

I'm sitting at my laptop on the day after the election results were announced, trying to find the appropriate words to introduce myself to all of you. I suppose it would be best to start with "Hi, I'm Taz."

I am a second generation Mensan who grew up in the organization. My parents joined together a year before I was born in Austin, TX. All through my childhood, I remember going to some type of Mensa event at least 3 times a month, though it was often an even more frequent occurrence than that. I tested at the Annual Gathering in 2001 and joined during the renewal period of early 2002. I have been a member continuously since that time and am now a life member.

I have held a variety of positions within Gulf Coast Mensa, my current local group. At one time or other I have served as RG Chair, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Webmaster and Membership Officer. I have worked fairly extensively with several SIGs, including serving as a member of some SIG ExComms and holding the position of TeenSIG National Coordinator for 5 years.

Growing up in this organization has given me what I believe to be a unique perspective on Mensa. That does not mean that my perspective is always right or that I know all. It does mean that I am truly passionate about this organization, and I am always looking for ways to contribute to it. Whether it is working directly with the local groups of this region or collaborating with my fellow AMC members, I am excited to hit the ground running in my new role.

I am looking forward to not only working virtually with the members of this region, but also to getting to meet many of you in person. While large events such as AGs and RGs are great opportunities for this, I realize that they are not always convenient for members to attend. As a result, I am currently working on a travel schedule for the next two years that will allow me to visit each of the local groups in Region 6 personally. I will share details of these plans with all of you as they get ironed out.

Before I sign off, there are two people I would like to particularly thank. The first is Roger Durham, our outgoing RVC. After 6 years, he has left a lasting impression upon our region. I am personally grateful for his willingness to serve as a resource to all of us and appreciate the knowledge he has generously shared with me through many conversations.

The second person I would like to thank is my more-than-worthy opponent in this election, the ever-gracious Bob Bevard. Bob has been committed to American Mensa, Region 6, and his own local group, South Texas Mensa, for many years. I am looking forward to being able to work with him on future projects within our region.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, you can contact me via email at rvc6@tazcriss.com (my Mensa alias has not been set up yet), phone at 512-779-3945, or snail mail at 7907 Sandpiper Dr, Houston, TX 77074.

Taz Criss