

## **Rigged elections**

Each election cycle the powers-that-be of American Mensa appoint a *Nominating Committee* to determine who runs for national elected positions. The ostensive purpose of this committee is to guarantee there is at least one person to run for every AMC/Board of Directors office. Their actual purpose of late, however, is to vet potential candidates to make certain they are compliant, like-minded individuals, who are not going to rock the boat. Members wishing to run for office who are not nominated by the Nominating Committee must jump through hoops by securing hundreds of petition signatures. In election materials, those nominated by the Nominating Committee get preferential treatment, noting that they were nominated by that committee and thus, to the naïve voter, are presumably the most qualified.

Then there is the recently established though very hush-hush “loyalty oath” that national officers must sign, which demands that there may be dissension only in secret among themselves, such that once any decision is made by the Board, all must quietly go along with it regardless of what they personally think. Public criticism is forbidden. This, supposedly, is to present a united front, so as to instill confidence in the membership.

If still the wrong member should be voted into office there is simply a recount of the votes. This occurred in a recent election when the American Mensa election results were voided due to supposedly faulty vote counts by the carefully selected professional election company, whose sole business is to count election votes, and which is paid, time and again, many tens of thousands of members’ dollars to do so. Yet it seems that long-used firm has difficulty doing that simple task. In that election a few years ago, Dan Burg, perpetual AMCer running for American Mensa Chairman,

failed to be elected in the initial count. Yet when the votes were recounted, he won handily. In that same election the upstart Treasurer candidate (and major critic of AMC) initially won by a landslide. Yet when the votes were recounted, however, he lost the election. With all the other winning candidates, team players all, there were no problems.

Secrecy is now the order of the day in American Mensa governance. Up until recently all AMC/Board of Directors meetings were wide open and inviting to the membership, and it was a rarity to hold any portion of them behind closed doors. Today, transparency is a thing of the past, as “executive session” and “in camera” and “closed sessions” with little or no record of what went on, has become standard operating procedure.

Once elected to AMC/Board of Directors, any who dare breach that secrecy or show the slightest hint of not being a team player will almost certainly be drummed out of office. This occurred to the late Ralph Rudolph (a former AML Chairman no less as well as ex-husband of the then current AML Chairman and recent International Chairman, Elissa Rudolph) who was forced from office under threat of “acts inimical” when he had the audacity to utter a negligible comment that was supposed to remain confidential. Mr. Rudolph died of a heart attack soon after.

Thus, with the nominating committees, and the loyalty oaths, and the vote recounts, and the extensive secrecy, and the mandated team-players, the “leadership” of American Mensa has become wholly self-serving, self-perpetuating, with any semblance of integrity nonexistent.