Chinook
The newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

June 2023

Columbia River Mensa

Volume 3, Issue 6

In this issue:

- A word from our Local Secretary
- The Chinook Editor Saga
- Moving to the sticks
- Several more words from our Regional Vice Chair
- Feghoots
- The North Richland Wrecking Crew
- ExComm Meeting Minutes

From Our Local Secretary (LocSec)

Hello, Columbia River Mensa Members:

Please join me in thanking Tim for taking on the primary responsibility of Newsletter Editor, in addition to his continuing solid service as our Treasurer and Testing Coordinator. You probably wouldn't be reading this if he hadn't stepped up once again to serve our Local Group. Thanks, Tim!!

Mark, Tim, Bob, and I are all focused on revitalizing CRM and ensuring your CRM membership experience justifies the investment you made in membership dues. According to AMC's recent membership survey, the # 1 reason folks gave for not renewing their membership was "Lack of Local Group Activities of Interest". We will all be working on planning and developing more local group activities, both in-person and online. If you want an activity that interests you, organize it and invite the rest of the group to do it with you.

We are currently looking for a Publications Chairs (Newsletter Editor) and Programs Chair and could use your help! Please join us in making CRM a thriving local group that we can all enjoy.

All the best,
Bill

"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

—Jimmy Doolittle

The Chinook Editor Saga

Columbia River Mensa (CRM) has trouble hanging on to newsletter editors. I've been a member of CRM intermittently for over 20 years, and have long lost track of how many we have had. The job is reminiscent of the title character's office assistant in the TV series *Murphy Brown*, where there was a new hire every week.

Our LocSec advised me that this should be Volume 3, Number 6 of the newsletter. Gee, I hope he's right.

For however long I have the job, I hope the membership pitches in. We would love to hear about your career, pastimes, and personal takes that won't start virtual brushfires.

I've been a LocSec at another Mensa chapter, and professionally an EMT, a corporate research lab technician, a police officer, a college professor, a training coordinator, an editor, and a medical assistant and IT manager (those last two were the same job). I've been the treasurer for CRM for 15 years. If you have a story more varied than that, or even if you don't, please try to boil it down to a few hundred words and send it along. This is your opportunity for fame, or maybe infamy.

I hope to hear from some, or even one of you.

Moving to the Sticks

As I was approaching retirement my wife and I discussed some of the practicalities of moving to our property in Twisp. One of the major issues would be access during the very snowy winters, as the road to our place climbs 800 feet over a mile and a half of dirt road with a dozen switch-backs.

Having lived on the West side pretty much my whole life there were going to be some firsts, one of which would be getting a tractor with four wheel drive and the proper attachments to maintain the road and the property. Never had a tractor before, and never drove one either. I shopped around and discovered that my knowledge was falling far short of being able to go out and buy the individual bits and know that they would work together. Hey! Not a problem! John Deere, in the guise of Washington Tractor in Sumner, would be delighted to put together a package of just what I would need. Zero interest for six years! We'll discuss the wisdom of adding indebtedness at retirement another time.

Ordered the package and waited. Knowing the weather extremes I had included a closed cab with heating and cooling. Proved to be a challenge that delayed delivery a few months, but finally the salesman called to say I could come pick everything up. Turns out the stuff that wasn't mounted on the tractor was a load of its own, so this became two trips from Sumner to Twisp towing a 20 foot tilt-bed trailer with stuff strapped down (didn't lose any of either load, but did have a couple of strap fatalities).

