Chinook
The newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

March 2026

Volume 5, Issue 1

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From Our Local Secretary (LocSec)

Bill Sheretz

A Challenge

What are ***YOU*** getting out of your Mensa Membership?

We have been getting more active and able to visit more regional meetings, including Walla Walla, Wenatchee and the Okanogan group. At each of the gatherings, we are fascinated to find so many folks who have been Mensa members for years, sometimes decades, but this is the first time they have attended a Mensa event. I can certainly understand as I was a member for over 13 years before I attended a Mensa function! I was too busy with a career and other stuff, or I was in a remote location or underway. But once I began attending Mensa get-togethers, I enjoyed them more and more. We are such a diverse group with so many different and fascinating perspectives. One of our organization's stated purposes is "to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members."

I challenge you - in the next few weeks, there will be opportunities for you to participate in a Mensa activity, one way or another. ***Be Bold***, take a step out of your comfort zone and join in. I would be willing to bet you will enjoy it! (*I would actually bet you, but gambling is illegal in the State of Washington!*)

"Education is no substitute for intelligence."
— **Frank Herbert**

From the Newsletter Editor

Tim Dees

Welcome to our first issue of 2026. As the old comic's line goes, if I knew I would live this long, I would have taken better care of myself.

I'll start off on two personal notes: in December, I spent 12 days on a ferry/cruise ship that services small fjord villages along the western coast of Norway. My objective was a "bucket list" ambition to see the Northern Lights. I was only partially successful. I kept a journal of the trip, which can be found at my website, timdees.com. Some people have found it entertaining. *Caveat emptor.*

My other non-Mensa project is an assignment from Police1.com to review cop shows from each decade from the 1960s forward. The series will appear in installments over the coming year. I have also been told that this article was entertaining. If you were any kind of police show buff, you can get my take at How police shows evolved in a decade of upheaval. My other works for Police1 can be found at https://www.police1.com/columnists/Tim-Dees/.

From the Newsletter Editor (continued)

Tim Dees

LocSec Bill Sheretz and I attended a lunch in Walla Walla (found between Ting Tang and Bing Bang) with Mensans from WW and environs. As with most Mensa functions, the conversation was lively. Richard Eggers and LocSec Bill had a great time comparing their perspectives on submarines. Richard worked on the electronics inside them, and Bill provided security for subs transiting the coastal waters while he was in the Coast Guard.

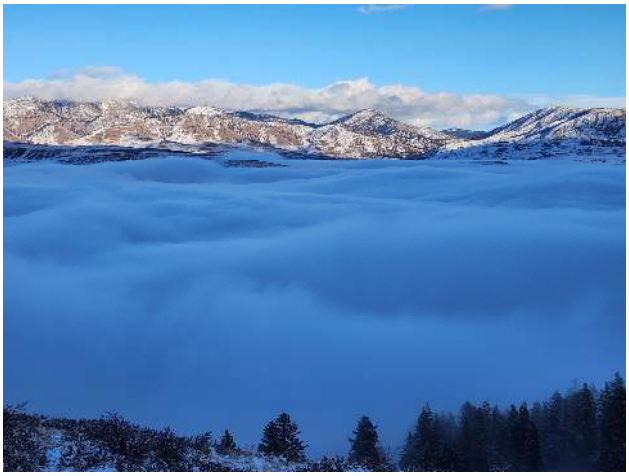
That lunch was not unlike the conversations I had on my Norway trip. I met people from at least ten different countries, all of them happy to share and compare their lifestyles with someone from the United States. The encounters were relaxed affairs, as if I had known these people for years, even if I'd only met them minutes ago. I always came away with some new knowledge and the satisfaction of knowing that most people are the same, and yet different in their own unique way.

Whatever you get out of Mensa, interacting with fellow Mensans has got to be the most memorable aspect. I won't say I've liked every Mensan I've ever met. One, who on learning of my career in law enforcement immediately asked me, "You get to kill anybody?" found himself talking to no one. He was one of the few exceptions. The others have been interesting and amiable, and occasionally brilliant people.

While non-Mensans seem to believe members of our association are obsessed with their IQs, the truth was borne out at a breakfast gathering in Wenatchee some time ago. When the restaurant manager came by after hearing the association between us, he asked, "Who's got the highest IQ?" The grumbled/shouted answer was "Don't know, don't care." We made the cut. That's all we need to know.

My casual observation is that most Mensans join, possibly for bragging rights, get the *Mensa Bulletin* each month, and never attend any Mensa function. You are *so* missing out. Our chapter is so widely dispersed that the few gatherings we have may be inconvenient for you, but take a chance and make the effort to attend one. The weather should be nice for a while, so you don't have that excuse. Find out what you're missing.

