

From the RVC:

For good or ill, this is the last column I shall ever write as your Regional Vice Chairman. As I compose this, in early May, voting is still underway, and I have no way of knowing who my successor will be, but one way or another, the next time you see this column it will have someone else's name on it.

I want to begin by offering my sincere thanks to all of you for giving me the opportunity of serving you as your RVC for the past six years. It has been a wonderful experience, and I hope you have found my representation satisfactory. Depending on the outcome of the current election, I may or may not be on the national Board of Directors next term, but either way I will always be looking for opportunities to improve our organization.

Next, as this is my last chance to share my thoughts with all of you, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to consider how Mensa works. In this election season, we have heard from a number of candidates and their supporters who claim that Mensa has somehow been taken away from the membership. If you'll take a moment to examine this claim, you'll quickly realize just how ridiculous it is. You, the members, elect the national officers. They are not hereditary aristocrats, nor have they seized power in some sort of armed coup. They are responsible to you, and they have no other end in mind than to improve the organization. Their only fault is that, being human and therefore imperfect, they may err occasionally. They serve without pay, and give up many hours of their time to sit in meeting rooms debating the best ways to forward the aims of American Mensa. It is not feasible for 57,000 members to make all the decisions required to run a multi-million dollar corporation, so you elect a handful of officers to do the decision-making. If you don't like their decisions, you can vote against them in the next election.

I have been sorely disappointed in last few months to read the spate of mean-spirited misrepresentations, half-truths, and outright lies spread by a handful of members who have accused your national officers of everything from incompetence to embezzlement because we had the temerity to make decisions these people disagreed with. They are unable or unwilling to consider the possibility that they might be wrong (hey – they're Mensans, so of course they must be right) and therefore they want you to believe that the people you put into office must be at best untrustworthy and at worst malicious or possibly criminal. I promise you, nothing could be further from the truth.

I am very grateful for the support you have given me as your elected representative; I respectfully ask you to please extend that same support to my successor and the other national officers. Don't let the naysayers and the malcontents win. Thank you.

Roger Durham