

From the RVC:

After considerable thought, I have decided not to seek re-election as your Regional Vice Chairman next year. Two very good candidates have already filed to succeed me when my term ends at the beginning of July 2015: Bob Bevard of South Texas Mensa, my Assistant RVC and former national Development Officer, and Tasha (Taz) Criss of Gulf Coast Mensa, the former Teen SIG Coordinator and currently webwench for the Hell's Ms SIG and GCM Editor as well as SynRG Chair for 2015. Other candidates may emerge as the 2015 election season goes on, but I'm confident that the region will continue to be well-represented.

There are several reasons for my decision not to run again. While I have enjoyed being your RVC, and continue to do so, I recognize that I am beginning to burn out, dealing with the same problems in the same ways, and I believe the region will benefit from new energy and new ideas. In addition, by next July I will have served as your RVC for more than 6 years, and I think it's just time for someone else to have a turn. And finally, I have come to realize that as an RVC, I am not in a position to influence one of the biggest problems facing our organization, the constant dues increases that may be driving Mensa membership out of reach for many of our long-time members.

While it is true that dues are set by a vote of the Board of Directors, that vote usually comes at a time when it is really too late for individual members to have much say in the matter. The budget is already set, and we have to provide enough money to pay for the items that have already been decided upon. The real work on both the budget and the dues rates is done by the Finance Committee, led by the Treasurer. I served one term on the Finance Committee, and when it became obvious that I did not share our Treasurer's enthusiasm for higher dues, I was not asked to serve again.

Consequently, I have filed as a candidate for national Treasurer, in the hope of being able to return Mensa to a course of fiscal restraint that will obviate the need for frequent dues increases in the future. I hope I can count on the same enthusiastic support I have received from you over the past 5 years.

That's all for now. Don't forget North Texas Mensa's upcoming RG in Irving, just east of DFW Airport, over the Thanksgiving weekend. For more information contact Deborah Lockhart, RG2014registrar@northtexasmensa.org or (214) 361-4665.

Roger Durham