usual good time reportedly having been enjoyed by virtually all. The AG in Fort Worth was fairly well attended, with about 1,700 members and guests registered. Carol Hilson, chairing her third AG (retest!), co-chaired the event with Karen Brack, both of North Texas Mensa, and a marvelous job was done by both.

At the meeting of the American Mensa Committee, your national Board of Directors, I was appointed to chair a task force to work on revision of our formula for funding local groups. Our aim is not to reduce local group funding but rather to make it more effective by linking certain funding amounts to achievement of certain minimum standards where many local groups currently leave something to be desired, like a regular testing program, elections, and communication with members. In many cases we expect that compliance will require additional assistance from American Mensa, and that will also be part of the task force's report. I will also serve on the Risk Management, Leadership Development, and Site Selection Committees this term.

A number of other appointments were made at the Board meeting. Dr. John Sheehan is our new Development Officer, replacing Bob Bevard of South Texas Mensa, who will take over for Jeff Dommange as Assistant RVC for our region, Jeff having asked to be replaced. Joanne Soper is our new Director of Science and Education, and Marc Lederman, formerly Region 4 Vice Chair, is our new Communications Officer. Beth Anne Demeter was reappointed as Membership Officer.

The Board also approved creation of a new Local Group award to replace the Group of the Year (GOTYA) Award. The new award, like the old one, will be based on each group's achievements in numerous objective categories, which will be tracked automatically by the national office. Instead of one award in each group size category, however, awards of increasing stature will now be given to the top four groups in each class. This will allow us to recognize outstanding effort by groups that may not have quite reached the highest plateau. A rework of the Publications Recognition Program (PRP) is also in the works, but could not be completed in time for this meeting.

As many of you are already aware, the AG will be in Boston next year, Louisville in 2015, and San Diego in 2016.

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. For more information contact Ron Edelstein, [aduana@mindspring.com](mailto:aduana@mindspring.com) or [\(512\) 491-9881](tel:5124919881)

Roger Durham