If that little speech didn't get you out of your chair, then maybe you could write something for the *Chinook*. I often struggle to fill the pages of our quarterly newsletter. Last issue, I reduced the page count by four for lack of content, and I may wind up doing the same this time. Become a published author. Everyone has a story to tell. Tell me one of yours.



Bob Hunt sent this photo with the note: "A shot from our front porch. Twisp is down in the clouds, with Little Buck Mountain and Loup Loup Pass across the valley. "

Letters, Stories, Travel Misadventures and More!
Isolated M SIG monthly newsletter serves as a communication forum for Mensa members around the world – currently 80 countries. Subscription information: ruthdanielle@hotmail.com.

The Yard

Tim Dees

This is the first article I wrote and had published, in 1988

You arrive at the station feeling a little dead-No one is totally alive working at a time when everyone else goes to bed. Depending on the part of the country you're in, it's called midwatch, first watch, last out, night shift, dog watch, graveyard, or, simply, "the yard."

You've got enough seniority to get on one of the other shifts, but you stay here anyway. There is less traffic, fewer brass, and greater share of hot calls to keep you interested

You also get to go to court in (what is for you) the middle of the night, almost never get more than four consecutive hours of sleep, and live in a perpetual Twilight Zone that only experienced night owls understand. You are pale from seeing the sun for only an hour or so before going home, droopy- eyed from fatigue, and malnourished from trying to subsist on a continuous diet of coffee and breakfast food.

Opening your locker, you begin to assemble the array of clothing and tools of the trade it contains:

- Polypropylene thermal underwear- tops and bottoms
- Wraparound Kevlar body armor
- .38 Special five-shot revolver and holster, sewn into the body armor under your left armpit
- Turtleneck shirt
- Wool uniform trousers and shirt with shoulder patches
- Nametag
- Weapons qualification badge
- Notebook, three pens, traffic template, Miranda warning, implied consent and field interview cards in your shirt pockets
- High-top work shoes with steel-toe inserts
- Black leather trouser belt
- Black leather Sam Browne belt with holster, key ring and keys, two handcuff cases and handcuffs (one pair standard size, one pair extra- large hinged Peerless), handie- talkie case, flashlight holder, baton ring and two magazine pouches
- Four belt keepers
- .45 ACP double-action pistol, with rubber grips and three magazines, each loaded with eight Silvertip hollow point rounds, plus one more in the chamber of the gun
- Uniform cap and cap badge
- Straight wooden baton
- Halogen bulb flashlight, aluminum case, rechargeable
- Winter uniform parka with shoulder patches

Only astronauts and deep sea divers take longer to get ready for work. By the time you finish dressing, you weigh 27 pounds more than when you started. The building is overheated to keep the day shift secretaries happy, and you begin to sweat underneath all of the clothing and equipment. When you go outside, the moisture chills you.

You remove your seven-point insignia of office from your wallet and thread the pin back through the badge tab on the parka. You lock the pin into place and note the numerals on the bottom that change you from a private citizen into a soldier of the law. People never ask your name-they only rasp "What's your badge number?" when you do them some real or imagined wrong.

You get a cup of coffee from the vending machine and are thankful that you aren't completely awake because then you would be able to taste it. By the time you get to the bottom of the cup you wonder why you pay a quarter for the privilege of drinking something that would gag a dog. Still, the coffee is warm, its caffeine is stimulating, and you have grown accustomed to using it as a surrogate for sleep.

You walk into the briefing room and sit among others dressed as you are. Some are close friends, most are acquaintances and some you dislike intensely. But no

Walla Walla Lunch Gathering



On February 26, we joined some Walla Walla-area Mensans for lunch at TMACS in WW. On the left side of the table is Joel Hesby, Richard Eggers, and LocSec Bill Sheretz. On the right is Tim Dees and Sibyl Lundy. We hope for many more opportunities to see Mensans yet unmet.

The Yard, concluded

matter how you feel about them personally, you would crawl a mile over broken glass to get to them if they needed help. That is the Blue Creed, and no one disputes it.

The sergeant drones out the night's assignments and items of special interest. You ignore the bulletins from the Podunk Police Dept., half a continent away, describing their first vehicle theft in three years, and try to memorize the ones that include the words "officer safety information." Briefing closes with a short note from the FBI on how some poor bastard got blown up last week doing exactly what you're going to do tonight. You are reminded of friends departed as you pack up your notebooks and reports and walk toward the armory. Picking up a shotgun and a handie-talkie, you go outside to check out a car.

The car is filthy, and the floor is cluttered with candy wrappers, soda bottles and coffee cups left from its previous occupant, who eats approximately every 15 minutes. You wearily dredge out the debris, check between the seat cushions for knives, narcotics, and dead pygmies, and lock the loaded shotgun into the dashboard rack. You automatically drive toward the gas pumps because cops who don't clean out cars don't fill them with gas, either. Picking up the radio microphone, you log on and hear the only friendly voice you are likely to encounter all shift. End of watch, and rest, are a hundred slow miles and too many reports away. You put the car in gear and drive off to seek the perils of the night.

