

C R M E N S A

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The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

February 2006

<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>

MONTHLY DINNER MEETING: February 25th, 6 pm,

Old Country Buffet, 873 N Columbia Center Blvd, Kennewick. (*Off Quinault, but you can't make a left off Quinault, near Barnes & Noble*). Remember our old times at Old Country? Well here they are again. Low prices, hearty food. We'll try to get the meeting room, otherwise look for the yellow balloon. See maps.

Contact: 946-8309 Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org.

EASTERN CASCADES LOCAL AREA MONTHLY GATHERING March 4 at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting is the first Saturday of every month from 11 - 12 a.m. at the Matterhorn (101 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg 509-925-7200.) Take Exit 109 (Canyon Road) off I-90, drive north to the first traffic light and turn west (left). The Matterhorn is on the Northwest corner of Canyon and Umptanum.) The table will be marked with two wine glasses turned upside down. (Four Tri-City area members drove up in February.) See maps.

Contact: easterncascadesarea@crm.us.mensa.org for details and possible drive-shares. Thanks to Eastern Cascades Local Area Coordinators, George and Alix, for arranging this.

RADCON 2006 February 17-19: If you are a member who loves games (or not) and would be interested in (wo) manning a table at RADCON (www.radcon.org) on the Saturday afternoon or evening? You would play games Dave Smith and others would supply, (please--anyone else who can, contact locsec) and get some Mensa literature to hand out, and a CRM banner to mount near your table. Mensa could get you a discount or pass. (More than one person is OK.) Contact Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org, or 946-8309.



Northwest Passages

by John Recht, Region 8 RVC
rvc8@us.mensa.org

It's election season! Between last November and March of this year elections are taking place in each of the eleven local groups in Region 8.

So far this season we have three new LocSecs in the region: Judy Burdick of Monterey County Mensa, Robert McAllister of Northern Nevada Mensa, and Debra Reiger of Sacramento Regional Mensa. To each of you, and to all the new officers in the local groups of Region 8, I send my congratulations and warmest regards. And to every officer and volunteer, whether elected or appointed, I send my deepest thanks for your efforts on behalf of Mensa. We are all enriched in our lives and experiences as Mensa members because of what you do.

According to recent reports from the National Office, we have 5,200 Mensa members in Region 8 as of 12/31/05. Of these, 241 are serving in some capacity as local group officers. That leaves nearly 5,000 who aren't, or more than 95% of our membership in Region 8. Interestingly, that's about the same percentage of members who don't vote in local group elections.

If Mensa is to prosper in the years to come, clearly we need members to step up and take responsibility for activities at the local level. That's where you come in, whether you are in the 5% who are currently serving as volunteers, or the 95% who are not. I'd like each of you to think about what you can do to make Mensa a better society, and offer whatever that may be. Writing an article for your local newsletter, attending or hosting a local function, or voting in local group elections are all easy ways to take part, and much appreciated by your fellow members.

However, if you want to do more, and if you have the time and inclination to serve your local group in a key volunteer position, then I strongly encourage you to register for a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW). Debra Reiger is hosting an LDW in Sacramento from February 24-26 at the Ramada Limited. Registration is free, and it's an ideal opportunity to, in Debra's words, "learn more about how Mensa operates and acquire leadership tools and skills." For more information contact Debra at debra.reiger@earthlink.net or check the Sacramento Regional Mensa website at www.sacramento.us.mensa.org.

Finally, once again I ask you to join me in my home town of Portland, OR for two fabulous events in April. I have signed on as Co-Chair for the 2006 edition of Mind Games, from April 21-23. Mind Games is an incredible experience, and a unique opportunity for Mensans to play, judge, and critique games for an entire weekend, and finally to award the coveted Mensa Select seal to the top five. Registration is only \$70, and you will find forms online at mindgames.us.mensa.org. Seats are limited, so please don't miss the chance to join in the fun. And if you can stay the week in between, Oregon Mensa will have various amusements leading up to their annual RG in downtown Portland, OR, from April 28-30. BeaverRG IX will be a very exciting opportunity to "Expose Yourself to Portland," and you will be a short walk away from Powell's City of Books. Need I say more? You can find out for yourself at the Oregon Mensa website at www.oregon.us.mensa.org. Hope to see you in April!

