

I see in the March issue of *Pensar*, the newsletter of Paso del Norte Mensa, that someone has asked that I write more about what the AMC is doing, rather than what's going on around the Region. Some RVCs do fill their columns with discussions of things going on at the national level, and I have given some thought to that as well, but there are several reasons why I have mostly chosen not to do so.

First of all, quite frankly, there doesn't seem to be much interest in national Mensa politics hereabouts. In my own local group and the four others I have visited so far, only one person has asked me about a national issue, and everyone else left the room when it came up. If you're interested in some particular matter, I encourage you to e-mail (rvc6@us.mensa.org) me and I'll be happy to discuss the issue individually without boring everyone else.

A second reason for not concentrating on national issues is that a lot of information is readily available on the AML website or in the Mensa Bulletin. I just got back from the AMC meeting in San Diego, and I could have filled this column with a discussion of what we accomplished, but long before seeing the column, you could have just gone to the website, read the posted minutes of the meeting and seen for yourself what we did. (Primarily, we adopted a balanced budget, voted to submit to the membership a By-Laws amendment to change the way we replace and remove RVCs, appointed the national Nominating Committee, and created a task force to look for ways to make the AMC more effective.)

Finally, if what was being requested was information about what the AMC might be thinking about doing in the future, I am reluctant to comment on that because most of the discussion among the AMC members prior to an official meeting is confidential. My predecessor as RVC got crossways with the rest of the AMC because he accidentally published something from a confidential e-mail, and I don't want to make the same mistake. It's very easy to start out discussing something that's common knowledge and inadvertently add something that was said in confidence. You may think this is unfair or unduly secretive, but the fact is that most of what gets talked about among the AMC members never makes it to the meeting agenda, or is withdrawn before being acted on, so even if I could tell you what we have been discussing, much of it would turn out to be completely irrelevant, if not actually misleading.

Having said all that, if I feel that misinformation is being circulated regarding American Mensa's activities or programs, I will certainly use this column to propagate the facts, as I did last year regarding the Inpharmatica lawsuit. And, if I'm wrong about point number one above, let me hear from you. If I get a groundswell of requests for more discussion of national issues, I'll try to find a way to tiptoe through the confidentiality minefield and talk more about what might appear on the agenda of future AMC meetings.

Now, let's forget about politics and get back to partying. Don't forget Memorial Day weekend in Houston, where Gulf Coast Mensa will be pulling out all the stops to provide us with a fabulous Regional Gathering. Hope to see you there!