But I jumped ahead. When I arrived to pick up the tractor the salesman was pretty busy and just waved me back towards the shop, where I wandered around for a bit until I found the machine that appeared to be mine. Hopped in and turned the key and it fired right up. Trouble is, this is a hydrostatic transmission and I've never driven one before. No clutch, no obvious gear shift, just some arrows and levers and pedals. There is a manual, but the first 20 pages devote themselves to telling me stuff I shouldn't do. I don't need that <cough>! I just need to know how to make it go! I fiddled around and got it moving in roughly the right direction, drove out of the shop with no unintentional building contact and around the building to where the truck and trailer awaited. Got it on the trailer, then went in and bought some binders and chains to secure it. Blessedly I managed to get a good centered load and had no issues with the trailer on the trip, and the 250 miles went by without a hitch until a quarter mile from home when the truck overheated and dumped all of its transmission fluid. That's a whole 'nuther story. But I unloaded the tractor and with a bit more experimentation I managed to drive it the rest of the way up the hill home.



Seemed kind of gutless until I read about the 3-range transmission that I had been driving in the top range.

Ok, I relented and read some of the manual. Now I could work around the property for the summer and get better at handling the tractor with a variety of stuff sticking far out the ends. Accidentally mowed the salt lick that was out for the deer, as well as two of the septic system clean-outs. Knocked the pressure tank vault lid loose as the brush hog deck swung much wider than I had considered. Knocked the trim off the cabin, then off the corner of the steel shop building with the bucket sticking out the front while I was watching where the back was going.

Over the course of six years I've gotten the hang of it and mostly manage to keep the road open during the snows. I have not yet driven it off the side of the road anyplace that would get me killed. As a Mensan I'm supposed to have the capability of learning new things, but perhaps there are better ways to approach the learning process.

—Bob Hunt

News from the Regional Vice Chair (RVC)

I am busy with another round of local group elections, election prep and one group restructuring. I am encouraged that some of last year's restructuring efforts should result in regular general elections for those groups this year. I am also hopeful that more groups are focusing on succession planning as I near the last third of this term.

The AMC meeting will be on July 7th at the Annual Gathering. The Annual Business Meeting will be on July 8th at the Annual Gathering. Details on how to attend virtually are not yet available, but I, or a regional officer, will post them in the official Region 8 groups when I have them.

In case you missed the mailings, it is that time of year for the lapsed member contact program. Groups will receive 50 cents per current year lapsed member contacted by the end of July. To participate, you need to contact the members by any method (phone, post card, email-your-member-tool etc.) by the end of July and notify the national office by emailing Becky Folger, beckyf@americanmensa.org by August 1 (5 pm Central time) with the number of lapsed members contacted and the method you used. If your group has the highest number of contacts, you will win a free Culture Quest entry.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore. I have a room assigned for the Meet and Greet. It will be on Wednesday, July 7th 6:00 to 7:15pm. Yes, that is the same time as last year!

I will be hosting another Testing Coordinator meetup in June. Information will be posted in the Region 8 groups and local group. I will be hosting a Leadership Development Workshop. The primary focus will be on Local Group Leadership very similar to what was presented at the Regional Gathering I chaired for Mensa of Western of Washington. The last part of the session will be focused on regional and national leadership opportunities. I will post event information in the Region 8 groups and local groups.

As always, feel free to contact me if you would like help publicizing your event.

Tracey Guice (they/them)
Vice Chair Region 8
rvc8@us.mensa.org

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.

Feghoots

At our last ExComm meeting, Member-at-Large Bob Hunt mentioned "feghoots" (I wish I could recall the context, but I can't). Bill didn't know what this was. You might not, either. I'll illuminate the matter, largely because I don't have anything else to put in this space, and to have a big empty gap in our newsletter would look untidy.

A feghoot is a type of joke that ends with a complex and corny pun. Many of the puns in feghoots are dated, so people who weren't born when the phrase on which the pun is based might not get the joke. Here is an example:

A group of theologians get word of a Buddhist monk in Nepal who has achieved nirvana from a diet consisting solely of asparagus. They travel to his monastery to investigate further.

One day, the monk and the theologians are sitting in an open courtyard when a sudden rainstorm releases a deluge of water onto them. When the storm has passed, all of them are soaked—except the monk, who is completely dry. Gobsmacked from this development, they ask the monk for an explanation.

