

Ah, spring, that wonderful time of the year. Warmth returns, daylight savings time begins, trees bloom (causing those with allergies like mine to stop breathing for a few weeks), and it's time to renew your Mensa membership!

The membership year for American Mensa ends on March 31. You can make sure you don't miss out on any of the great benefits your membership includes by renewing online at [www.us.mensa.org/renew](http://www.us.mensa.org/renew) or by calling the National Office at (888) 294-8035 ext. 199.

This year, there is an extra perk offered for those who renew on time. The *Mensa Bulletin* turns 50 in 2016. Every member who renews on time (yes, that includes life members and multi-year members) will receive a complimentary copy of a beautiful book featuring writing from the last five decades along with brand new original illustrations from members. This book is filled with fantastic writing, and I'm excited to get my copy. If you miss the deadline to renew, you will still be able to get a copy, but you'll have to pay for it. No one likes spending money for what they can get for free, so renew your membership today! You can hear more about this fantastic book in the February issue of the *Bulletin*, or online at [www.bit.ly/1XrQ1js](http://www.bit.ly/1XrQ1js).

While you are considering your plans for the upcoming year, I want to mention a few things to add to your calendar. Gulf Coast Mensa, Lone Star Mensa, and North Texas Mensa are all well known for throwing great RGs, but this year, New Orleans Mensa will be joining the fray. New Orleans is returning to the RG circuit December 9-11, 2016. They will be hosting the quarterly American Mensa Committee meeting in conjunction with the RG. More details will be coming soon, but you'll want to save this date.

A little sooner than that, South Texas Mensa is hosting the AMC for their quarterly meeting on March 19, 2016 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown San Antonio, TX. On Friday, March 18, STM will host their monthly speaker meeting, followed by a town hall with myself and the other members of the AMC. I encourage any of you who are available to attend this weekend. Outside of being able to learn more about our organization, STM always has great speakers, and you'll be able to enjoy San Antonio and all it has to offer.

Memorial Day weekend features Gulf Coast Mensa's annual SynRG. Plans are well underway to Boldly Go Where No RG Has Gone Before. You can register online at [www.gcmensa.org/synrg/2016-registration](http://www.gcmensa.org/synrg/2016-registration). SynRG typically draws in attendees from over at least 7 different local groups. You can enjoy a great party and get to know Ms from all over the region.

Finally, don't forget to register for the Annual Gathering, held this year in San Diego, CA. This opportunity to spend time with ~2,000 other Mensans is one of my favorite times of the year. Stay tuned to [www.ag.us.mensa.org/](http://www.ag.us.mensa.org/) for program updates as we get closer to June.

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