Chinook
The newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

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Columbia River Mensa

In this issue:

- From Our Local Secretary
- Life in a Small Town
- Regional Vice Chair notes
- Mensa Leadership Development Sessions
- North Richland Wrecking Crew

From Our Local Secretary (LocSec)

Congratulations to our own Corwin King for his story, *A Perfect Friend*, which was published in the September Mensa Bulletin. He also has an article in this newsletter, *Life in a Small Town.* Please consider sending any articles or stories to Tim, Treasurer@crm.us.mensa.org.

Please join us Saturday, October 14th at Noon—Columbia River Mensa Meet and Greet at the Pasco Aviation Museum, 4102 Stearman Avenue, Pasco, WA. The Museum's Mission Statement reads, "Preserving history for future generations, sharing aviation with all generations, honoring the Greatest Generation." It's a family friendly environment with something for all ages.

Thanks again to Tim for stepping forward to assume the role of Newsletter Editor. If you hadn't noticed, Tim already serves Columbia River Mensa as Treasurer, Testing Coordinator, and Proctor. Mark, Bob, Tim, Yvonne and I are all focused on revitalizing Columbia River Mensa and we could sure use your help. Please consider stepping forward to help us! We are currently looking for a Publications Chairs (Newsletter Editor) and Programs Chair and we sure could use your help! Please join us in making CRM a thriving local group that we can all enjoy.

Aiming Higher—Columbia River Mensa could be in the running for a Mensa Jewel Award—and you could help with that as well. Please check out out https://www.us.mensa.org/recognize/group-awards/local-group-jewels/ to see how you can help.

—Bill Sheretz

> “Help one another. There’s no time like the present, and no present like the time.”
>
> —James Durst

Life in a Small Town

According to a recent Gallup Poll, nearly half the people in the US would like to live in a small town. Another poll shows that two out of three would move to a small town if they could work remotely on their jobs.

Many people have a romantic, nostalgic view of small towns—think Mayberry in the old Andy Griffith show—but what's it like to actually be in one? Well, as someone who's done it for 45 years so far, I have some thoughts.

Life is slower, but less exciting. If you don't like the noise, crowds, traffic, etc. of a big city, small towns are great. But if you need bright lights and constant action, not so much. That's one of the reasons younger people often leave small towns: They're seen as boring.

Living is cheaper, but less convenient. Generally, it costs less to live in small towns for things like housing, entertainment, and transportation. But services like shopping and medical care are limited. You may have to travel to other towns to get what you need.

People are friendlier, but more demanding. People in small towns depend on each other. It's easier to get to know them, but you'll also be expected to help them. Community support is important, and it's harder to keep to yourself without seeming arrogant and antisocial.

People are open, but not as diverse. Small towns tend to attract the kind of people who already live there. They're open to others but may not know how to deal with them. Minorities stand out, so If you must be with people who "look like you", choose your town carefully.

Small towns are different, of course, and so are the people who live in them. Not everyone's experience will be the same as mine. But the takeaway message here is that small towns, like big cities, are a tradeoff.

I love my town, my wife and I raised our children here, and we expect to stay here until we die. But it's not for everybody. To gain some things (peace and quiet) we've had to give up others (variety and privacy). Moving to a small town, I think, isn't a matter of "getting away from it all," but of changing your wants, needs, and lifestyle.

—Corwin P. King
kingc@fairpoint.net

Corwin King lives in Ellensburg, population about 20,000—and growing.

News from the Regional Vice Chair (RVC)

I expect to attend the October 7-8th AMC planning and quarterly AMC meeting in Hurst, Texas. I will be attending virtually. For those who are interested, there will also be a meeting of the International Mensa Board of Directors the following weekend. Feel free to ask me any questions you have about our national board meetings.

It is election season again. As several of the local groups in Region 8 have annual elections, and there are 11 groups, this comes around quite frequently. Are you looking for a short-term way to help your local group? Consider volunteering for a Nominating Committee or an Election Committee. These are very important roles that also do not require a great deal of time. Local group elections are an important group function. When you see me sending a message about your election, it generally means that the group could not find enough volunteers (usually 3) to help run the election or enough candidates to participate in the election. Feel free to send me or your local ExCom or Ombudsperson questions about how elections happen.

