

One of the events that is held at each year's Annual Gathering is the Awards Ceremony. Groups, CultureQuest teams, and individuals are recognized at this event. I was thrilled to see Region 6 well represented across the board this year.

The top 20 CultureQuest teams in the country not only receive bragging rights, but also earn money for their local groups. Brains on Bourbon of New Orleans Mensa and Jolie Brains of Baton Rouge Mensa placed 14th and 15th respectively out of 81 total teams.

The Jewel Awards recognize local groups that actively participate in a wide range of Mensa activities. There are five classes of group, based on population size, and within each class, a local group can achieve Emerald, Sapphire, or Ruby status, with Ruby being the highest. In addition, the local group that ranks highest within its class is named the Diamond Group of the year.

There were five Emerald groups in Region 6 – Central Oklahoma Mensa, Eastern Oklahoma Mensa, New Mexico Mensa, Lonestar Mensa, and North Texas Mensa. Our two Sapphire groups were Permian Basin Mensa and Mensa 76. The Ruby status was awarded to Northern Louisiana Mensa, Paso del Norte Mensa, Lubbock Mensa, New Orleans Mensa, South Texas Mensa, and Gulf Coast Mensa. In addition – two of the five Diamond groups came from Region 6! New Orleans Mensa and Gulf Coast Mensa were both recognized as the Diamond chapters of their class sizes.

Two individuals in Region 6 were recognized for their work within Mensa.

Roger Durham of North Texas Mensa received the Distinguished Service Award. Roger served on the AMC as RVC for three terms for a total of six years. He co-chaired the 2001 Dallas AG and was Hospitality Chair at the Fort Worth AG in 2013.

Raymond Richards of Gulf Coast Mensa was named Gifted Youth Coordinator of the Year. This award is given for superior service as a Gifted Youth Coordinator and for contributing to the growth of programs that serve gifted youth and/or Young Mensans.

I would like to thank both Randy Brack and Carla Young for agreeing to continue in their roles as Regional Ombudsman and Regional Scholarship Chair, respectively. If you are interested in getting involved on the regional level, please reach out to me. I am seeking both a Regional Webmaster and a Regional Social Media Coordinator, but if you have another idea for how you might contribute in a different role, please let me know.

Speaking of the scholarship program, I want to remind everyone that the application process will be opening on September 15. Scholarships are available to members and non-members alike, so please share the information with anyone you know who is enrolled in a degree-seeking program. More details on the scholarship program can be found at www.mensafoundation.org. If you are not sure whether your local group is participating in the program, please contact your LocSec. All local groups can participate without needing to fund their own scholarship. We will need judges for both the local and regional levels of judging. If you are interested in judging on the regional level, you can reach Carla at scholarships@region6.us.mensa.org.

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 or phone at 512-779-3945.

Taz Criss