

From the RVC:

A recent study by the National Office shows a disturbing trend: nationwide, only about half as many Mensa qualification tests have been given so far this year as were given by this date in 2009. This has unfortunate implications for the future of our organization, as testing is our primary source of new members, now that two of the most popular college tests, the SAT and the GRE, are no longer available for our use. A little investigation indicates that the reasons for the decrease are many and various, but here in Region 6 there seems to be a common denominator: not enough proctors.

Now this is not true of every group, by any means. Our largest groups generally have plenty of proctors available and are doing lots of testing. Our smaller groups, however, generally have only one active proctor, at most. This is a two-fold problem: first of all, if one person is doing all the testing in your group, they can easily get burned out or discouraged, and gradually decrease the testing frequency in your area until your group isn't doing any testing at all. Second, if your group's only proctor dies, fails to renew, or moves out of the area, there is no one left to train another proctor, and in a region the size of ours, the nearest proctor in a neighboring group may be hundreds of miles away.

"Why is this a problem?" you may ask. Well, for two reasons. One is that, without a source of new members, a small group may just wither away as it's long-time members move, lose interest, or die off. The second reason is that the testing program can and should be an important source of funds for your group.

Right now, two groups in our region are without a proctor. One of them has a volunteer who is willing to train as a proctor, but getting someone there to do the training is going to require a real effort. American Mensa is working on a program to alleviate this problem, by providing on-line proctor training that will replace some of the personal instruction that is now required, but that alone, while very helpful, will not solve the problem unless we have some volunteers willing to be trained. That, of course, is where you come in, especially if you belong to one of our smaller groups.

If you have earned a degree from an accredited four-year college or university, and are willing to give about two hours a month to your local Mensa group, please contact your group's LocSec or Testing Coordinator and volunteer to become a proctor. No experience is required, although testing experience will substitute for some of the required training, and it's really very easy. You'll have fun and help your group at the same time. Thanks!

Roger Durham