

From the RVC:

It's March once again, and an election year in Mensa, and soon you will be inundated with candidates' materials asking for your vote. I hope you will read and consider them carefully (especially mine!), but I would ask that you contemplate each candidate's agenda as you read. Unfortunately, there is no requirement that candidates, or their supporters, be entirely truthful in their claims. Letters have already begun to appear for or against certain candidates, and a common theme seems to be that Mensa is somehow "broken" and needs to be fixed. This is heard every election season, but seems to be particularly prevalent this year.

The truth is, of course, that Mensa is not broken, it just isn't being run to suit those who are complaining about it. As an elected member of your national Board of Directors, I have heard the anguished complaints from various members, some of them very prominent in the organization, about the way things are being done recently, and how it's the fault of the Board for doing them that way. The fact is, though, that what they are generally complaining about is that things have changed in Mensa, and they don't like it. Well, friends and neighbors, I'm sorry, but it's not 1980 anymore. The legal and economic climate has changed over the years, and Mensa has had to change with it. I don't like some of these changes either, but they are mostly unavoidable.

There is one area, though, where I think previous Boards have taken a wrong turn. Our outgoing Treasurer, Nick Sanford, has allowed our expenses to run out of control, relying on regular dues increases to fund the excessive growth of the budget. That's why I am running for national Treasurer: to put a stop to constant dues increases and insist on cost reductions wherever possible. The current Board has already made a start in this direction, rejecting the Treasurer's outrageous dues increase proposal for 2015 and requiring a very conservative budget for the coming year.

But when you read that there is a huge conspiracy by your elected officers to ruin Mensa, or that the national staff is somehow hoodwinking the Board into listening to them instead of the membership, please take these claims with more than just a grain of salt. Your elected Board members work hard and give up a lot of their time to represent you at the national level. They are committed to maintaining a vibrant, exciting, and financially stable organization for your enjoyment. Please don't be fooled by people who just want to have their own way, no matter what. (OK - end of sermon.)

Finally, as always, please remember that if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can always reach me at rvc6@us.mensa.org or by snail mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

DON'T FORGET – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Roger Durham