LOCSEC NOTES TO CRM MEMBERS: If you would like to share your (or someone else's) car, driving to these events in Portland, let Locsec know, and she will notify those also interested. (This is not a CRM sponsored "drive" but would be arranged between those driving or riding.) **Another note:** Does anyone belong to a SIG that they enjoy? Would you be willing to write a bit about it to be included in a future Chinook? Or is there any special place on the American Mensa Web site that you recommend? If so, please describe to editor@crm.us.mensa.org (Word, attached if possible). **Same goes for:** any other special web sites or chat groups, email groups that you would recommend. **And furthermore:** you are now able to look up members by group on the National web site. Many of us do not have an email available to National. If you want your email entered and available to other members on that site, contact Howard Prince (see below; our group # is 989). An alternative is to join the CRM-Talk group, by going to CRM-Talk-request@lists.us.mensa.org. If you want your email address available to CRM members but not National, we need to organize our own directory. This would not be as secure as the National site, but if someone wants to organize it, let me know. **Another note:** **CultureQuest** is a national trivia contest among AMC members April 30th. If you are interested and want to coordinate for CRM, contact Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org before March 20. More info at www.us.mensa.org/cq.

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL MENSA And our Region 8 RVC Present Leadership Development Workshop February 24 - 26, 2006

Cost: It's free! (If you come from out of town, you are responsible for your own lodging. Some meals, like Friday and Saturday suppers, are not included.)

Who should attend: Any Mensa member, from any local group, who wants to know more about how Mensa operates and who would like to develop leadership skills.

Current and upcoming leaders, including editors and those in appointed and elected positions, are welcome! If you are not currently in a leadership position and are thinking about becoming more active, please come to this event!

Schedule: We will meet on Friday evening to get acquainted and socialize. Leadership sessions will occur during the day on Saturday (with fun stuff Saturday night), and sessions will resume in the morning on Sunday.

Topics:

Editing and Newsletter Basics and Mensa Websites

GenX Mensans

What does the National Office do for us?

Financial Basics Overview; Fund Raising and Investing Group Funds

Testing and Admissions Overview; Building your Proctor Network & Testing Program

Recruitment and Retention Overview

Getting People Involved

Getting Public Relations for Mensa; Developing Mensa Publicity Tools

Executive Committee (Mensa Board) Basics

Running Good Elections

Getting Special Groups Going and Supporting Special Interest Groups

Mensa Resources

Constitution of Mensa and AML Bylaws

To sign-up: Contact Debra Reiger at 916-456-4595 (before 9pm, please) or by email at debra.reiger@earthlink.net.

More information available on our web site soon: ww.sacramento.us.mensa.org

ATTEND ONE OF OUR NATIONAL GATHERINGS:

Mind Games 2006 in Portland Ore. (4/21-23) (www.mindgames.us.mensa.org), **World Gathering** (and the 60th anniversary of Mensa) in Orlando, Fla. August 8-13 (www.wg06.us.mensa.org), **Colloquium 2006: Revolution in Cosmology** in Albany, NY Oct. 6-8, (www.colloquium.us.mensa.org). We look forward to seeing you!

Jill Beckham, Foundation Director

jillb@americanmensa.org

American Mensa Ltd., 817-607-0060 x123

www.us.mensa.org

AMERICAN MENSA NATIONAL AWARDS

To the Membership:

It's that time of the year once again! The National Awards Committee is calling for nominations for the American Mensa National Awards program.

These nominations are for those members whose service to American Mensa as a Society, or achievements benefiting the Society, have resulted in a significant contribution to the organization (as distinguished from service or contributions to local groups, regions, SIGs, etc., which may have their own awards programs.)

Please send nominations of members you feel are deserving of a National Award to: National Awards Committee
American Mensa 1229 Corporate Drive W Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

Your nomination submission should detail the reasons why the member is especially deserving of a National Award, and the qualifications which make that member a special candidate for such an award - the more information provided, the better the Committee can consider the nomination. The national awards include Certificates of Appreciation, National Service Awards, Distinguished Service Awards, and the Life Membership Award. Questions may be sent to me, but Award Nominations should be sent to the National Office **not later than the end of April**. Thanks in advance.

Dave Felt, Chairman, National Awards Committee

feltd@ix.netcom.com (Please use Subject: Mensa Awards) Darlene Criss, Rose Lee B. Crutcher, Helen Kupper, Dr. Abbie Salny

ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY ON MENSA NATIONAL WEB SITE In an ongoing effort to bring members together online and around the country, we're happy to announce an expansion of the online member directory and improvements to online address and information updates!

MEMBER PROFILE (www.us.mensa.org/profile and www.us.mensa.org/PDQ)

If you haven't been to the Web site recently, we've updated the way we collect address and information changes. You may recall the days of updating your address online when you weren't really sure what address or phone number we had on file. By visiting www.us.mensa.org/profile or by clicking "Members," then "Member Profile," you'll have immediate access to your member information as on file at the National Office. This information includes address, phone and email, privacy releases, PDQ responses, and a few new fields -- related to your employment and education -- that we hope we can use to bring members together online.

