Chinook
The newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

September 2024

Volume 3, Issue 9

Inside this issue:

From our local secretary	1
News from the Regional Vice Chair	2
The High IQ Frat	3
AG 2025 is in Chicago	4
North Richland Wrecking Crew	5
Police Code and Culture	6
Officer Election Rules	8
The Hopping House and the Robot Genius Trickster	10
Chinook Contributors Guidelines	11
Officer Listing and Contact Info	12

From Our Local Secretary (LocSec)

Bill Sheretz

As we find ourselves in the midst of the election cycle, I wanted to take a moment to provide an update on the progress we've been making. We've encountered a few delays, for which I take full responsibility, but we've been working diligently to get back on track.

I notified the ExComm that we had missed the deadlines September 3rd. I subsequently solicited members to volunteer to serve as the Nominating Committee. On September 25th, I informed the membership that the election cycle had begun and the Nominating Committee had stepped forward to serve. ***Sincere thanks to Nikolas Caoile, Elizabeth Torrey and Linda Karg for their service!***

As of October 15th, the Nominating Committee had received only the following nominations:

Local Secretary: Bill Sheretz

Treasurer: Tim Dees

Member-at-Large: Bob Hunt

In accordance with Article I. H of our Procedures and Rules for 2024 Officer Elections, "If only one person is nominated for any office, then that person shall be declared elected, and that contest will not appear on the ballot." Thus, Tim, Bob and I will continue to serve as Columbia River Mensa's Executive Committee.

Many thanks to Mark Mitchell, our current Assistant Local Secretary, as he steps down after decades of service to Columbia River Mensa. In the spirit of service, Mark has assured us he will be availableto mentor whoever steps forward and volunteers to serve as Assistant Local Secretary. Thanks again to Mark for his many years of service to Columbia River Mensa.

Since Mark's stepping down as Assistant Local Secretary, one Nikolas

> **A year from now you may wish you had started today.**
>
> **-Karen Lamb**

Caoile has volunteered to serve as our Assistant Local Secretary. In accordance with Section 3.17 of our bylaws, I will recommend the ExComm select him as our Assistant Local Secretary effective January 1st. To learn more about Nikolas's professional accomplishments, please visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikolas_Caoile.

Nikolas, Tim, Bob and I will do our best to continue to do our best to serve you, our members, but we could sure use some help to accomplish that. As you all are aware, Tim serves as our Treasurer, Recruiting and Testing Chair, our only Proctor, and our Newsletter Editor. That's one person filling ***four*** positions. Our hard-working webmistress, Yvonne Levardi has also requested a relief. Current vacancies on the ExComm include Program Chair, Recruitment & Testing Chair, and Publications Officer. It'd sure be nice to have more than one Proctor as well. We can't grow the group if we can't qualify them. None of these positions take more than a few hours a month, usually on your own schedule. Please consider stepping forward to help - we have plenty of work and your efforts will definitely ben-



News from the Regional Vice Chair (RVC)

Michael Eager, RVC

September was a busy month. My main focus was the AMC Planning/Strategy meeting followed the next day by the AMC meeting, both at the American Mensa offices in Hurst, Texas, between Dallas and Fort Worth. The in-person meeting allowed me to meet Communications Officer **Lily Noonan** and Marketing Officer **Greg Wright**, as well as get together with the AMC members I had met in July. I also had a chance to talk with a couple of AML staff members, but, to my disappointment, we were not introduced to other staff members with whom I had exchanged email who were in the office.

The Planning/Strategy session had both good parts and not so good parts. There was a presentation about the work of the Governance Task Force (GTF) and the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). At the AMC meeting, **Jon Gruebele** was appointed chair of the former and **Franck Mounier** of the latter. Briefly, governance concerns how American Mensa is organized, officers and their duties, etc. Strategic planning is identifying our objectives and how we want to achieve them. I had served on two past governance committees, and I look forward to being appointed to the GTF.

On the negative side, there was a presentation about the American Mensa budget where I came away with no more than a vague hint about how the budget is developed. I had hoped that we would talk about AMC committees, bylaws, and some other topics. There's only so much that can be done in an eight hour session.

We tried something at the AMC meeting which was a good idea, although it did not work well this time. The Executive Session, where we discussed personnel matters, was moved before the regular AMC meeting so that people viewing the meeting remotely would not have to

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.

LocSec Message, continued

efit our members. If you're interested, please contact Bob, Mark, Tim or me!

