

This is my 13th column, meaning that my first year as your Regional Vice Chair is coming to a close. At this time last year, I had just received the results of the election and was trying to piece together a working schedule of when I needed to be places and know things and find the time to read up on those things I did not already know about.

Since that time, I have had the pleasure of visiting 10 out of the 15 local groups within Region 6. During the election, I stated that, if elected, it was my intention to visit all 15 groups in the two-year term. I'm ahead of the curve at this point, which is good as I will be going further afield in the next year to reach Arkansas Mensa, Eastern Oklahoma Mensa, New Mexico Mensa and Paso del Norte Mensa. I've already got New Orleans Mensa on my calendar, as they will be hosting the December 2017 AMC meeting in conjunction with their RG.

One of the things that I most enjoy about visiting all of y'all is the variety to be found among different groups. Local groups tend to have distinct personalities, which leads to a variety of events. As I recently told one of the Region 6 LocSecs, what I do when I travel depends on what the group is seeking. I'm flexible on planning and perfectly happy to adjust to whatever a group comes up with. Some groups prefer to have more formal speaker sessions, while others find success in regular dining events. Personally, I always enjoy hosting museum meet ups. On my most recent trip to Central Oklahoma Mensa, the group attended a glassblowing demonstration, with the two pieces created at the demonstration being given to the winners of a drawing.

I would encourage all of you to reach out to other local Mensa groups when you travel. Whether you utilize one of the many Mensa Facebook groups or look up the contact information of an officer on the national website, spending some time with other local groups is a great way to not only make new friends but also get ideas that can be taken back to your own group at home.

A great time to meet other Mensans is at the Annual Gathering, held this year June 29 – July 3 in San Diego, CA. I will be hosting a Region 6 Meet and Greet on June 30 at 6:00pm. I hope that if you attend the AG, you will come out and meet everyone!

As always, I ask that 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 10518 Horseshoe Bend Dr, Houston, TX 77064.

Taz Criss