

Spring is approaching, and there are a lot of exciting happenings on the horizon. You won't want to miss out, so make sure you don't let your membership lapse. The membership year closes on March 31. If you have not yet renewed, I hope you will head over to <http://us.mensa.org/renew> after reading this column. (If you prefer to pay over the phone rather than online, call the National Office at 817-607-0060 ext. 199 during normal business hours.)

First up is the third annual instance of *Mensa Cares!* In conjunction with National Volunteer Week (April 7-13), *Mensa Cares!* serves to encourage members across the country to plan coordinated community service events highlighting Mensa's positive contribution to the areas and neighborhoods where our members live. If you are interested in planning a *Mensa Cares!* event, reach out to your LocSec.

Once you've contributed to the community, you'll want to take some time to play. CultureQuest is a national trivia competition that began here in Region 6 in 1990. Teams of up to 5 members each will gather across the country on April 28, 2019 to answer a wide variety of questions. The winning teams not only hold bragging rights on cultural literacy, they also win cash awards for their local group. There can be multiple teams from a local group. If you are interested in playing, you can register online at <http://us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>. The deadline to register is the same as the deadline to renew your membership – March 31, 2019.

American Mensa and Mensa International elections are also approaching. In order to be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections, you must renew your membership on time. I am thrilled that we have three excellent candidates who are on the ballot to be the next RVC of Region 6. There are also two national offices with contested races and several bylaws amendments up for consideration. I hope that you will all make the effort to be informed voters. You can read up on the candidates and amendments at <http://us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2019-board-election>. Additionally, I encourage you to not only ask questions of the candidates but also talk to others who may have worked with the candidates personally. The candidates for RVC 6 and the national offices have all been heavily involved in Mensa over the years, so even if you have not met them yet, chances are you know someone who has.

Finally, Gulf Coast Mensa's SynRG is coming up soon. Memorial Day weekend is one of the biggest parties of the year in our region, and this year will be no exception. You can get updates on the programming and register online at <http://gcmensa.org/synrg/synrg-2019>.

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 rv6@us.mensa.org or phone at 512-779-3945

Taz Criss