On the bright side, our Gifted Youth member, Nirbhuy Arun, is all over YouTube. I suggest you do a search for him on YouTube. It's truly amazing how much he has accomplished.

From our Regional Vice Chair (continued)

Michael Eager, RVC

wait for it to be over. Unfortunately, the closed session lasted longer than planned and this resulted in a delay starting the regular meeting. A few of the AMC members did a fairly impromptu effort to publicize the livestream of the AMC meeting in advance which resulted in twice as many members viewing it as in the past. We are looking at ways to improve member involvement with AMC virtual meetings. (By the way, a video recording of the meeting is available on the American Mensa website under Meeting Reports.)

There were several motions at the AMC meeting which I either moved or seconded. All were adopted. The most important of these was the creation of a Technology Committee to coordinate and provide guidance on a wide variety of technology issues in American Mensa. If you are interested in participating on this committee, take a look at the committee charter (https://mensa.eagerm.tech/Main/TechnologyCommittee) and drop me a note.

Every so often, someone raises the question of whether in-person meetings are worth the expense. Can't we do everything by email, Zoom, phone, text messages, or maybe mental telepathy? We do a lot of that. I attended several local group ExComm meetings, had discussions with other AMC members by Zoom, held a Region 8 LocSec Zoom meeting, participated in a Gifted Youth webinar, and exchanged seemingly countless emails and text messages. There is significant value in personal conversations. When talking face-to-face, issues are raised and discussed which don't get addressed elsewhere, and there is both more time to explore these issues and more nuance in the interchanges. There's a cost, but the result is that American Mensa works a little bit more efficiently and effectively.

Drop me a note at rvc8@us.mensa.org with questions or comments. Past RVC columns and more can be found at https://mensa.eagerm.tech.

The High IQ Frat

Tim Dees

In 1963, Mensa was still a teenager, and American Mensa, which would become its largest faction, was even more obscure. People were more than a little suspicious of a club of brainiacs. Of course, that didn't mean that many of them would claim to be members when they weren't. That part hasn't changed.

LIFE Magazine was one of the most popular publications in America, arriving in folks' mailboxes every week and full of eloquent articles and absolutely brilliant photography. One article that unfortunately lacked any photos was *The High IQ Frat* by Shana Alexander. Alexander was the first female staff writer for *LIFE* and later half of the *Point-Counterpoint* segments on *60 Minutes*, later parodied on *Saturday Night Live* by Jane Curtin and Dan Ackroyd ("Jane, you ignorant slut..."). Her article was likely a big hit in 1963. I can't find a way to get past the first page, and you'll need to zoom it in, but enjoy having a look at Mensa's past. https://shorturl.at/CxKvF

AG 2025 is in Chicago!

Karen Grubele and Allison Reeves



"I'm vindicated!" says Daisy, Mrs. O'Leary's favorite cow. She asks you to join her in Chicago from July 2 thru 6 for Mensa's 2025 Annual Gathering (AG). Will she truly be absolved of the allegations made against her after the Great Chicago Fire? You'll have to attend to find out!

The 2025 AG will be held in the downtown Chicago Hilton on south Michigan Avenue. The room rate is only $139/night for single, double, triple, or quad rooms. Yes, you saw that correctly! There will be free WiFi in hospitality as well as your sleeping room. Included in your $279 registration price, good until November 30, will be four breakfasts, three lunches, and snacks – all available in hospitality.

Come be part of Daisy's herd as she explores the area around the hotel, located across from Grant Park, and also close to Buckingham Fountain, the Museum Campus (Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium), and Queen's Landing (where Queen Elizabeth II disembarked from her ship in 1959) on the lakefront. Milk your access to Chicago's wonderful sights. This will be THE annual gathering people will be mooing, erm, talking about for years to come!

Details on tours, the Gala Dinner speaker and special events are still being pasteurized, homogenized, and separated, and will be announced on the website as soon as they are packaged.

AG and hotel registration will be available November 1 at ag.us.mensa.org. Daisy and our AG Team look forward to seeing you there!!

Karen Gruebele and Allison Reeves
2025 AG Co-chairs

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.

The NRWC table can be identified by looking for Percy the Owl, pictured at right.

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.

