Chinook
The newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

September 2025

Volume 4, Issue 3

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From Our Local Secretary (LocSec)

Bill Sheretz

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge."

—Isaac Asimov

Greetings and I am very hopeful you are looking forward to the fall as much as we are!

Tim and I had the great opportunity to represent Columbia River Mensa at the Mid-Columbia Libraries Kennewick Branch's Game Night on July 18th. We had a very enjoyable evening and we had several interesting discussions. We both have fond memories of our library experiences as we grew up in Salinas and Reno respectively. Nationally, I refer you to the October *Bulletin* for the latest information regarding the Recall Election, Lawsuit and the upcoming Special Election. I highly recommend you review "Recent Happenings" by Jon Gruebele, American Mensa Chair; "Stranger Than Fiction" by Chip Taulbee, Editor; and "Now What" by Justin R. Wall, National Ombudsman.

Currently, our Region 8 Volunteer Coordinator (RVC8) is Debra Reiger. The Special Election to permanently fill the RVC8 position will take place from Nov. 1, 2025, through Nov. 30, 2025. The two candidates for RVC8 are Debra and Richard Gronostajski. Candidate petitions may be signed until Oct. 12, 2025. As of this writing, neither candidate has received the required 100 signatures. I strongly urge you to please review their pro-

> Smart people learn from everything and everyone, average people from their experiences, Stupid people already have all the answers.
>
> —Socrates

From the Newsletter Editor

Tim Dees

One of our static ads, included in the template I use for this newsletter, is for the SIG (Special Interest Group) "Isolated Ms." Isolated Ms has been around for a long time, longer than I have been in Mensa, and I speak from having the lowest Mensa ID number in Columbia River Mensa, having joined in 1976. I've never been a member of Isolated Ms, although sometimes I think I should qualify.

I'm in an unusual situation with regard to family. All of mine are dead. I was an "only child," never knew my father or that side of my family, and I've outlived the few relatives I knew. There may be a few cousins knocking around somewhere, but I've had no contact with any of them since I was 18.

I'm mostly retired from law enforcement and teaching, and the little work I still do is all over the internet. I probably talk to my dog more than to any person. I've had the battery on my car go dead from being parked in the garage for extended periods. I can go anywhere I want. I just don't want to go very often.

News from the (former) Regional Coordinator

David Burg

Several individuals and one team from Region 8 have been recognized with national awards:

Felice Nightengale (Mensa of Western Washington) has received a National Service Award, "[f]or outstanding service as Mind Games Volunteer Coordinator, ensuring smooth operations and a great experience for attendees and volunteers alike."

Roger Shulz (Oregon Mensa) has received a Certificate of Appreciation, "[f]or contributions to the Communications Committee and the Higher Logic Task Force."

Lana Lee (San Francisco Regional Mensa) has received a Gifted Youth Program Award, "[f]or exceptional leadership as Gifted Youth Coordinator for both San Francisco Regional Mensa and Region 8, expanding programs, boosting RG attendance, and building lasting community through events, outreach, and mentorship."

"Biggest Little Team", from Northern Nevada Mensa, captained by Ann Hake, won fourth place in this year's CultureQuest®.

Congratulations to all!

The recall election against Lori Norris succeeded in removing her as Chair. American Mensa's new Chair is Jon Gruebele, the former First Vice Chair, who moved up under automatic operation of the bylaws when Norris was removed. The new First Vice Chair is Tabby Vos, the former Second Vice Chair, who moved up under automatic operation of the bylaws when Gruebele moved up. A new Second Vice Chair has not been appointed at this writing, but probably will have been by the time you read this.

American Mensa has a new Executive Director after a year with an Interim ED. The new ED's name is Tamesha Logan. I have not met her, but those who have tell me she is a good person for the job.

The sharp-eyed among you will have noticed my new position title at the top of this column, "former Regional

LocSec Message, continued



files and sign their petitions here: https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/election/candidate-petitions/ It's worth mentioning that you may sign the petitions for BOTH candidates.

All the best,

Bill

Tim Dees and Bill Sheretz at the recent Games Night held at the Mid-Columbia Library in Kennewick.

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.

From the Newsletter Editor (continued)

Tim Dees

While this sounds like a lonely, undesirable life, it suits me. I'm never bored. I have my writing, a huge library of movies on DVD, and subscriptions to multiple streaming TV channels. The dog is always up for a game of fetch or a walk around the neighborhood, even in the middle of the night, when I'm frequently awake.