There are calls to answer.

April Theodore Talk



The title of the April Theodore Talk is "**Language Processing in the Brain Across Diverse Languages and Speakers**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom April 26 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific).

A staggering 7,000 languages are spoken and signed worldwide, and most people speak two or more. Yet, neuroscience research has largely focused monolingual speakers of just a few dozen languages, leaving our understanding of the language system incomplete and potentially biased.

Malik-Moraleda will examine whether the core properties of the left-lateralized language network—its anatomical organization, hemispheric bias, selectivity for linguistic input, and strong internal connectivity—generalize beyond English to dozens of typologically diverse natural languages. She will also probe constructed languages (e.g., Esperanto, Klingon, Na'vi, High Valyrian, Dothraki) to ask what makes a language, a 'language', and will present data from polyglots (speakers of five or more languages) to examine how multiple languages of varying proficiency engage the language network.

Finally, she will explore how language and executive function tasks are processed in monolingual versus bilingual speakers, highlighting both shared and distinct patterns. Taken together, these findings suggest that the brain's language network is remarkably robust and universal, with activity that varies systematically with proficiency rather than language identity.

Register for this presentation at **https://tinyurl.com/bdebzznn**

North Richland Wrecking Crew

Our weekly lunch gathering continues to be well-attended. The North Richland Wrecking Crew (NRWC, as christened by Mark Mitchell) meets at 1:00 PM every Friday at one of seven venues. If one of our venues isn't available when it comes up in the rotation, we look for a new place to try.

If you have been on the fence about attending a Mensa function, the NWRC is a good place to get your feet wet. Most everyone is or has been an active member of Mensa, but we stress that both Mensans and non-Mensans are always welcome. The group is congenial and the conversation is always eclectic. Among the regulars are a couple of retired military NCOs, a retired cop, a few engineers, a physicist or two, and other STEM-type folks.

Tim Dees maintains a mailing list sent each week, reminding everyone of that week's venue. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, send an email to treasurer@crm.us.mensa.org. The schedule for the next few weeks is below.

- March 27: Family Garden , 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland
- April 3 : Isla Bonita, 1524 Jadwin, Richland
- April 10: Lil' Moon Diner, 3790 W. Van Giesen, West Richland
- April 17: Shogun, 760 Dalton St., Richland
- April 24: Ann's Best Creole & Soul Food, 1901 Terminal Dr., Richland
- May 1: Baby J's BBQ, 2243 Stevens Dr., Richland
- May 8: Family Garden , 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland

Executive Committee Minutes

March 18, 2026

In attendance: Local Secretary – Bill Sheretz, Assistant Local Secretary – Nikolas Caiole, Member-at-Large - Bob Hunt, Region 8 Vice Chair – Debra Reiger, Barb Christensen

Open positions: Program Chair, Recruitment & Testing Chair, Publications Officer, Ombudsman, Scholarship Chair

Call To Order at 12:03 PM

Introductions & RVC8 Comments -

ExComm Officer reports

LocSec:

Columbia River Mensa Snapshot (see facing page)

History – Bank account 4/24/1987 Will contact Becky Folger to adjust our start date

Proctor-in-Training – my deadline to complete my training - May 17, 2026

Walla Walla trip – Kudos to Bob

Elections - NLT July 1st Nominating / Election Committee appointed

NLT September 1st - Publish names of candidates / rules and regulations

Rules and regulations need to be ExComm approved prior to publication

Just a get together – Zoom meeting – April

Member Activity Survey – Ask folks what they do

Previous testing special for March – LocSec will publicize

Asst LocSec: Social media page, ExComm profile pictures to Nikolas

Treasurer: Treasurer's Report - As of March 15, 2026:

Checking: $ 8,296.30

Cert. of Deposit: $ 2,691.27 (No change)

Total: $10,987.57

No expenses for this quarter as we had no testing sessions or newsletter expenses (so far).

Last quarter's biggest expense – Newsletter $ 625.36

Review / Approve Treasurers report: Approved

Member-At-Large: Okanogan County Group – First Tuesdays

Renewal cycle starts again in April

Actions Still in Effect (Old Business)

Conditionally reimburse test / prior evidence fee – only if the candidate joins CRM – Approved at July 14, 2022 ExComm

Member Appreciation Dinner – ?

Regional Appreciation Dinners

New Business

Vision - Strategic Plan – On hold

STEM Academy donations – Awaiting word to see how we can help

Funding local gatherings / Regional Gathering / Regional appreciation dinners

Gas for ExComm visits to outlying groups / proctor activities - **Approved**

Leadership Development Workshop / Membership Meeting (April)

Specific invitation to Millennials / Gen X via email

Tour of the Mensa Website

LocSec – will send out a poll soliciting activities (Ask them what they do)

Barbecue?

