

As a new year begins, we hear a lot about resolutions. We make plans for what we want to accomplish, how many pounds we want to lose, what new thing we want to learn. I would hope that many of you would resolve to get more involved in Mensa in the coming year. Mensa is a community with strong bonds. While our members certainly won't ever all agree on any one topic, the opportunity to spiritedly discuss a wide variety of topics, both in our online communities and in person, is one of the most valuable benefits of membership.

One great way to get involved in the new year is to participate in the Mensa Foundation scholarship program. The Foundation awarded \$134,100 in scholarships in 2017. This fantastic program can only continue with the help of volunteers across the country. The Foundation's scholarships are based entirely on essays. There is no requirement of grades or financial need. In order to evaluate the thousands of essays submitted, the Foundation relies on member volunteers who judge each essay. Reading essays allows members to actively contribute to the Foundation from the comfort of their homes. If you are interested in judging essays, reach out to your local scholarship chair or LocSec. In addition to needing judges for the local level, we will also need volunteers to judge at the regional level. If you are interested in judging on the regional level, you can reach our Region 6 Scholarship Chair, Carla Young, at [scholarships@region6.us.mensa.org](mailto:scholarships@region6.us.mensa.org).

If you're feeling a little more adventurous in your desire to get involved, I encourage you to attend local events or Regional Gatherings. Our annual membership survey has consistently returned data that tells 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.

I would like to thank all of the outgoing local group officers. The dedication of these many volunteers is what makes Mensa so special to so many of us. I greatly appreciate the efforts put forth by our outgoing officers, and I look forward to working with the incoming officers.

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