

September marks the opening of the Mensa Foundation scholarship program. Scholarships are available to anyone who is attending an accredited educational institution, whether or not they are a member of Mensa. Scholarship awards from the Foundation are based solely on the applicants' essays. There is no consideration given to grades or financial need.

I hope that you will consider donating to the Foundation, either with a financial gift or a gift of time. The scholarship program relies on hundreds of volunteers who judge the thousands of essays that are submitting each year. Carla Young is serving as the Regional Scholarship Chair for Region 6 again this year. If you are interested in judging essays at the regional level, please reach out to her at scholarships@region6.us.mensa.org. You can learn more about the Foundation (and make a contribution) at www.mensafoundation.org.

One of the charges of the national Membership Committee is to review potential member benefits and determine what new benefits may be added to our offerings. One of the newest opportunities is called Rated M – The Mensa Marketing Research Panel. Members have the opportunity to participate in surveys and be compensated for each survey in which they participate. If you are interested, head over to <http://tinyurl.com/RatedMensa>.

In addition to more traditional benefits, we have two exciting partnerships that we believe will be a great opportunity for both entertainment and public awareness of Mensa. American Mensa and Mensa Canada recently entered into a partnership with Skyhorse Publishing to produce many game and puzzle books over the next four years. The first offering is expected to be available in November, so keep an eye out for it as you begin your holiday shopping list.

The second partnership is a global partnership with Hasbro. Several classic children's games have been re-released by Hasbro this summer, featuring the Mensa for Kids logo and a short list of what skills the game is designed to teach through play. It is expected that this partnership will continue to expand beyond the first four games (Perfection, Mouse Trap, Downspin, and Cranium Sculpt It), all of which are currently available at toy retailers across the country and on Hasbro's website, www.HasbroToyShop.com.

Don't forget about the two Regional Gatherings that will be held in the next few months. LonestarRG, hosted by Lone Star Mensa, will be held over Labor Day weekend at the Wingate Hotel in Round Rock, TX. You can find program details and register online at <http://bit.ly/2vtFCfW>.

North Texas Mensa will again hold The Feast of Pleasures and Delights over Thanksgiving weekend. This RG will be held at the Addison Marriott Quorum by the Galleria in Dallas, TX. Further details are available on NTM's website at <http://bit.ly/2hRVF48>.

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 or phone at 512-779-3945.

Taz Criss