

This is my 36th monthly column. In one year, I will be publishing my final column to you all as Regional Vice Chair. I came into this role a bit earlier than I had originally intended, but I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve you as a member of the American Mensa Committee.

While we still have several months before the petition process will open, allowing members who are interested in running for the AMC to submit for candidacy, I want to highlight this now so that y'all can consider if you might be interested in running for the role. I am happy to answer any questions about serving on the AMC, whether as an RVC or any other role. There is a significant commitment of time and energy. For me, being RVC is a constant balancing act. As an RVC, I first serve as a resource to the 15 local groups in the Southwest Region. I am available to answer questions of members and officers, offer suggestions, and act as the direct liaison between the local groups and the AMC. The other hat that RVCs wear is that of a national committee member, both of the full AMC and a few other national committees. While the work is not always easy, I have found it to be unquestionably rewarding.

One of my favorite events each year is the Annual Gathering. It's a unique chance to hear fascinating speakers, attend leadership development workshops, play games, and connect with hundreds of other members. This year's AG will be held in Indianapolis, IN, July 4-8. This is the largest opportunity of the year to get to experience this amazing community we call Mensa. You can find more details and register online at <http://ag.us.mensa.org>.

If Indy isn't in the cards for you, plan on attending LoneStaRG 20 in Round Rock over Labor Day weekend. This long-running RG is always a great party, and a fantastic way to close out the summer. Details on LoneStaRG can be found online at <http://www.lonestarmensa.org/lonestarg-20.html>.

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