

From the RVC:

As I write this, I have just returned from the Annual Gathering in Boston. The AG appears to have set a new world record for attendance at a Mensa gathering, with more than 2,300 members and guests registered. Boston is a wonderful city to visit, with great food and an abundance of historic sites to visit. I stayed over an extra day and did some sightseeing, including Faneuil Hall, the Old State House (where the Boston Massacre took place), the Bunker Hill Monument, and Old Ironsides herself, the USS Constitution.

As I mentioned last month, the meeting of your national Board of Directors was marked by several controversial discussions, including a proposal to index dues for inflation, with an automatic 2.5 increase every year, and a new method of selecting Regional Vice Chairmen. In addition, there was a proposal to reduce the authority of the National Ombudsman. There was also a motion to hold all future Board meetings in the DFW area. I opposed all of these proposals, and I'm happy to report that the one about the Board meetings was defeated. The others are all required to appear on the agenda of at least two meetings, so they will come up for a vote at our September meeting, where I will oppose them again.

A couple of other controversies also arose at this AG: a number of former AG chairs and other members are very upset about the new method of selecting AG sites and the increasing involvement of the national office staff, and quite a few members are unhappy with the decision of the Communications Committee to deny the use of the Mensa name to our un-moderated Facebook group. I'm not too happy about this last myself, as the Committee reported to the Board that the use of the name would be allowed, and then changed their minds after the meeting, without telling the other Board members. Further discussion of both these items is ongoing, and I am hopeful that improvements can be made.

One new appointment was made at the Board meeting: Beth Anne Demeter had asked to be replaced as Membership Officer, due to the demands of a new job, and Stephanie Link was appointed in her place. I will again serve on the Risk Management, Leadership Development, Name and Logo, and Site Selection Committees this term.

As many of you are already aware, the AG will be in Louisville in 2015, and San Diego in 2016. The 2017 AG was just awarded to Hollywood, FL.

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 Leslie Stevenson, leslielstevenson@gmail.com or (979) 599-3555. To register, visit lonestarg.com/register.html.

Roger Durham