

September is a busy month for Mensa, in particular on the Mensa Foundation side. Our annual scholarship program opens on September 15th, and our scholarship chairs are hard at work advertising what we offer. If you are unaware, the Mensa Foundation provides over \$87,000 a year in scholarship funds. These scholarships are based entirely on essays written by the applicants. There is no consideration given to grades, financial need, or academic program. Additionally, applicants are not required to be members.

This program is possible through the wonderful help of several hundred volunteers around the country. Our local scholarship chairs coordinate volunteer judges to read and score all of the submissions based on standard criteria as provided by the national scholarship committee. Each essay must be judged by 3 different people, so we can definitely use your help. The great news about this volunteer role is that it can be done from the comfort of your favorite armchair or couch.

Judging is still several months away, as it will not begin until after the application deadline of January 15, 2017. However, once the judging starts, time is short, and many hands make light work. If you are interested in judging, contact your local scholarship chair. We will also need judges at the regional level. You can reach our new regional scholarship chair, Carla Young, at scholarships@region6.us.mensa.org.

If you're jones-ing for some in person contact, there are several upcoming Regional Gatherings that you should consider attending.

Lone Star Mensa's RG is being held September 16-18, 2016 at the Wingate Hotel in Round Rock, TX. This is a two week shift from the normal time that LSM hosts their event, but it will still be a fantastic party, even if a bit delayed. You can find more details online at <http://bit.ly/2bk1EYa>.

Thanksgiving weekend is always home to The Feast of Pleasures and Delights, hosted by North Texas Mensa. This year's gathering will be held November 24-27, 2016, at the Marriott Quorum in Dallas, TX. NTM always provides great programming, but this year, they have gone all out and are offering five ticketed tastings: honey, beer, cheese, wine, and Irish whiskey. Further details are on their website at <http://bit.ly/2bhRoUa>.

Rounding out this year, New Orleans Mensa is bringing back NORGY, held December 9-11, at the Hilton Garden Inn Convention Center. This event will coincide with the quarterly meeting of the American Mensa Committee. I am so proud to have local groups that are excited to share their hospitality and fun with not only our region, but representatives of groups around the country. Register today at <http://bit.ly/2bsVF4y>.

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