

From the RVC:

As I write this, in early September, I have just returned from a great weekend at LoneStarRG in Round Rock, TX. As usual, the Austin group did a terrific job: a wide variety of speakers, sumptuous hospitality, an aged cheese tasting, and a Jazz Age dance, among other things. I didn't get to see the final attendance list, but I noticed folks there from Gulf Coast, East Texas, South Texas, North Texas, and Mensa 76, in addition to host group Lone Star Mensa. Besides the opportunity to socialize with some new people, I also enjoyed the chance to exchange a few ideas with Asst. RVC Bob Bevard. A good time was had by all, I believe, and now I'm looking forward to the Region's next big party, SynRG 14, to be held over Memorial Day weekend next year.

Over the last couple of months I have received two inquiries about the possibility of reduced dues for long-time members who are now retired and on a fixed income. I'm afraid the answer to that is "slim and none", for two reasons: first, because reducing dues for anyone would mean increasing dues for everyone else (not a popular idea), and second, because retired long-time members are a large and growing group. Besides, there is an element of personal responsibility involved here: presumably these folks knew they would be on a fixed income someday, and could have taken the opportunity to invest in a life membership while they were still working. Still, if your local group has a long-time member who contributes substantially to the group in some way and is now unable to afford to continue membership, there is no reason your local group could not subsidize that person's dues out of local funds.

There will almost certainly be a discussion about dues at the next meeting of your national Board of Directors, taking place in Arlington, TX the first weekend of October, and I'll bring this up at that time, but I don't expect the idea to gain much traction. I'll update you on the result when I report on the Board meeting in my November column.

As always, if you have any suggestions, complaints, or questions you would like to share with me, please feel free to contact me at rvc6@us.mensa.org, or by snail mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Dr., Dallas, TX 75238.

Roger Durham