Any other suggestions - Zoom events, in person events

For the good of the order – Facebook, Outward facing Facebook and Instagram

AMC Meeting 3/28 https://mpedia.dan.info/index.php?title=Main_Page

Adjourned: 12:42 PM

/s/William Sheretz, LocSec, Columbia River Mensa

Columbia River Mensa Treasurer's Report
January 1, 2026-March 15, 2026

Assets, January 1, 2026		**$ 10857.97**
Checking account	$ 8,166.70	
CD	$ 2,691.27	
Income		**$129.60**
American Mensa	$ 129.60	
CD Interest	$ 0	
Expenses		**$ 0**
Assets, March 15, 2026		**$10987.57**
Checking account	$ 8296.30	
CD	$ 2,691.27	



Timothy M. Dees
Treasurer, Columbia River Mensa
March 15, 2026

Treasurer's Note: There were no expenses as we did not conduct any testing sessions or print any newsletters during the time span of this report. The next issue will carry a report of the entire year's finances.

MENSA

Local Group Snapshot
As of 3/13/2026

R08-989 Columbia River Mensa

Current Membership 69
Primary: 68 (98.55%)
Additional: 1 (1.45%)
Life: 21 (30.43%)

Current Year Lapsed 0

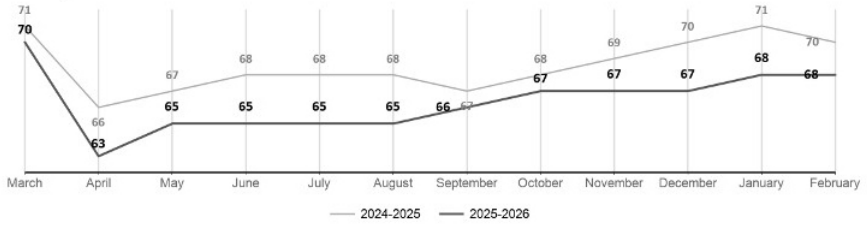
Local Group Class V

Local Secretary Bill C Sheretz (541)999-8718 sheretz@waypt.com

Website https://crm.us.mensa.org

Social media

Membership Year-over-Year



Testing Information, Twelve Month (Local Group / Local Group class average)

Feb 2026	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	**Jan 2026**	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	**Dec 2025**	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	**Nov 2025**	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00
Oct 2025	# Tested: 2 / 0.16 Sessions: 1 / 0.11	**Sep 2025**	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	**Aug 2025**	# Tested: 0 / 0.05 Sessions: 0 / 0.05	**Jul 2025**	# Tested: 0 / 0.05 Sessions: 0 / 0.05
Jun 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	**May 2025**	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	**Apr 2025**	# Tested: 2 / 0.11 Sessions: 1 / 0.05	**Mar 2025**	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00

Newsletter Chinook **Postal Type:** First Class

Last calendar insert: 9/1/2025 **Last Treasurer's Report:** 9/1/2025

Newsletter Distribution
Print: 30 (43.48%)
Electronic: 39 (56.52%)

Newsletter Information, Twelve Month (Received / Uploaded to National website)

May 2025	no / no	**Dec 2025**	no / no	**Apr 2025**	no / no	**Oct 2025**	no / no
Jan 2026	no / no	**Feb 2026**	no / no	**Jul 2025**	no / no	**Aug 2025**	no / no
Nov 2025	no / no	**Sep 2025**	yes / yes	**Jun 2025**	yes / yes	**Mar 2025**	yes / yes

Latest note:

Columbia River Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm)

Bill Sheretz, Local Secretary
locsec@crm.us.mensa.org
(541) 999-8718

Nikolas Caoile ,
Asst. Local Secretary
asstlocsec@crm.us.mensa.org
(206) 817-3116

Tim Dees,
Treasurer, Testing Coordinator,
and Newsletter Editor
treasurer@crm.us.mensa.org
910-688-3337

Bob Hunt, Member-at-Large
member-at-
large@crm.us.mensa.org

Columbia River Mensa is the chapter of American Mensa local to most of Eastern Washington. Mensa is an international society whose sole qualification for membership is a score in the top two percent of the general population on a standardized intelligence test. The word ”mensa ”translates to “table” in Latin. The name “Mensa” is reminiscent of “mind, table, month,” which suggests a monthly meeting of great minds around a table.

Mensa has three purposes, which are outlined in its constitution. They are:

1. To identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity.
2. To encourage research into the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence.
3. To provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

We’re on the Web!

http://crm.us.mensa.org

Columbia River Mensa
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Kennewick, WA 99337-4444