

If you're anything like me, you're just starting to see the light after your holiday over-indulgence. The winter holiday time is always hectic. Between trips to see family and friends, work holiday parties, and possibly even fitting Mensa in somewhere, it often feels as though January is a welcome respite from it all.

January is not only the beginning of the new year, it is also a new beginning of focus for the American Mensa Committee. At the December meeting, the AMC devoted a full day to studying and revising our current strategic plan. The completed strategic plan will be published on the national website in the very near future as we solidify our broad goals into concrete points. Two of the largest points that were driven home to me through this process were the AMC's commitment to leadership development and local groups.

The quarterly meeting included several points of interest. We received the results of the recent local group leadership survey. If you were one of the leaders who took part in this survey, I would like to thank you for the feedback. The AMC does receive the overall results from the various surveys that are sent out, and we use the trends identified in these surveys when we are making decisions about the direction of the organization.

Additionally at the quarterly meeting, we were given an update on our current testing program. In 2016, we will be transitioning away from the Mensa Admissions Test as our primary offering for prospects. The MAT is over 50 years old, and Dr. Frank Lawlis, our supervisory psychologist has determined that it is too outdated for our purposes. A new test has been chosen that is less than 10 years old. Proctors will be hearing a great deal more about this test in coming months, and all proctors will be given training on the new test before it goes live this summer.

The host group for MindGames 2017 was announced at this meeting. MindGames will be returning to the metro-DC area, hosted by Metropolitan Washington Mensa in the spring of 2017. We also received information on HIQORA, an international intelligence competition that American Mensa is a primary sponsor of. Entrance in this competition is usually \$40, but any Mensa member can enter for free. You can find more information about HIQORA at www.hiqora.com.

This AMC continues to be a great joy to work with. We do not always agree with each other by any stretch of the imagination, but there is a collegial atmosphere that is welcome, even when we categorically oppose each other on individual issues.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or general comments, please let me know. 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.

Taz Criss