You'll want to note that we standardize addresses and phone number formatting. Standardizing addresses maximizes discounts for Local Groups and national mailings. Also, note that updates received at the National Office via phone calls or the U.S.P.S. will usually post online within one business day of entry.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (www.us.mensa.org/directory)

We've transitioned the online membership directory to the new Web site, and with the transition, we've made a few improvements based on suggestions from members like you. If you've visited the directory before, you'll find that accessing released information is easier, and we've added searches by membership number great when you need to verify information for gathering attendance or a local election), email address, occupation and interest!

Email addresses are now linked on the directory results pages, and if members provide Web site addresses, we'll link those there also. For those members who've chosen to release their Personal Data Questionnaire information, we're now displaying additional PDQ responses -- excluding the information we collect for statistical purposes only. As always, you can elect to not display information via your privacy releases on you "Profile Update" or via the PDQ.

Please be aware that we provide the membership directory to facilitate personal, non-commercial communication between members and for the benefit of their Local Groups, a respective regional Mensa group, Special Interest Group or American Mensa, Ltd. Concerns regarding abuse of this information should be directed to OnlineAbuse@americanmensa.org.

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

I did mention "new" services, didn't I? Very shortly, we'll be debuting member biographies in the membership directory and the profile collection process.

Have you felt that the Personal Data Questionnaire responses didn't cover everything about you? We hope that the addition of member-provided biographies will help this along. By visiting www.us.mensa.org/bio or "Members," then "Profile Update," then "Biography Update," you'll have the opportunity to provide your own short biography and a paragraph about your involvement in Mensa. Also, you'll be able to upload a picture of yourself for other members to see on your directory results page!

If you decide that you don't want some information displayed in the directory, remember that updating your privacy releases is easy by visiting www.us.mensa.org/profile or www.us.mensa.org/PDQ. Look for your directory releases specifically.

If you have any questions or concerns about these new services, don't hesitate to let us know.

Best regards,
Howard

J. Howard Prince,
Director of Operations
American Mensa, Ltd.
howardp@americanmensa.org
817/607-0060 x116

More from Howard Prince Online discussion boards, forums, threaded discussions are nothing new to computing or the Internet. There have been dial-up bulletin boards, CompuServe, AOL, Yahoo! Groups, newgroups (NNTP), and MSN communities, and the list goes on.

What IS new today are the American Mensa Forums (www.us.mensa.org/forums www.us.mensa.org/forums) on the AML Web site! Debuting for all members are the initial forums of All about SIGs, Ask Mensa, Brainstorm, Gatherings, Hospitality, and Puzzles and Games.

ALL ABOUT SIGS is the forum where you can chat with Special Interest Group coordinators or the national SIGs Officer. Ask questions. Find interest for your own SIG. The All about SIGs forum is for general discussion about Special Interest Groups.

ASK MENSA is the forum of "Who? What! Where? When! How?" It's your chance to ask Mensa that burning question about Mensa that you **MUST** get the answer to. Submit your question, and we'll post both your question and the answer! The Ask Mensa forum is for questions and answers about Mensa.

BRAINSTORM is the forum where you can pose a question to the general membership. Anything from managing your Local Group to global issues to how to get a spot out. All questions are welcome, but remember, there are no bad ideas or answers in brainstorming. The Brainstorm forum is for general discussion of any topic of interest.

HOSPITALITY is the forum that mirrors Hospitality rooms across the country. If you've ever been to a gathering, you know that Hospitality is the place to meet and mingle before moving on to other programs or activities. The same is true for this online gathering. The Hospitality forum is for general discussion of any topic of interest.

PUZZLES AND GAMES is the forum for discussion of just that -- Sudoku tips...the latest board game craze... is Grand Theft Auto a boon or bane... If it has to do with games or puzzles, Mensans will discuss it here. The Puzzles and Games forum is for general discussion of puzzles, games and gaming.

Of course, we have the capability to support more forums than just these. As we move forward, we hope that new General Interest forums will take form (or forum, rather) and that our Local Groups and SIGs host forums on the Web site also. Often our newest members look to the AML Web site first to meet other Mensans, and this is a great opportunity to meet and welcome those new members.

Please note that we will add additional forums later in January or early February to allow us to test the waters with these new forums and tweak any issues. Also, any new forums must have at least one member moderator. So, stay tuned.

