

From the RVC:

Once again, another year is gone, and it's time to wish all of you a very happy New Year. As I write this in early December, I have just returned from the winter meeting of the American Mensa Committee in Florida.

As I'm sure you recall, at our last meeting the Board adopted a policy banning weapons at national Mensa events. Although I, as a member of the Risk Management Committee, was the seconder of this motion, I wasn't very happy with the final wording that we ended up with after several last-minute amendments. Consequently, at the December meeting I offered a revised policy, seconded by LaRae Bakerink, our Second Vice-Chair, which I'm happy to report that we passed. Under this new policy, if not prohibited by local law or the hotel itself, you may bring a firearm to the hotel, keep it in your room, and carry it when you go outside. You are only asked not to bring it into the actual rooms where Mensa functions are taking place, such as speaker rooms, hospitality, game rooms, and so on. The new policy applies only to firearms, unlike the original one, which prohibited weapons of any description. I am indebted to Brian Reeves, our Secretary, for his help in drafting the new policy. Although opposed to the idea on general principles, he generously assisted me to find wording which I hope will be less objectionable to members concerned about their 2nd Amendment rights. Please keep in mind that this is not a political statement, just an attempt to placate our liability insurance carrier.

Now, following up on last month's column, I have been asked to remind everyone that our Regional Scholarship Chair, Tom Ehrhorn of New Mexico Mensa, needs regional judges for the second-level scholarship essay judging next month. It's all done by email these days – you don't have to leave the comfort of your favorite chair. If you can help by reading 50 or so essays, please contact Tom at "tomehrhorn@comcast.net". Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, if yours is one of the groups which recently went through local elections and have new officers taking over this month, my sincere congratulations (or condolences) and best wishes to all of you who are newly elected to a leadership position in your local group. Please do not hesitate to contact me (rvc6@us.mensa.org) if I can be of assistance in any way.

Roger Durham