

Floreat Mensa!

Hello fellow Region 2 Mensa members,

Springtime, as well as the beginning of Mensa's fiscal year (April 1st), have arrived. Also beginning is the newest American Mensa Committee, as our national elections take place from April 15 to May 15. If you've been paying attention to the election cycles, you'll remember that the AMC administrations have changed from a 2-year cycle to a 3-year cycle, as passed by a referendum vote by the general membership in 2021. A great deal of the functioning time for an AMC term is lost as new AMC members learn their jobs—as a member of a national board but also their role in the committees they serve on—and the RVCs are juggling trying to step into their role at the regional level. With a 2-year term and the first year spent largely as a learning curve, there's not much time to be highly effective. By allowing the AMC more time to excel in their role, they can better serve the membership. Additionally, alignment with the Mensa International election cycle prevents confusion over voting periods and the accompanying voter fatigue. The financial impact of lengthening the AMC term is a savings of 1/3 of the expected total election expenses, as there are now two elections every six years, rather than three elections every six years. By saving \$30K over a six-year period, this gives us an average savings of \$5K per year.

If you are receiving this newsletter, you've probably renewed your membership by March 31st, which is required for eligibility to vote in our national election. Last fiscal year, 74.0% of our first-year members renewed, while 88.2% of members overall renewed—not too bad. The incoming RVC2 is already declared elected, so the members of Region 2 are eligible to vote for the following: the 5 proposed Bylaws Amendments (all of which I am in favor), as well as 3 national positions (2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer). Please take some time to log in to the election portal (us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2024-election-portal/) and cast your vote for the candidates and issues that make the most sense to you. Many people have worked hard to create the optimal strategic plan for this organization; your attention to these matters is appreciated.

We hope you can join us for the following:

- Check out our new and improved events calendar (<https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>), where events can be searched based on local group, region, special interest, event type, in-person, virtual and more!
- April 6-8 VML Fourplay: A Hell's M's sanctioned party leading up to a 99.5% totality eclipse on Monday afternoon. For more info, contact maryleekemper@gmail.com
- April 28 2:30 PM CST: Online Theodore Talk: Why Black Baseball Matters - Larry Lester, co-founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, located near the 2024 AG site, will discuss how men of color changed the landscape of American baseball and proved that they could play on even terms with their white counterparts – and draw just as much interest from baseball fans. Talks take place on Zoom on the 4th Sunday of each month at 3:30 PM CST, with [registration](#) and [Zoom account](#) required (both free). For more info, contact TheodoreTalks@mamensa.org.
- July 3-7 Annual Gathering in Kansas City. Join us for some barbecue!
- August 16-18 [PANDEMIC - So Very Lit!](#) Join the rockstars of Metropolitan Washington Mensa for an unforgettable weekend. For more info, contact tabbcat@gmail.com.

As always, please reach out (call, text, or email) with your questions, concerns or suggestions. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Warm personal regards,
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