November 1: Lil Moon Diner, 3790 W. Van Giesen St., Ave., West Richland

November 8: Shogun Teriyaki & Sushi, 760 Dalton St., Richland

November 15: Ann's Best Creole & Soul Food, 1901 Terminal Dr., Richland

November 22: Baby J;s, 2243 Stevens Dr., Richland

November 29: Family Garden, 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland

December 6: Fresh Leaf, 1080 George Washington Way, Richland

North Richland Wrecking Crew Lunch Etiquette

1. Nobel Prize medals should not be worn at the table.
2. Discussions of mathematics should not stray beyond third level logical variables.
3. Whiteboard and PowerPoint displays are discouraged.
4. Whenever possible, use the conventional name of things. Requesting that another diner provide some acetic acid moderated lycopene suspension is pretentious, when you could simply say, "Pass the ketchup."
5. Ending a story with, "I could tell you more, but it's classified" is simply uncool.
6. Discussions of scholarly articles are limited to journals published in English, German, or Russian, unless the member wrote the article.
7. Remove your hazmat suit before entering the restaurant.
8. Regardless of how many academic robes, hoods, and fancy headgear you earned and honorary degrees may entitle you to wear, regalia is forbidden unless you are coming straight from or to a college ceremony where the regalia is required.
9. Anyone who introduces themselves as "doctor" buys lunch for the table.

Do law enforcement officers have "a code" or a culture where they overlook the transgressions of other cops or retired cops?

Yes, although how it is administered and what sort of transgressions are tolerated vary in different parts of the country, and even with individuals.

The term within the industry is "professional courtesy," (PC) and everybody tries to get it. One of the more common questions on police discussion forums is whether officers would extend professional courtesy to firefighters, dispatchers, criminal justice students, members of the military, medical personnel, friends, family, wives, sons and daughters, etc. People buy "thin blue line" stickers for their cars, associate and "friend of" memberships in the Fraternal Order of Police, state troopers' association, sheriff's posse, etc. all in the hopes of currying favor when they're pulled over for a traffic violation. Do these things work? Sometimes, but not often.

The most common scenario for a professional courtesy request is a common traffic violation. The more brazen police violators stick their badge in the enforcement officer's face as soon as he reaches the car (I know of a few instances where the violator held his badge out the window and then sped off before the officer reached the car). A more subtle approach is to open the wallet and let the badge inside show, hand the officer a police ID card along with the driver's license, drop some police jargon into the conversation ("my 10-27 will show valid class 3"), or say "I have to get my registration and insurance out of my glove box. It's in there with my duty weapon."

If the violation is a low-grade speeding offense or something similarly trivial, and the violator isn't too much of a jerk about it, there's a good chance that PC will be extended. I don't know too many cops that take any pleasure in busting another cop, and most will go out of their way to avoid it. We all commit minor traffic offenses, and there is a "there but for the grace of God" sentiment operating. In many cases, the same PC *will* be offered to one or more of the occupational and special interest groups listed above.

When the violation involves reckless driving or, God forbid, DUI, things get stickier. In some parts of the country, the cop will still get a pass if there is any possible way to pull it off. This can involve anything from driving the violator home to delaying breath/blood tests or other processing for so long that any prosecution is impossible. Now and again, one of these operations becomes known to the press, and there is a scandal. The public is intolerant of cops who drive drunk, and even more intolerant of cops who permit them to do so without consequences.

A PC incident that made national news took place shortly after Hurricane Katrina. A contingent of deputies from a New Jersey sheriff's office had gone to New Orleans to assist with peacekeeping duties in the aftermath, and were returning home to NJ in a convoy of marked patrol cars. There wasn't any special urgency, other than they wanted to get home. The convoy was moving in the left lane of the highway at speeds in excess of 90 mph, with their overhead emergency lights on. A Virginia sheriff's deputy, with some effort, pulled the convoy over and advised them that emergency vehicles were allowed to use their lights and sirens only when responding to an actual emergency, convoys had to obey the speed limit for trucks, and convoys were restricted to the right lane. The NJ cops were not especially receptive to this, and went back on their way, returning to the same mode of travel as before.

When the NJ cops got home and reported the incident to their sheriff, the sheriff called the Virginia agency and told the deputy he was a disgrace to the badge for delaying and lecturing his deputies, and he urged the deputy's sheriff to fire him. The Virginia sheriff declined.

