

Hi guys –

That time again. Here's what's been happening:

- We had a board meeting 10/03 > 10/05 in Dallas. There were dozens of motions to vote on, but there were two that people were most interested in. Here's a basic summary of those.
- G.14 – Firearms (later changed to 'functional weapons') = prohibited at national events:  
The motion passed 10 – 9 – 1. It was a contentious issue, with lots of comments and discussion on both sides. By the time you read this, I suspect that the full meeting minutes will be on the website. (Go to 'Read', then 'Board Meeting Reports') Some of the main points I would summarize are the following:
  - This was not put out as a political statement. It was put out by the risk management committee as a way to decrease Mensa's legal exposure to a possible occurrence at a national event. Good people can disagree – hence the close vote.
  - This will only apply at national events – AG, Board Meetings, Mind Games, Colloquium.
  - RGs, SIG activity, Local Group activity – all unaffected.
  - Almost all of the venues that host national events already have weapons policies in effect.
  - Although I voted against this motion for various reasons, I do recognize that others have legitimate reasons to feel differently. I will respect the Board's decision. In the future, I will expect others to respect decisions that they disagree with – that's how the system works. Over time, I suspect that this, like many other motions, will evolve.
- G.17 – allow email marketing by outside entities. This allows the one time 'rental' of email addresses for advertisers. This one passed 18 – 2. Here's a basic summary of what it does.
  - A committee reviews advertising requests and decides if they are appropriate and possibly useful for Mensa members.
  - If a request is approved, the emailing occurs through a 3rd party on a 'one time only' basis. The advertiser is never given the emails.
  - The expectation is that there will be 1>2 emails per month, generating about \$10,000 per year for Mensa.
  - Emails will only go to members who have checked the "Release

my name, address and email information, excluding phone, for communications from authorized benefit and service providers that may be of interest to me.” box on their “Privacy Releases” tab under “Edit Profile”. If you don’t have that checked, you will not receive anything (see below). Point being: you have control over this either way.

- At the end of the day long Saturday meeting, it was refreshing to have some long term Mensa members comment on what they perceived as the high level of civility.
- Everybody went out to supper afterwards – no sulking, resentment, anguish, etc. People behaved like adults.
- Other things to keep in mind:
- The Mensa Bulletin will soon be electronic – you’ll be able read it on your computer, tablet, phone – something to look forward to.
- Since June, Region 7 has added almost 200 members. For that, and other things - thank you. I’m happy and proud to be a member of the ‘Heartland’ bunch.

Later –

Greg Kontz, RVC7

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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the '1-10. RELEASES' form on the American Mensa website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://www.us.mensa.org/AML/LinkServIDx012186CF-8026-2675-334A2AC23F5D...>. The page has a light blue header with navigation links like 'eNewsletter subscriptions', 'Member news submission', 'Personal data questions', 'Privacy releases', and 'Publication preferences'. On the left, there are links for 'Renew my membership', 'LiveSupport ONLINE', 'Brilliance in Beantown', and 'Shop the Mensa Store'. The main content area is titled '1-10. RELEASES' and contains a paragraph explaining the privacy policy. Below this, there are several checkboxes for releasing information. The checkbox for 'Release my name, address and email information, excluding phone, for communications from authorized benefit and service providers that may be of interest to me' is currently unchecked. Other checkboxes are checked, including releasing phone number, email address, birth date, PDQ information, and home address. At the bottom, there is a paragraph about the distribution of released information to local groups and special interest groups.

1-10. RELEASES

American Mensa, Ltd. and its groups understand that respecting the privacy of their members is of utmost importance and, as such, agree to respect and seek permission before distributing member information. Please pay careful attention to questions 1-10 as they provide authorization to distribute information that you have supplied to American Mensa.

☒ Release my phone number within the organization.

☒ Release my email address within the organization.

☒ Release birth date and PDQ information within the organization.

☒ Include my home address in local and national online or printed directories. Note that if "no" is selected, the default for a printed directory is name, city, state.

☒ Include my phone number in local and national online or printed directories.

☒ Include my email address in local and national online or printed directories.

☒ Include other PDQ information in local and national online or printed directories.

☐ Release my name, address and email information, excluding phone, for communications from authorized benefit and service providers that may be of interest to me

☒ I would like to receive periodic Mensa-related notices via email.

☒ Release my contact information to candidates in American Mensa elections.

Information released within the organization will be distributed to your Local Group for administrative purposes and may also be distributed to Special Interest Groups and the Mensa Foundation. Name and physical address may be released to Local Groups and Special Interest Groups for administrative purposes.