

Another Mensa election has passed, and a new term for the American Mensa Committee will begin in the next few weeks. I am pleased to say that I have been able to keep the promise I made two years ago. By July 1, when the new term begins, I will have visited all 15 local groups in Region 6, as I have trips scheduled to New Mexico Mensa and Paso del Norte Mensa in the next two weeks.

If you will be attending the Annual Gathering in Hollywood, FL (July 5-9), I hope that you'll plan to stop by the Region 6 Meet & Greet on Thursday, July 6 at 6:00pm. The Meet & Greet is an opportunity to meet other members from our region as well as ask questions and get information about what other chapters and the national organization have going on.

I want to remind all of you that one of the initiatives the AMC began last year was an extra support fund to local groups. Each Regional Vice Chair has a fund available to give a bit of extra financial support to chapters that are trying out something new that might cost a bit more than our typical events. Some local groups around the country have done things such as a recruiting booth at a convention, a member dinner where attendees have no cost, or a volunteer appreciation event. The restrictions are that funding is used for a specific event or program, with a plan being provided to me ahead of time and a follow up on what worked or what didn't after the event.

Central Oklahoma Mensa has taken advantage of this support fund to put together a really unique event. They are hosting a "Smart Art" gallery show in mid-July that will feature the artwork (photos, quilts, paintings, small sculptures, jewelry, etc.) of members of the chapter. I think this is an awesome demonstration of the creativity of our members – both the artists themselves and the volunteers who came up with and are coordinating this event.

If you have an idea that you think needs just a bit of extra help to get off the ground, I hope you'll reach out to your LocSec or ExComm to pitch it. The variety of events across our region is one of the things that makes me most proud to be able to represent Region 6 on the AMC. This support fund is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis, so kick those high-powered brains into high gear!

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