RVC Curt Krambeck

Heartland Mensa Region 7



This month starts with May Day, celebrated with various traditions throughout the world. For starters, May first is International Worker's Day, so let's take a moment to celebrate the 8-hour workday. Back in 1886 a May Day protest in Chicago led to the Haymarket massacre. In July you can visit the Haymarket Martyr's Monument, which is about a 10-minute drive from the AG hotel. This also marks Beltane, the half-way point between the equinox and solstice. This is the season for protection and growth. It's also the time I'll let my inside plants go outside. When your celebrations of labor, maypoles, and bonfires get a little rowdy, May Day is also recognized as an international distress call, derivative of the French word m'aider. That's a lot to fit into the first day of the month!

What do we do once we get past the first day of May? My goal is to start looking in depth at how American Mensa handles confidentiality. There is the obvious, such as Executive Sessions in a Board meeting for such things as personnel matters, contract review, etc. There is concern among some members about how confidentiality is handled with the Hearings Committee. That includes understanding who has the authority to protect someone's privacy versus releasing their findings. What we have now is a body independent of the Board making that decision, which I think is important to maintain. I have heard from a few people with strong opinions. Over the next few months, we have the opportunity to look at the policies in place and propose new paths for Mensa to take where appropriate. It's not just in-vogue topics though. The Board has a confidential forum where we can discuss proposals before they're made public. That's essential for us to come together and present a unified vision and maintain our fiduciary duty to loyalty. Other committees have varying degrees of confidentiality; the Finance Committee, the AG Committee, the Bylaws Committee. Any broad, sweeping change could affect each group differently, so we have to be careful in implementing sound policy that engages our membership while protecting our organization. The most important part of that is listening to you. If you have any ideas or concerns, please let me know. I can be reached at RVC7@us.mensa.org or curtkram2001@yahoo.com. Mensa is what you make it. Thank you.

~ Curt