

From the RVC:

I can't believe it's been six years already. Yes, it was in February 2009 that I reluctantly agreed to be nominated for Regional Vice Chairman for the first time. I had just been elected to another term as treasurer of my local group, North Texas Mensa, and my interest in Mensa was very much limited to my own group and a few others nearby. I knew very little about Mensa on the national level, and frankly, I didn't much care. My first national Board meeting was a real eye-opener. I realized immediately from the comments of the other Board members that the Mensa experience is very different in various parts of the country. Things that pass unnoticed in Region 6 can cause major upheavals elsewhere. My service on the Board has definitely been an education.

From the very first, controversial issues have come before the Board, and I have done my best to contribute clarity and restraint to their discussion. Sometimes the right thing to do has been obvious to me, at other times I have sought your input, but through it all the time has flown by and now I am coming to the end of my third and last term as your RVC. Next month I will attend what may be my last Board meeting, and by coincidence it's in Indianapolis, just like my first one. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to represent you in this way, and I hope I have earned your confidence sufficiently to merit your support in my quest to move up to national Treasurer. You'll be hearing more from me about this as the national election season progresses.

In the meantime, membership renewals are due next month, so please don't forget to get your renewal in to the National Office as soon as possible. Early renewals save money for Mensa that can be used for the support of valuable membership services.

It's also time to make plans to attend this year's Annual Gathering in Louisville, KY. I know that for many of you, spouses, kids, jobs, and a host of other obligations make it hard to fit in a trip to the AG, but honestly, you're missing the best part of Mensa if you don't go. We have nearly 60,000 members in this country, but only about 2,000 of us make it to the AG each year, and fewer than 100 of those are from Region 6, unless the AG is held somewhere in our region, as it was in 2013. I've been to at least 15 AGs over the 40 years I've been in Mensa, and I wish I could have gone to all the others. You don't have to go every year, but you really should try to make it occasionally, particularly when it's relatively close by, as it is this year.

As always, if you have any comments or questions about American Mensa or Region 6, please feel free to contact me by email at RVC6@us.mensa.org, or by USPS at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

Roger Durham