

My Soapbox

By Ann Knudson

It's time for an election. As I write, John Gosbee, longtime ND Mensa Loc Sec, has let his Mensa membership lapse. As the last Deputy Loc Sec, I am acting as Loc Sec until we can elect a new one or until John renews. I am now looking for members to serve on a Nominating Committee and plan to publish candidate statements in the next Dawg. Anyone who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee (Nom Com), please call me at (701) 223-296 or email me at kann2@qwest.net. Note: anyone who serves on the Nom Com may not be on the ballot, but you don't have to be on the Nom Com to offer a suggestion, call or email me to throw a name in the hat. Since our group is so small and so spread out, throw your own name in if you like. We need a Loc Sec, Deputy Loc Sec, and Treasurer. There are various other positions, such as newsletter editor, but they are appointed rather than elected positions.

From what I've seen, the Loc Sec job is what you make it. If you're King Log, you have your name listed various places, get put on the Loc Sec email list, field an occasional phone call, find somebody to run the newsletter, make sure elections get held as required, deal with mail from national Mensa, and file a report or two. Probably takes an hour or two a week. If you choose to be more active, you can work on finding Mensans to fill all the other possible positions, such as membership coordinator, local area coordinators (e.g. Red River Valley Coordinator), gifted children coordinator, SIGHT coordinator, scholarship coordinator, etc. You can beat the bushes for members, arrange testing on National Test Day and/or other days, set up and maintain a web site, work on PR so that people know Mensa exists, host parties, encourage other events, write a column for the newsletter, set up a group trip or convoy to a Regional Gathering, represent ND at business meetings at an Annual Gathering, keep a scrapbook, support projects such as Johnny Inkslinger (donating books to libraries), etc. Or you can talk other Mensans into doing any or all of the above.

For Deputy Loc Sec, the minimum is to list your name in various places (newsletter, Mensa Bulletin), field occasional calls when people can't reach the Loc Sec, and stand in for the Loc Sec if required, as I'm doing now. Or, if you and the Loc Sec so choose, you can do some of what I listed for Loc Sec.

The Treasurer keeps the checkbook, which is mainly devoted to printing and postage costs for the Prairie Dawg.

As we go to press, John is ineligible to run for Loc Sec unless he renews. Karen Swanay of Minot has indicated an interest in the position. I do not plan to run for Deputy Loc Sec, so that job is wide open. Our current treasurer, Sally Oremland, is willing to continue as treasurer. She suffered a bout with cancer recently, but is doing fine, and the duties aren't onerous. (If you would like to send her an encouraging word, her address is 2201 Sherman Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504, 701-258-3114.)