

Happy new membership year! If you have not yet renewed your membership, this is the last local newsletter you will be receiving. If time just got away from you, no harm, no foul. You can renew today at <http://us.mensa.org/renew> or by calling the National Office at 817-607-0060 ext. 199. If you are not planning to renew at this time, I truly hope that you will reconsider in the future. I have been incredibly lucky to meet so many people as a result of being in this organization. This organization can only grow and thrive by the efforts and participation of its members.

A member-driven initiative that began last year was *Mensa Cares!* Many of our members have expressed their interest in participating in community service opportunities with other Mensans. This year, local groups across the country will gather during the week of April 15-21 to volunteer at food banks, roadside cleanups, and senior centers, among many other worthy causes. While the *Mensa Cares!* week is held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week, the national Community Services Committee is encouraging groups to hold events throughout the year. If your local group is planning an event, be sure to email MensaCares@americanmensa.org so that your efforts can be shared on the national website.

If you are ready to belly flop further into the participation pool, there are some upcoming events that you should put on your calendar. The first is SynRG, which is hosted by Gulf Coast Mensa in Houston over Memorial Day weekend. You can find details about SynRG at <http://gcmensa.org/synrg>. This party kicks off the season of Gatherings for Region 6, and is a great way to jumpstart the summer.

The second event is our national Annual Gathering, held July 4-8 in Indianapolis. The AG is American Mensa's biggest party, featuring hundreds of speaker programs, 24-hour gaming, the Annual Business Meeting, and connections with thousands of Mensans. The registration rate for the AG will go up after June 15. You'll want to make sure you get in ahead of the price break, so head over to <http://ag.us.mensa.org> to register today.

A bit further out will be Lone Star Mensa's LoneStaRG over Labor Day weekend in Round Rock and North Texas Mensa's Feast of Pleasure and Delights over Thanksgiving weekend in Dallas. Each of these annual events are run by a great group of volunteers who have a wealth of experience in putting on fantastic events. As we get closer, you'll be able to find details on these RGs at <http://www.lonestarmensa.org/lonestarg-20.html> and <http://www.northtexasmensa.org/>, respectively.

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