There's certainly more to come. As Communications Officer Robin Crawford has said, play nice and have fun!

BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED...

Hi, Dear Mensans,

I have started to check back on the continuing need for books to replace those lost in last year's hurricanes. David Mazor, Executive Director of Reader to Reader Inc. of Amherst, MA, told me that they have received thousands of books, but that they would like to get poetry, science, and scifi/fantasy books. Toss in some math, history, and similar stuff, too, I expect.

If you would be so kind, please let other Mensans know that the need for books for hurricane relief is only just beginning. We, as Mensans, can be of value. For info on this subject website go to www.readertoreader.org for address, etc., or contact me. I will check and report on other sites shortly.

Respectfully,
Michael Paul Beetham
Project Inkslinger Coordinator

ISSUE 4 of THE MENSA WORLD IS NOW AVAILABLE at www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld

This issue primarily covers four topics -

1. The summary of discussions held and decisions made at the annual International Board of Directors meeting. Many of these decisions may have substantial effect on American Mensa.
2. Several in-depth articles on Mensa's plans for Gifted Children, and successful programs for Gifted Children and their parents.
3. Events planned for the Mensa's 60th Anniversary in Orlando August 8-14.
4. The impending retirement of International Executive Director Ed Vincent, after over 20 years of distinguished service to Mensa.

There are also articles on the Figure Reasoning Test replacing the Ravens test, applications for several International positions being sought, a discussion on Commercial Relationships for Mensa, and two articles on successful membership growth programs and how they were achieved.

Bob Beatty
Editor, Mensa World

If you have any trouble with your password while accessing these online publications, please email [<WebServices@americanmensa.org>](mailto:WebServices@americanmensa.org).

DON'T JUST RAISE A GIFTED CHILD, RAISE A FREE SPIRIT

Free Spirit Publishing is offering American Mensa members a 20-percent discount on all of their products **through April 3, 2006**. Free Spirit published its first gifted education book in 1983; a revised edition of that book, *The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide* by Judy Galbraith, remains a perennial favorite of teachers, students and parents. As the leading publisher of learning tools that support young people's social and emotional health, they have continued to produce award-winning books for and about gifted kids. Their mission is to help children and teens to think for themselves, succeed in life and make a difference in the world. To order, contact Free Spirit Publishing at www.freespirit.com or 1-800-735-7323 and reference coupon/promotion code Mensa20 when ordering.

THINK GEEK... Whether you're looking for a gift or you just want to treat yourself to something nifty, www.ThinkGeek.com is a paradise for technology enthusiasts. Maybe the "No, I will not fix your computer" t-shirt is just what you need to get the less tech-literate folks off your back, or try the perfect morning pick-me-up using the "Showershock Caffeinated Soap" which gives you a much needed boost of caffeine even before your first cup of coffee, and the "Marshmallow Blaster" is a sure way to keep prying cubicle invaders at bay. Get cool stuff you never knew you needed at www.ThinkGeek.com. ThinkGeek has a very special offer just for Mensans; get \$10 off a purchase of \$25 or more. Just use the code MENSA during checkout. Hurry, this deal **expires 2/15/06**. *Note: one use per customer.*

LOOKING TO BOOK YOUR NEXT CRUISE?

Have you thought about a rafting trip in Hell's Canyon? Maybe you'd like to create your own magic while traveling to Egypt? Visit <http://mensa.virtuocard.com/> for this great new membership benefit powered by Virtuocard, which allows you to research, design and reserve vacation travel exclusively through an incredibly easy-to-use Web site. Book with some of the best travel companies in the world, and because of your American Mensa membership, you'll receive discounts and added value!

Travel is the most popular pastime with Mensans and throughout the world. It spells freedom, enjoyment and surely, education! Don't just dream of the exciting places you'd like to visit. Go!

Local Officers			
Local Secretary	Alma Lewandowski	(509) 946-8309	LocSec at crm.us.mensa.org
Assistant LocSec	Mark Mitchell	851-4668	AsstLocSec at crm.us.mensa.org
Treasurer	Les Aldrich	(509) 946-3106	Treasurer at crm.us.mensa.org
Newsletter Editor	Beret Ing	(509) 882-2104	Editor at crm.us.mensa.org
Local Areas			
Eastern Cascades	Alix Drake-Williams George Drake	(509) 933-3117	EasternCascades at crm.us.mensa.org
Far North	Frances Rios		FarNorthArea at crm.us.mensa.org
All opinions herein are those of the authors and not those of Columbia River Mensa or of American Mensa Ltd. Mensa as an organization has no opinions.			

Winter is still here

