

From the RVC:

The good guys won! By the time you read this, most of you will probably know that a motion to increase dues next year was soundly defeated at the December Board of Directors' meeting in San Diego. As I told you last month, there are some substantial new expenses confronting us next year, and I was not optimistic that a dues increase could be averted. In the weeks leading up to the meeting, however, the Finance Committee went through the expected expenses for 2015 and was able to identify sufficient cost-savings to enable us to get through the year with a projected surplus of nearly \$40,000. Nonetheless, they requested an increase to \$73, on the grounds that the proposed reductions would not be enough to get us through both 2015 and 2016 without additional dues revenue. I am happy to say that I, along with several others, was able to persuade a majority of the Board that if we could get through next year without an increase, it should be possible to find enough additional savings to get us through 2016 as well. In pursuit of that goal, since I am pretty much the only Board member who is in a position to do so without cost to Mensa, I have arranged to spend some time at the National Office over the next month or two, looking for more cost-cutting opportunities. I plan to present my findings at the March Board meeting in Indianapolis.

On another subject altogether, we learned at the Board meeting that the Post Office has announced that its long-delayed "Intelligent Bar Code" system will finally be deployed sometime in 2015. When this new system goes into operation, it will no longer be possible for the National Office to print mailing labels for those groups that use any kind of mailing permit for their newsletters, since the new labels will have to include the date and location of mailing. Sometime this year, therefore, the distribution of mailing labels by the National Office will be discontinued for all groups, and the address information will be sent out as a data file. The software to print your own labels locally is available at a very small cost, and plans are already in place to increase local group funding to cover all additional expenses of local label production.

Finally, I offer my thanks and congratulations to those members who are taking office this month as newly-elected local group officers. You are the glue that holds our organization together, and your contribution to American Mensa is greatly appreciated. If there is anything I can do to assist you at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me at rvc6@us.mensa.org or by mail at 9920 Ridgeway Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

Roger Durham