It is time again for the Mensa Foundation scholarship program. The deadline for students to apply is 11:59pm CT January 15, 2024. Applicants do not need to be Mensans, however applicants must intend to enroll in an accredited educational institution for the 2023-24 academic year. You can find all the rules and guidelines at the following link:

https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/rules-and-guidelines/

Leadership Development

Have you been interested in volunteering at the local, regional or national level? Are you curious about a position but don't know exactly what that officer does? Would you like to learn more about our national committees or our scholarship program? Have you wanted to volunteer 'somewhere' but just don't know how to get started?

I can help with some of those questions. If I haven't held that role in my nearly twenty years of volunteering, I probably know someone who has. Send me a message or give me a call.

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.

Mensa Qualifying Test Scheduled

On October 7, 2023, I will be proctoring a test session for candidates wishing to join Mensa. The test will be held at the Kennewick branch of the Mid-Columbia Library at 1620 S. Union St. in Kennewick.

The Wonderlic and Reynolds Adaptable Intelligence Test (RAIT) will be offered. The RAIT replaced the Mensa Admissions Test several years ago. Candidates will be offered Mensa membership if they qualify on either test.

American Mensa is discounting the regular $60 test fee by 50% for the month of October. As an additional incentive, Columbia River Mensa will reimburse the test fee to any candidate in our territory who qualifies for and enrolls in Mensa.

The test will begin at 1:00 PM and will take about two hours. Candidates can purchase a test voucher on the American Mensa website. All test materials will be furnished. Candidates need to bring a government-issued identification document to the session. Candidates under the age of 18 must bring a signed parental permission form I can supply on request. We cannot test anyone under the age of 14.

If you would like to have a test session closer to your home, please get in touch so we can explore possible dates and venues.

—Tim Dees



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Join us for a virtual Weekend of Learning, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 on Zoom.

Over the course of two days, you will have the opportunity to attend 14 unique Leadership Development Workshops featuring a range of topics — from running a successful Local Group and effective marketing, to the history of Mensa and what you probably don't know (but should!) about the organization.

Each LDW will have separate attendance, accessible via the links below. Sessions will start at the top of each hour, with presentations lasting around 45 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for questions before a five minute break. A different set of topics will be presented each day, so be sure to tune in both Saturday and Sunday to catch the full lineup. The sessions will also be recorded and available on the American Mensa website at a later date.

There are tentative plans to hold a workshop watch session at Tim Dees' home in Kennewick. His home has a large "great room" and a computer-enabled big screen TV. Refreshments will be provided. If you're interested, please RSVP to Tim at treasurer@crm.mensa.us.org, or text or call 910-688-3337 before Friday, September 29.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAY – SEPT. 30

(All Times Pacific Daylight

9 a.m. - Running Virtual Events
Kimberly Strickland

10 a.m. - Gifted Youth Programs
Billie Lee

11 a.m. - Running an RG
Beth Weiss & Deb Stone

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

12 p.m. - Diversity Matters
Jessica Ellis-Wilson

1 p.m. - How to Help Your Local Group Succeed —Orientation for New and Existing Officers
Jon Gruebele

2 p.m. - Effective Marketing
David McCallister

3 p.m. - Dealing with People
Kelly-Marie Jones

To join Saturday sessions:

Zoom Meeting ID: 852 6707 4600

Passcode: 326372

SUNDAY – OCT. 1

(All Times Pacific Daylight)

9 a.m. - Communications Smorgasbord
Dustin Hawkins

10 a.m. - What to Know About Mensa
Trebor Lefebvre

11 a.m. - Thinking Hats
Kimberly Strickland

12 p.m. - Want To Be on the AMC?
AMC Members

1 p.m. - History of Mensa
Simone Van Egeren

2 p.m. - Staff Ask Me Anything
Becky Folger & Charles Brown

3 p.m. - Mensa Foundation!
Jennifer Wise

To join Sunday sessions:

Zoom Meeting ID: 845 3844 1356

Passcode: 153243

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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. We do not check Mensa membership cards; everyone is welcome. The locations for upcoming dates is as follows:

- September 29: Isla Bonita Mexican Restaurant, 1524 Jadwin Avenue, Richland
- October 6: Lil Moon Diner, 3790 W. Van Giesen St., West Richland
- October 13: Shogun Teriyaki & Sushi, 760 Dalton St., Richland
- October 20: Ann's Best Creole and Soul Food, 1901 Terminal Dr., Richland
- October 27: Baby J's Barbecue & Burgers, 2243 Stevens Dr., Richland
- November 3: Family Garden, 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland
- November 10: Fresh Leaf Co., 1080 George Washington Way, 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.