The monk replies, "Brothers, I thought you understood. Bliss is the awning for the Sage of Asparagus."

Please write a contribution for the Chinook and send it to me, or I will be forced to inflict more of this humor upon you.

Columbia River Mensa Chapter Officers

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

Mark Mitchell, Asst. Local Secretary
asstlocsec@crm.us.mensa.org
(509) 851-4668

Tim Dees,
Treasurer and Newsletter Editor
treasurer@crm.us.mensa.org
Phone 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 2 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

North Richland Wrecking Crew

The NRWC is a small group of Mensans and former Mensans that meets for lunch each Friday at 1:00 PM. The venue rotates between seven locations. Our table can be identified by the presence of Percy, the Stuffed Owl, shown at right. We do not check Mensa membership cards; everyone is welcome. The locations for upcoming dates is as follows:



- June 16: Fresh Leaf Co., 1080 George Washington Way, Richland
- June 23: Isla Bonita Mexican Restaurant, 1524 Jadwin Avenue, Richland
- June 30: Lil Moon Diner, 3790 W. Van Giesen St., West Richland
- July 7: Shogun Teriyaki & Sushi, 760 Dalton St., Richland
- July 14: Ann's Best Creole and Soul Food, 1901 Terminal Dr., Richland
- July 21: Baby J's Barbecue & Burgers, 2243 Stevens Dr., Richland
- July 28: Family Garden, 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland

Tim Dees sends out a reminder email giving the venue for that week. It arrives at noon on Wednesday, or otherwise when he remembers to send it. If you would like to be added to the confidential distribution of those messages, send Tim an email at treasurer@crm.us.mensa.org.

CRM ExComm Minutes, March 23, 2023

In attendance: Bill Sheretz, Tim Dees, Mark Mitchell, Bob Hunt

Open positions: Program Chair, Publications Officer

Call To Order at 7:01 PM

ExComm Officer reports

LocSec: Main concern - activities
Pluses – Gifted Youth, ByLaws, Delta Donation, and available funds
CRM Snapshot

Asst Loc Sec: Available financial resources, spend strategically

Treasurer: Annual Financial Report

Member-at-Large: Attempted outreach, limited responses

Testing Chair: Willing to travel to test
Need a back up to Tim for testing

Actions Still in Effect (Old Business)

Funded visit to Pasco Air Museum – Probably May
Approved at July 14, 2022 ExComm

New Business

LIGO Mensa Visit April 8 – Approved

Member Appreciation Dinner - Approved – Probably June

Any other suggestions

- Zoom

For the good of the order – Discussion of the expectations for our Member-at-Large

Adjourned – 7:44 PM

Submitted: William C. Sheretz

William C. Sheretz
Local Secretary

Note: Upon review there is one additional Action Still in Effect:

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

Columbia River Mensa
Executive Committee Minutes
June 1, 2023

In attendance: Bill, Mark Mitchell, Tim Dees, Bob Hunt

Open positions: Program Chair, Publications Officer

Called To Order at 7:03 PM

ExComm Officer reports

LocSec: Snapshot, Generations, Membership Survey – Slide 9, I will query Millennials / Homelands generations as well as lapsed members

Asst Loc Sec: Online activities, LIGO,

Treasurer: Account balances: Checking $ 9670.23 / CD $2,668.68

Member-At-Large: Contacted members outside of Tri-Cities, limited response

Testing Chair: No activities

Actions Still in Effect (Old Business)

Funded visit to Pasco Air Museum
Approved at July 14, 2022 Excom

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

Member Appreciation Dinner – Probably this month

New Business

Newsletter discussion – Isolated M's, Mensa Connect

Any other suggestions - Zoom events, in person events

For the good of the order

Adjourned: 7:46 PM

Submitted: William C. Sheretz

William C. Sheretz, Local Secretary