



Heartland Mensa Region 7



RVC Greg Kontz

April 2014 RVC Column

Hi Guys—

We had a board meeting on March 29 in Charlotte, NC. I did not get stuck at the airport in Dickinson, ND this time. Susan and I went from 10 degrees and snow to 60+ and a little rain. It was a very nice change. We did get stuck in Minneapolis for two days when a blizzard hit the area while we were gone (of course). Got a foot of the wet, heavy stuff. When we got back to the airport in Dickinson, I found the car was behind a two-foot high pile shoved up by the blade that went through. That's when you give the gal behind the rental car desk \$20 to use her \$10 plastic shovel for 10 minutes. Then you get back to the house and see what the city blade left for you in front of your driveway—fun, fun. Anyway, here are the main points of the March 29 meeting.

- Printed handbooks will be changed over to online guides. This should make updates easier to achieve, easier to access and more economical.
- Starting in 2015, there will be a 10% charge for AG cancellations up until 10 days before the event. After that, case-by-case review.
- A job description for the Chief White Hat at AGs was established.
- The approval process for RGs was shortened. Basically, once you have RVC and Local Group approval—you're good to go.
- We got a “sneak peek” at the Mensa Compendium—very impressive. Essentially, this is like a Wikipedia site for Mensa. You can look up the history of various parts of Mensa, see how-to guides, watch online presentations, etc. This will be an “always-evolving” site, with significant member input. The Compendium should be available soon.
- AG registration rates were made non-transferable. This should make forecasting the attendance figures more accurate.
- The 2013-2014 budget was approved.
- The “Equity Restoration” budget line item was changed from \$150,000. for 2014-2015 to \$25,000. The present financial situation does not allow for \$150,000.
- AG Chair / Board Liaison can now refuse a volunteer offer after consultation with the Staff Liaison.
- A motion to have all in-person Board Meetings held near the national office was postponed till the next meeting. This was proposed as a cost saving measure.
- Electronic voting in national elections will become the primary and default method for 2015, with an option for print ballots. There are less and less outside contractors willing to run “print primary” elections. This should also reduce costs.

As I mentioned in the last column, there's an RG (EnRG2014) in Dickinson, North Dakota on June 13-14-15. Registrations have started coming in. There are links on the national website, the regional website, and on the North Dakota website. Just in case anybody missed the last column, here's the link to the program and registration form: <http://www.northdakota.us.mensa.org/RG.htm>. There are several links in the program to give you a “feel” for the area, the speakers, and the tours. If anybody has questions, etc.—holler. I'm looking forward to it—think it'll be a real fun time.

Later,

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