

Mensaje

January 2014

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RVC Column - January 2014

If you are reading this, we've made it through another year. As we begin the new year, don't forget to renew your membership, if you're not already a Life Member.

Congratulations to the new officers of South Coast Mensa: Donna Workman, LocSec; Dan Hanson, Asst. LocSec, and Luther Lemley, Treasurer.

The first weekend of December, the American Mensa Board of Directors met in West Palm Beach, Florida. The minutes of this meeting should be online soon. The next Board meeting will take place March 28-30 in Charlotte, NC, right here in Region 5. Charlotte-Blue Ridge Mensa will be hosting a Leadership Development Workshop at the same location. This will give participants the opportunity to meet and mingle with members of your Board. I hope that many of you will participate in this exciting opportunity.

Launched in 2009, LEAP (Leadership Exchange Ambassador Program) helps national Mensa groups grow by exchanging leadership experiences and best practices with other national groups. It provides a network of potential leaders, who are able to learn from each other and pass the knowledge to their native groups: from conflict resolution to marketing to gifted children and Logical Olympics. LEAP ambassadors are chosen from among up-and-coming leaders all over the world. In 2014 there will be two LEAP tracks:

1. The first: A group of LEAPers will travel to two international gatherings to present workshops on leadership experience and best practices that have helped their own Mensa grow (videos and reports can be found here:

<http://www.intelligenceday.org/leap/leap-knowledge/>). Best practice reports will be available to Mensa

groups all over the world and travel allowances will be provided by Mensa International.

2. The second LEAP is open for innovation: Volunteers can apply with their own ideas and projects to exchange knowledge between Mensa groups. Tell us what you want to do, how much money your project will require and what the benefits would be.

Applicants will be selected based on paper applications and YouTube presentations. Application materials will be available shortly after the new year and candidates will be selected in March 2014. If you have questions or are interested in applying, please contact the US LEAP representative at

leapcomm@mensa.org.

Middle Tennessee Mensa has been discussing hosting a Regional Gathering this spring. However, due to logistical and timing issues, it has been postponed. I will keep you posted when the details are finalized. Expect a Music City RG during 2014.

If you haven't registered for the Carolinas RG, you can register at the lowest rate if you do so by January 11. "The Great Escape" will take place May 2-4 in Greensboro, SC. Piedmont Area Mensa always puts on a great RG, and Mensans come from all over to enjoy the event.

Here's wishing you and yours a

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!

Baker Ring

Email from Baker Ring:

Here is the information on The Carolinas RG. The email includes a registration form as well as hotel information.

Piedmont Area Mensa's premier event, the popular Carolinah Regional Gathering under the direction of Larry Bounds, will be May 2-4 at Greenville's Drury Inn and Suites. The 2014 theme will be escape - escaping from, escaping to..... Enjoy a tropical luau and a program on escape artist, Harry Houdini. A 36 square foot scale model of the Alamo will illustrate the true story of those who actually escaped from this fortification. Many other fabulous escapes are in the works. Any Ideas?

Attached is our RG Registration form with additional information (sorry, it's not attached. If you need it, let me know, I'll send you one, Janet). For the lowest adult rate, register by January 11. Youth rates and credit card procedures are available upon request.

Mary Ann Cox, Carolinas RG Registrar

December's MTE - was at Samurai, Gulfport. A good time was had by all.

January's MTE - Thursday, January 16, 5:30p at Half Shell Oyster House, 125 Lameuse St., Biloxi, 228-432-5050, halfshelloysterhouse.com (a member requested somewhere in Biloxi).

JUDGES NEEDED - here's an email from Jane Gmur, Asst. National Scholarship Chair -

I'm looking for a few good readers. Students going to college next year will be applying to the Mensa Education and Research Foundation for a scholarship - more than 175 are offered. Winners are selected based on short essays written by the applicants describing their career or study goals.

I'm asking Mensa members to spend some time, just a few hours in late January or early February, to score essays.

The Foundation has expanded the scholarship program this year. Until now, when a Local Group didn't participate in the program, students who lived in its area were ineligible to apply for a scholarship. The program has been expanded so that applications from nonparticipating group areas are accepted and processed by a national-level set of judges. As Assistant National Scholarship Chair, I'm organizing those judging groups now.

The essays are short, 550 words at the most. If we can send fewer than 70 to each reader, then scoring should take 4 hours, more or less. Criteria are well-defined by the Foundation to keep scores as objective and consistent as possible.

Personally, in my first few years of membership, I used to disregard requests to judge scholarship essays: I didn't feel qualified because writing isn't my forte and, besides, it just sounded dry. I believed that they didn't need me; other members would be better judges.

In fact, reading the essays is interesting. They reveal students' interests and concerns and which career goals are favored each year. Most scholarship judges continue volunteering every year after they've tried it once.

As for being qualified, if you spot errors in the newspaper or if you know the difference between their, there and they're, you're probably qualified to judge essays.

I don't want to steal current judges from Local Groups or Regions. However, for those judges who love reading essays and want to spend an additional few hours reading more, you can participate at this level with no fear of conflict of interest.

Please send an email to

volunteers@mensafoundation.org

to get involved in this worthwhile program.