

One of the things I have most enjoyed while serving as Regional Vice Chair has been seeing the creativity of the Region 6 local groups when it comes to planning their events. In the last year alone, I've seen so many neat ideas that other groups might want to emulate if they are looking for a way to shake up their own events listing. Central Oklahoma Mensa held an art show featuring art created by Mensans. Permian Basin Mensa subsidized an escape room outing. Gulf Coast Mensa members headed over to Painting With a Twist to enjoy an evening of painting lessons. Paso del Norte Mensa even has an upcoming camping and stargazing trip scheduled in May.

Events like these are the cornerstone of why you won't want to let your membership lapse. The membership year closes on March 31. If you have not yet renewed, I hope you will head over to <http://us.mensa.org/renew> after reading this column. (If you prefer to pay over the phone rather than online, call the National Office at 817-607-0060 ext. 199 during normal business hours.) There are several reasons to make sure you renew on time, not the least of which is to ensure that you don't miss an issue of your local newsletter.

If you enjoy trivia, you must renew on time to be able to participate in CultureQuest. CQ is a national competition that began here in Region 6 in 1990. Teams of up to 5 members each will gather across the country on April 29, 2018 to answer a wide variety of questions. The winning teams not only hold bragging rights on cultural literacy, they also win cash awards for their local group. There can be multiple teams from a local group. If you are interested in playing, you can register online at <http://us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>. The deadline to register is the same as the deadline to renew your membership – March 31, 2018.

Along with the myriad of local events held across Region 6, we are always proud of our Regional Gatherings. Gulf Coast Mensa's SynRG is coming up soon. This year's registration is running well ahead of average, so we expect this Memorial Day weekend to be an even bigger party than years past. You can get updates on the programming and register online at <http://gcmensa.org/synrg/synrg-2018>.

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.

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