

I distinctly remember a moment at a Regional Gathering a few months ago. A member who had only ever participated online was attending his very first event. He and I had been friends for a long time through various Mensa Facebook groups, and I had been encouraging him to attend an event. It was only a few hours into the RG, but this member could not stop smiling. He looked over at me and said, "This. This is Mensa."

I was recently asked to answer some questions about my history in Mensa and it made me get a bit nostalgic. Mensa frequently holds a special place in the hearts of its members. Many members have stories about what Mensa means to them like the one I just shared. In fact, we often have so many stories that it's hard to pinpoint exactly what it is that makes Mensa important to us. It can be challenging, especially when you are trying to perfect an "elevator pitch." However, that pitch is exactly what I hope you will all try to perfect.

Mensa's value to its members is key to our growth as an organization. Every member of our organization has the opportunity to be a brand ambassador. You can share your experiences with your friends and family. I have often heard members describe Mensa as their "tribe." Many have said that the connections made through Mensa make this organization their family of choice. So why not choose some of your other friends to join that family?

In October, the Mensa Voucher Program was rolled out. All members with an email address on file with the office should have received an individual code that can be used for one free proctored test session or one free review of prior evidence to qualify for Mensa. This is a fantastic way for you to be that brand ambassador. Rather than simply throwing an open call on Facebook to whomever responds first, I would suggest that you think of a specific friend or family member. Share your code and your stories with that person. They will begin to feel their own connection to Mensa even before they take the test.

At the end of this month, North Texas Mensa is holding their annual Feast of Pleasures and Delights. This RG is yet another opportunity to spend some time with that family of choice. NTM always rolls out the red carpet and welcomes members from around Region 6 over Thanksgiving weekend. You can find more details and register online at <http://bit.ly/2hRVF48>. I hope that I will see many of you there.

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