

From the RVC:

It is my unhappy duty to report that the number of local groups in our Region has decreased by one. In April I disbanded East Texas Mensa and merged it with North Texas. A few members opted to be assigned to Gulf Coast or Northern Louisiana, but the area in the northeast corner of the state which was formerly assigned to East Texas, along with most of its members, is now part of North Texas.

I did not take this action lightly or in haste. East Texas Mensa has been basically non-functional for at least the past year. They had no Local Secretary, no Editor, no Program Chair, and no Proctor. No meetings had been held in nearly a year, no newsletter published, and no tests given. No one could be found to fill the vacant offices. This was unfair to the members of the group, who were not receiving the services that American Mensa expects local groups to provide. Both the remaining and former local officers and I attempted to find volunteers to reinvigorate the group, but apparently things had just deteriorated too far, and the job was too daunting.

Mensa is very much a do-it-yourself organization. We depend upon our members to create a vibrant, exciting atmosphere within each local group. Please don't wait for someone else to step forward and provide activities and leadership for your local group. When I was a LocSec, I frequently heard from people who complained that the local group was too clique-ish and didn't welcome new members, but I think what they really meant was they didn't know how to become an integral part of the group. If you want to become part of the "in-crowd" of your local Mensa group in a hurry, just contact your LocSec, or President, or whatever the office is called in your group, and ask "what can I do to help?" In almost every case your group will have an appointed office just waiting to be filled. Take the initiative and volunteer!

Don't forget the Houston Regional Gathering coming up over Memorial Day weekend (rgchair@gcmensa.org), and the 2015 Annual Gathering, July 1-5 in Louisville, KY (ag.us.mensa.org). And, if you haven't done so already, please take a few moments to vote in the national Mensa election this month. Your friendly local RVC would particularly appreciate your vote for national Treasurer.

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

Roger Durham