

From the RVC:

By the time most of you read this, or soon afterwards, the American Mensa election will be over, and at the Annual Gathering in Fort Worth a new American Mensa Committee, your national Board of Directors, will take office. Some of the members will be the same, some will be new, and some may be in new positions. I know many of you will be coming to the AG this year, and I hope that some of you will take advantage of the opportunity to attend the AMC meeting and get acquainted with the people who will lead American Mensa for the next two years. Of course, that means taking some time away from the terrific array of games, speakers, and other activities that are planned for the AG, but it might be time well spent if you have an interest in the future of our organization.

Speaking of which, I always enjoy being able to report on things that the AMC has accomplished during the last two years, but this time I regret that I must report to you something that we have not accomplished. Two years ago, in June of 2011, based on a discussion that took place at the spring AMC meeting that year, I told you that the new and improved American Mensa website would have a place where interested members could see the job descriptions for all national appointed offices, and post their resumes for the AMC members to review. Two years have gone by and that has not happened, for one reason or another. I don't know why it hasn't happened, but I have reminded the AMC of our promise to provide you with this opportunity, and asked that such an area be added to the national website as soon as possible.

And while on the subject of volunteering, let me take this opportunity to encourage all of you to consider serving as an officer of your local group, especially those of you who belong to our smaller groups. Several times in the past couple of years I have been contacted by local officers here in Region Six, asking what could be done if no one was willing to run for election. In some cases, they couldn't even find anyone to serve on a nominating or election committee. The ultimate answer, in such cases, is that if absolutely nobody can be found to serve as local officers, your group will be disbanded and the members reassigned to another group, but that is definitely a last resort. Before doing that, as Regional Vice Chair, I have the authority to appoint new officers for your local group, but that is a power I have exercised only rarely and very reluctantly. You can save everyone a great deal of heartburn and mental anguish by stepping forward when your group needs new officers. Being a local group officer isn't terribly difficult, it doesn't really take that much time, and both the national office staff and I will be happy to help if you run into problems.

In the meantime, see you at the AG!

Roger Durham