

As wildflowers bloom and the fear of a late cold snap lessens, the hints of spring are all around us. With daylight saving time approaching, I'm counting down to the days when I have time following my regular work day to enjoy the sun.

In the spirit of the fresh start of the spring season, the national community service committee has initiated a new program, *Mensa Cares!* This program is intended to encourage our members to get out and volunteer as a group, giving back to the communities that the groups are a part of. While Mensa Volunteer Day is April 29, any event in April can be a part of this new opportunity. If you would like to help organize a local community service opportunity, reach out to your LocSec.

This is also the season of membership renewals. The membership year closes on March 31. If you have not yet renewed, I hope you will head over to <http://us.mensa.org/renew> after reading this column. (If you prefer to pay over the phone rather than online, call the National Office at 817-607-0060 ext. 199.) There are a couple of reasons to make sure you renew on time, not the least of which is to ensure that you don't miss an issue of your local newsletter.

If you enjoy trivia, you must renew on time to be able to participate in CultureQuest. CQ is a competition that began here in Region 6 in 1990. Teams of up to 5 members each will gather across the country on April 30, 2017 to answer a wide variety of questions. The winning teams not only hold bragging rights on cultural literacy, they also win cash awards for their local group. There can be multiple teams from a local group. If you are interested in playing, you can register online at <http://us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>. The deadline to register is the same as the deadline to renew your membership – March 31, 2017.

For all members, trivia-loving or not, the American Mensa elections are approaching. Only members who renew on time are eligible to vote in the upcoming election. I have been declared elected for a second term as Regional Vice Chair for Region 6 as I ran unopposed, but there will be national offices to vote for as well as several bylaws amendments on the ballot. You can read more about the candidates and proposed amendments on the national website at <http://us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2017-board-election>.

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.

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