

From the RVC:

The last weekend in August I attended the 2014 version of LoneStaRG in Round Rock. As usual, the Austin group did a great job, with a variety of speakers, sumptuous hospitality, a really outstanding cheese taste and a “redneck” wine taste, plus a banquet and dance, among other things. Unfortunately, both of the co-chairs had to leave in the middle of the RG, for personal reasons, but others stepped up and the RG went on without interruption. Now I’m looking forward to the Region’s next big party, North Texas Mensa’s Feast of Pleasures and Delights, to be held over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The next weekend was spent in Grapevine, at the fall meeting of your Board of Directors. I was pleased to see several of the folks I had just partied with the previous weekend, as a number of our region’s members made the trek to the Metroplex to watch the Board in action. I’m happy to report that the proposed dues increase was defeated, but I must warn you that the battle is not yet over. Notice has already been given that a new dues increase motion will be on the agenda at our December meeting in San Diego, although I hope that our Treasurer will ask for a more moderate amount next time, rather than the inordinate increase we just rejected.

Two reports from outside consultants were reviewed by the Board at this meeting; the first was a technology assessment of our national office data processing capabilities, and we were disconcerted to hear a rather unflattering description of a system on the verge of collapse. Old and overworked hardware, obsolete and unsupported software, inadequate backup systems and totally insufficient network security were among the problems found by our consultant. Our system was state-of-the-art fifteen years ago, but has not been kept up over time. We are continuing to work with the assessment firm to develop a plan for upgrading our facilities to 21st century standards, but the cure for these problems will be neither quick nor inexpensive.

The other report was on the recent personnel turnover at the national office. Dealing as it does with personnel matters, the report itself is confidential, but although the contents were generally reassuring, a few of the conclusions were concerning to the Board and corrective measures are being instituted to deal with the problems our consultants identified.

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