

The three weeks leading up to this column have been extremely busy for me as an RVC. I have been able to meet and have conversations with many members from multiple local groups of Region 6.

I spent the last weekend of August on a tour of Northern Louisiana Mensa, spending time with members in Shreveport, Monroe, and Alexandria. I very glad to see members taking an interest in finding new ways to improve the group. Labor Day Weekend featured the fabulous LoneStaRG. I loved spending time with friends new and old, and was happy to have the opportunity to do not one, but two programs for the RG. The first was a general session to give members the opportunity to ask questions about what's going on at the national level, as well as get to know me a bit better. The second program was a review of the results from the extensive membership survey conducted back in March 2015.

The fall quarterly AMC meeting was held during the second weekend of September. This weekend was included a training and development day for all members of the AMC. We came out of the development with what I believe to be a far greater sense of purpose and desire to truly serve the organization. I was also able to take the time to attend a Mensa 76 event while I was in the area, giving me an opportunity to see yet more members of this region and discussing programs and goals with several of the local officers.

The minutes of the AMC meeting will be published in the near future, but I do want to specifically mention the issue that many members were talking about prior to the meeting regarding Chicago Area Mensa's participation in Chicago's Pride Parade. The proposed ASIE amendments that had been put forward by the Name & Logo Committee were withdrawn with an explanation that the committee and chair did not feel that they adequately addressed the full scope of the problem. Desiree Elliott (RVC 9 and N&L Chair) did request that the AMC discuss the issue in the open forum. Both she and Secretary Lori Norris took *extensive* notes on the resulting two hour discussion. I know that N&L will be working not only on higher level rules such as ASIEs, but also on updating the handbook of requirements, which is far more extensive. Also, this is not just an N&L issue. I believe the Bylaws Committee will be weighing in as well, and our National Reps are going to be requesting info from other national Mensas in how they are dealing/have dealt with interpreting the MIL Constitution in similar instances.

My personal takeaway, as I don't want to speak for any other AMC member – we understand that members are concerned, on both sides of the issue. We are trying to respond, but a knee jerk reaction won't help. I do believe that this discussion was the first in our two meetings so far in which every single person around the table had something to contribute multiple times, including reading directly from the Mensa Constitution, our current AML bylaws and ASIEs and the Local Group Charter. We are making a true effort to get this right, not merely throw a half-baked "fix" into place.

My final information for y'all is that I have created a simple online form where members can offer feedback on any topic, both by name or anonymously. You can find this form at <http://tinyurl.com/AML-R6-Feedback>. Of course, if you prefer, you can always contact me via email at rvc6@us.mensa.org, phone at 512-779-3945, or snail mail at 7907 Sandpiper Dr, Houston, TX 77074.

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