In some agencies, particularly some in the northeast U.S., recruits about to finish the

Police code and culture, continued

Tim Dees

academy meet with a representative of the Patrolmans' Benevolent Association (PBA--the officers' labor union), who briefs them on benefits and procedures. During this meeting, he gives each new officer a fixed number of "associate" cards. Everybody gets the same number, and no more. The cards say that the bearer is a close associate of Officer _____ of the XYZ Police Department, and every due courtesy should be extended to them. The new officer can give them to anyone he chooses--siblings, parents, spouse, boy/girlfriends, etc. When the "associate" is stopped by another officer, he presents the card.

The officer who is presented with one of these cards will normally tell the violator to be more careful, give the card back, and send them on their way. However, the officer has two other options. He can take the card from the violator and send him on his way, then find the officer who issued it and give him a report on what his buddy has been up to. If the buddy was disrespectful, excessively reckless, or did something else to distinguish himself, the enforcement officer may request his colleague to tell his friend how the world turns (e.g. dispense an ass-chewing or ass-kicking, as may be appropriate).

The other option is potentially more perilous. The enforcement officer can issue the ticket or make the arrest in spite of the courtesy card. This is called "writing over the card." There is a chance that the officer who issued the card will understand why the enforcement officer did what he did, and nothing will come of it. However, it is equally possible that the enforcement officer's zeal will not be appreciated, and the enforcement officer will come to work one day to find his locker has been moved to the parking lot and filled with dog excrement.

As I said before, the custom varies regionally. I've found that Oregon and Washington are especially intolerant of officer misconduct. Those states will de-certify (revoke his training certificate, ending his career) an officer for a serious traffic offense, or for allowing another officer to get away with one. In other parts of the country, whatever you can get away with is common and expected.

[State police/patrols often hold themselves as a rung above local law enforcement in quality and in other respects, and the status is often justified. State patrols tend to have higher standards for recruitment and tougher police academies. Even in states where every local cop attends the same state-level academy, the state patrol almost always has their own. Their appearance standards are generally tougher, as are their organizational cultures with regard to physical fitness. This is all generalized; there are exceptions to these rules.

My personal experience is that state patrols, including Wisconsin's, are as professional and amiable as any other cops I've run into, and they have always treated me with courtesy (the common kind, not the professional kind). They didn't know who I was or what I did for a living unless they asked directly. Some "made" me instantly as a cop, and the others didn't say anything about it if they did. None of them gave me a ticket since I became a cop in 1979, but I should also point out that the violations in question were pretty mild (window tint from Nevada the first day the car was registered in Wisconsin, 7 mph above the speed limit).

I've had many, many conversations with other cops about this, and my sentiments on the topic are definitely the minority opinion. I personally believe that police officers should be held to a higher standard than the public at large, and that officers who break the law should be subject to the same consequences as anyone else. That doesn't mean that I've cited or arrested every cop I've ever stopped. In the early part of my career, I stopped many cops who were driving recklessly, and a couple who were drunk. My fear of ostracism by my peers out-

COLUMBIA RIVER MENSA PROCEDURES AND RULES FOR 2024 OFFICER ELECTIONS

The Columbia River Mensa ("CRM") Bylaws call for the election of officers in even-numbered years. The Bylaws mandate the appointment by the Local Secretary of a three-member Nomination Committee ("NC"),

Nomination Committee 2024

- Nikolas Caoile
- Elizabeth Torrey
- Linda Karg

Nominations

Beginning September 16th and ending with the publication of the September Newsletter, nominations will be accepted for the offices of:

- Local Secretary (LocSec)
- Assistant Local Secretary (Assistant LocSec)
- Treasurer,
- One (1) Executive Committee Member-at-Large.Any nomination received after the publication of the September newsletter shall be invalid.

Only members in good standing may be nominated and nominees must agree in writing to accept nomination. Members in good standing may nominate themselves.

No person shall seek or hold more than one elected office in CRM at a time. If any person is nominated for more than one office, the NC will require the nominee to select and state in writing the single office for which she/he will run.

Nominations must include the following:

1. The name of the nominee,
2. The office for which the nomination is being placed, and
3. The nominee's phone number (preferred) or email address.

Nominations will only be accepted in writing, delivered by email to nomcom@crm.us.mensa.org or delivered by U.S. mail to:

Nominations c/o Tim Dees
102 W. 48th Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99337

A list of nominees to date shall be available upon request to the Chair of the NC. Requests shall be made to nomcom@crm.us.mensa.org. The NC shall also, as appropriate, send lists of nominees electronically to CRM members during the month of September.

