

From the RVC:

Spring is almost here, and that means it's time to renew your Mensa membership again (unless, of course, you're a life member, or you paid for a multi-year renewal that still has some time to run). This year you may have noticed that we are offering a new option: automatic renewal. This will allow you to authorize American Mensa to renew your membership each year without bothering you, unless and until you tell us otherwise. This option will save you some hassle, and has been fairly popular so far, but saves you no money. However, as I have mentioned before, a life membership will insulate you from further dues increases - forever. Why not make this the year that you invest in Mensa life membership?

Another thing that it's time to do is make your plans to attend the 2014 version of SynRG, the Regional Gathering of Gulf Coast Mensa, taking place over Memorial Day weekend in Houston. Go to www.gcmensa.org for more information and a registration form. It's also time to make plans to attend the 2014 Annual Gathering of American Mensa, July 2-6 in Boston this summer. Visit www.ag.us.mensa.org for details.

Now, I need some feedback. I am chairing a task force that is charged with looking for better ways of supporting local groups. One of the suggestions brought forward in our discussions has been the creation of an on-line tutorial for new or prospective Local Secretaries on how to lead a Mensa local group. I think this is a fine idea, but the problem is that no funding is available for it. However, funds are budgeted each year now to pay for a "LocSecs' Summit" at the AG, where experienced local officers share best practices. This is a popular program, but in my view it reaches too few people and the ones it does reach are the wrong ones. We have to limit it to current LocSecs, of whom fewer than half attend, and because it's done in conjunction with the AG, most of those participating are at least halfway through their terms of office by the time it takes place. Would you think it's a good idea to discontinue the "LocSecs' Summit" at the AG and apply the funding to development of an on-line tutorial that would be available to anyone at any time? Please give this some thought and let me know as soon as possible. I would like to be able to share your opinions at our national Board meeting at the end of March.

Finally, as always, please remember that if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can reach me at rvc6@us.mensa.org or by snail mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

DON'T FORGET – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Roger Durham