

As I write this column, I've having to stop myself from pulling out my suitcase. Packing would be a bit premature as of yet, but I'm gearing up to attend the Annual Gathering in Indianapolis, IN (July 4-8). This is one of my favorite times of the year. I look forward to meeting members from all over as well as spending time with friends that I only see at the AG each year. If you will be at the AG, I hope that you'll plan to stop by the Region 6 Meet & Greet on Thursday, July 5 at 6:00pm. The Meet & Greet is an opportunity to meet other members from our region as well as ask questions and get information about what other chapters and the national organization have going on. I also want to point out the Awards Ceremony, which will be held on Saturday, July 7 at 1:00pm. Last year we had several chapters in the region take home awards, and I would love to see as many representatives of our region in attendance as possible.

I would like to recognize the local groups that have been working hard to get their bylaws updated. Bylaws and governance are some of the least glamorous aspects of Mensa, but they are the foundations of all of our chapters. In the last year and a half, North Texas Mensa, Paso del Norte Mensa, Lone Star Mensa, and Gulf Coast Mensa have all worked through revising and updating their bylaws. While this is still ongoing, for some of these chapters, I greatly appreciate the work put in both by the local groups' bylaws committees and the national bylaws committee to make the governance of these chapters more effective.

As a reminder, one of the initiatives the AMC began in 2016 was an extra support fund to local groups. Each Regional Vice Chair has a fund available to give a bit of extra financial support to chapters that are trying out something new that might cost a bit more than our typical events. Some local groups around the country have done things such as a recruiting booth at a convention, a member dinner where attendees have no cost, or a volunteer appreciation event. Our own Central Oklahoma Mensa has held a "Smart Art" gallery night and a music night. The restrictions are that funding is used for a specific event or program, with a plan being provided to me ahead of time and a follow up on what worked or what didn't after the event. If you have an idea that you think needs just a bit of extra help to get off the ground, please reach out to your LocSec or ExComm to pitch it. This support fund is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis, so kick those high-powered brains into high gear!

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