If only one person is nominated for any office then that person shall be declared elected, and that contest will not appear on the ballot.

Campaign Practices

All nominees are entitled to have a statement or platform published in the November Chinook. The nominee's statement should not exceed 1250 words, and the Chinook shall publish only the first 250 words that are submitted and will not edit in any other way. For the purposes of the word count, all words are included, including articles and pronouns.

All nominees are invited to submit a photograph of themselves, suitable for publica-

COLUMBIA RIVER MENSA PROCEDURES AND RULES FOR 2024 OFFICER ELECTIONS (continued)

tion, in the Chinook (i.e., thumbnail picture to go next to the nominee's statement; the editor of the Chinook recommends *.jpg format at 300 dpi. The statement and photograph must be received by the NC by 11:59 pm, October 25, by email to nomcom@crm.us.mensa.org . Any statements/ photographs not received by this time will not be included in the November newsletter.

All members and nominees shall conduct themselves and their campaigns in good faith, and shall refrain from fraud, harassment, bribery, intimidation, or any other means of improper influence of the election process or outcomes. In cases of any perceived violation of the election rules, the integrity of the election process, or of any perceived attempt to improperly influence the election through fraud, harassment, bribery, intimidation, or other means, the NC has the final authority and responsibility to investigate in good faith and, if appropriate, censure any member and/or immediately disqualify any nominee, upon a finding of any credible evidence of violation of these rules. Such action(s) shall be reported in the CRM newsletter. Note: The term "bribery" shall not include a nominee's paying for a campaign event (such as a party, refreshments, etc.) so long as it is at a function that is advertised in the Chinook or electronically for attendance by all CRM members, and that all CRM members in attendance are welcome to partake of whatever is being provided by the nominee.

Police code and culture, continued

Tim Dees

weighed my sense of justice. Later on, I got over this. If you're interested in the details,. Check out https://law.justia.com/cases/nevada/supreme-court/1989/18718-1.html.

One officer I worked with, and for whom I have a great deal of respect, characterized PC as "when you work at the bakery, the bread is free." I was never able to persuade him of the difference between a private business that a customer can patronize or not, as they choose, and a public agency that is funded and authorized by the people, has authority over them, and is still responsible to them.

Of course, the public expects cops to not tolerate misconduct, because the misconduct often results in injury to a citizen's well-being, freedom or civil rights. The nature of the cop's job makes episodes of misconduct pretty grave events. The other side of that coin is that the cop's very survival depends on the support of his fellow officers. If a cop gets into a bind on the street--and everyone does, sooner or later--and calls for help, he is hanging out a mile if help is not in the offering. I've known cops who put other cops on their personal list for transgressions as small as taking an unpopular overtime assignment other cops didn't want to staff, and would either refuse to cover them on calls, and/or would obscure their radio traffic by clicking their mics when the offending officer was transmitting. My personal rule was that a cop in need is a friend indeed, no matter how I felt about them personally. I might refuse to shake their hand and even spit on their shoes when the incident was over, but in my world, refusing assistance to a fellow officer was the worst kind of sin. You might have a different standard for reporting misconduct in your own workplace, but you probably don't depend on your fellow employees to save your life on a regular basis.

This is one of my "hot button" issues. I could write a book on it, and someday I might. If this answer is unclear or needs amplification, please indicate so much in a comment, and I'll edit/supplement the answer.

The Hopping House and the Robot Genius Trickster

Nirbhuy Arun

The ground below them began to give way, as the glow of a candle diminished into traces of smoke. It all started when a builder robot, named A_1 was laying down in a landfill filled with other robots. He felt cooped up with a longing interest to explore a house. A faint sound of a radio floated out of a motorhome. The humanoid reporter highlighted that the city had stated that any robot could enter any place and live there. "*Wait a minute... I could go to their house when they are away?*" thought A_1, eagerly. Since the laws had changed, A_1 got excited and started his adventure. He planned to enter a nearby house, and hence, he crept to the side of the landfill pit and ducked his head to get a good vantage point. He watched the motorhome reverse through a driveway, meaning it was the best time to explore the house. He crawled to the top of the landfill, ran niftily across the yard. As he looked back, A_1 Was astonished to see another robot from the landfill trailing him behind. The robot introduced himself as Rex. Both A_1 and Rex entered the house and settled in for the night.

