

It's a new year, and for many of us that means it's time to make some resolutions or goals. If you're still wracking your brain for a way to shake up your scene, I encourage you to consider hosting or attending a few local events.

We have several years of data that tell us that members who attend local events find the most value in their membership. If your current local offerings don't appeal to you, add your own event to the calendar. Reach out to your LocSec or Membership Officer and find out how you can get involved with the fun in your area. If you don't know where to start, contact me, and I'll point you in the right direction.

Several local groups will be changing officers with the beginning of the new year. If you have ever served as an officer, you know that volunteers are the lifeblood of Mensa. I personally would like to thank all of our outgoing officers and welcome the new officers. One of the most rewarding parts of my role as Regional Vice Chair is meeting the excited and enthusiastic volunteers who are always looking for new ways to give back to their groups.

In my November column, I discussed the petition process for the American Mensa Committee election. Online petitions opened on December 1, and those seeking election must gather the requisite number of signatures by 11:59pm CST on January 31, 2017. Candidates seeking one of the national officer roles must have 250 signatures, and candidates for Regional Vice Chair need 100 signatures.

As a member of Region 6, you can sign petitions for anyone running for Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and RVC 6. Remember, signing a petition does not commit your vote. It merely says that you believe the candidate should be on the ballot. I hope you will sign petitions and allow those willing to donate their time and energy to this great organization the opportunity to stand for election. You can find all of the petitions online at <http://bit.ly/2gyqmFE>.

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](mailto:rvc6@us.mensa.org), phone at 512-779-3945, or snail mail at 10518 Horseshoe Bend Dr, Houston, TX 77064.

Taz Criss