That night, A_1 witnessed the rumbling of the ground and stepped out of the bedroom. As he stepped out, the shaking stopped. When he stepped back in, the rumbling started again. "*Are there robbers downstairs*?" he thought frantically. He was certain that Rex was lying in the first story bedroom and suspected that the rumbling was a trap to catch him.

He cautiously tip-toed down the stairs, fretting that even one wrong step could pull his life to *Ground Zero*. A_1 boldly entered the first story, and found a gang of burly men, trembling in anxiety and rage. The robbers demanded A_1 to get out while another whispered a bunch of binary numbers. A_1 ran upstairs back to his bedroom and tried to decode the binary series. However, the first story beroom hopped around many times and interrupted his efforts.

"Has Rex been commanded to teleport himself?" asked A1 in curiosity. Meanwhile, Rex, who was laying down in the hopping room, had a great confusion which gave him a headache. "What is happening?" moaned Rex.

"You are just an absent-minded robot who follows Isaac Asimov's Three Laws. So, what do you know?" replied the men.

As the men were questioning Rex, A1 decoded the binary series using the desktop and interfaced with Rex. However, the men tied Rex in knots. "Would you please help me get rid of these knots?" Rex pleaded for help, but there was no reply. In this process, he had accidentally pressed the voice typing setting in his device.

Meanwhile, A_1 got Rex's message flashed on the computer screen. He quickly rummaged through the garage and found



tools, a bunch of bicycle chains, and golf tees. He hitched all of the chains together and hit the golf tees onto the ground. He also drilled four holes in the first story and looped them with the bicycle chain. This way, the house was tied down and A_1 opened the first story door to rescue Rex. He heard the men shouting at the top of their voices and was ready with a broom to pin A_1 to the ground. However, A_1 got clever and gently pushed the broom towards the men's foot, knocking them over onto the ground. A_1 got scissors and freed Rex from the first story while all of the men left the house. Rex jumped in relief and shouted, "Freedom for all!"

Editor's note: Nirbhuy Arun is easily one of our busiest members. He is a young innovator, Davidson Young Scholar, serial innovator, presenter and podcast host. He participates in community service projects such as the planting of shade trees, and attends the fourth grade. Nirbhuy is nine (maybe ten by now) years old.

Chinook Contributors' Guidelines

Tim Dees

1. All members of Columbia River Mensa are invited to submit their original writing to the *Chinook* editor for publication consideration.
2. Columbia River Mensa does not compensate writers for work published in the *Chinook*. On publication, all rights to that work revert to the author.
3. Topics are virtually without limit. The editor reserves the right to reject submissions that could promote animus. Politics and religion are topics that are best avoided.
4. Articles of about 500 words will fill one page and are ideal length. Any article over 1000 words may be rejected on the basis of length alone. All articles will be edited for length and content, although every effort will be made to preserve the author's voice.
5. Include a title to your article.
6. Be clear and concise in your writing and use bullets, lists and short sentences and paragraphs where appropriate.
7. If the topic is complex, you might want to suggest additional resources or offer a contact for more information at the end.
8. Cite sources and provide references to quotations and facts when used.
9. Work can be submitted as plain text, Microsoft Word, *.rtf, or some Word-readable format to treasurer@crm.us.mensa.org. PDFs cannot be edited easily and will be refused.
10. Include minimum formatting in your document. Do not insert a blank line between paragraphs or an indent at the start of paragraphs. Bold, italic, and underline can be used for emphasis, but do not use a different font or color to set off text.
11. Photos and graphics should be in *.jpg, *.gif, *.png, or *.bmp format at 300 dpi. Other resolutions will be considered, but other file formats are unusable.

Editor's note: I've been writing professionally for over 35 years. I've attended trade shows, conferences, research groups, and product debuts, often staying in very nice hotels and eating great food at the expense of publishers, vendors, and even the government. My publications set me apart from other candidates and helped me get teaching appointments at five colleges. I was a full-time editor for two large trade publication companies. I got "noticed" after an editor saw a column I had written (for free) for a professional association's newsletter. To give you an idea of how long ago this was, the the topic was whether you should be using a new computer application called "Windows."

The upshot here is that you never know who is going to be reading your work. I can't promise fame and fortune from an article in the Chinook, but I can guarantee that no one will read the article that you never get around to writing and sending in. I hope you'll try your hand here.

Columbia River Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm)

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, 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
102 W. 48th Ave
Kennewick, WA 99337-4444