Still, the mental health folks I know (and I happen to know a lot of them) tell me that we are not wired to be alone. Part of the fundamental drive to propagate the species necessarily requires pairing off, although duration of the relationship is a variable.

I joined Mensa my last year of college, partially out of curiosity, and partly because I was graduating and I thought it might provide some networking contacts to help find a job. I didn't know I was eligible (in fact, I'm not sure I even knew what Mensa was) until I took some IQ tests offered by my school's graduate psychology program. Grad students gave the tests for practice, and their professors—licensed psychologists—signed off on the results. I took three tests, and qualified on two of them. The grad student who delivered the result told me, "You qualify to join Mensa—I call it Densa."

Being in the SF Bay Area, there were lots of Mensa activities, and I attended several. None of them especially rang my chimes. I didn't derive a real benefit until I was hired by the Reno Police Department on extremely short notice. They called me at my desk in a lab in Cupertino—the company I worked for was across the street from an upstart outfit called "Apple"—on Tuesday, and on Friday afternoon, I was sitting in the police academy. I needed to find a place to live. I had a Mensa membership directory, and I called the LocSec of the Northern Nevada chapter. She helped me find an apartment, gave me leads on other things I needed to set up, and even helped me get a mercy date for the police academy graduation. My Mensa membership allowed me to establish some relationships outside the police department, and I succeeded that LocSec in her job within a year.

I moved away from Reno in 1994 to accept the first of a series of teaching jobs in other states, and I had gotten married in the interim. My Mensa membership went on hold when my social milieu and workload changed, In 2007, I moved to Washington. Actually, I moved *back* to Washington, as I had lived here for five years before leaving for 18 months to take a job in Maryland. My wife had passed, and I was working from home as an editor and didn't have a lot of social interaction. I reactivated my Mensa membership and started attending the monthly dinners we had then. I also hosted an occasional movie night at my home. The monthly dinners and movie nights have gone away, but I lunch with the members of the North Richland Wrecking Crew every Friday at whatever venue we have for that week.

This is a pretty critical social interaction for me. If not for the NRWC, I might not leave the house but for runs to the grocery store. I've met some great people from our diverse group, and find I look forward to seeing them every week. I'm not so much of an Isolated M anymore.

The point of all this? Many Mensans join for bragging rights. They pay dues for a year or two, and never experience any benefits other than the monthly *Mensa Bulletin*. A few have been members for years and have never attended a Mensa function. Mensans are interesting people. Some are an acquired taste, but that's true of people in any group. Take a chance and find a function to attend, or host one. We are happy to publicize it for you here in the *Chinook*. Find out what you might be missing.

Alternative Ways to Say Someone Isn't Very Bright

1. Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
2. A few clowns short of a circus.
3. A few fries short of a Happy Meal.
4. An experiment in Artificial Stupidity.
5. A few beers short of a six-pack.
6. Dumber than a box of hair.
7. A few peas short of a casserole.
8. Doesn't have all his cornflakes in one box.
9. A couple sandwiches short of a picnic.
10. The wheel is spinning, but the hamster is dead.
11. One Fruit Loop shy of a full bowl.
12. One taco short of a combination plate.
13. A few feathers short of a whole duck.
14. The porch light is on, but nobody's home.
15. All foam, no beer.
16. The cheese slid off his cracker.
17. Body by Fisher, brains by Mattel.
18. Has an IQ of 2, but it takes 3 to grunt.
19. Couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions on the heel.
20. He fell out of the Stupid Tree and hit every branch on the way down.
21. An intellect rivaled only by garden tools.
22. As smart as bait.
23. Chimney's clogged.
24. Doesn't have all his dogs on one leash.
25. Doesn't know much but leads the league in nostril hair.
26. Elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor.
27. Forgot to pay his brain bill.
28. Her sewing machine is out of thread.
29. His antenna doesn't pick up all the channels.
30. His belt doesn't go through all the loops.
31. If he had another brain, it would be lonely.
32. Missing a few buttons on his remote control.
33. No grain in the silo.
34. Receiver is off the hook.
35. Several nuts short of a full pouch.
36. Skylight leaks a little.
37. Slinky's kinked.
38. Surfing in Nebraska.
39. Too much yardage between the goal posts.
40. Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching.
41. A room temperature IQ.
42. Got a full six-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together.
43. A prime candidate for natural deselection.
44. Bright as Alaska in December.
45. The gates are down and the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
46. So dense, light bends around him.
47. If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate.
48. If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
49. Was left on the Tilt-a-Whirl a bit too long as a baby.
50. Shows all the promise of a rib joint in Jerusalem.

Know Your State Motto

Alabama: Heck Yes, We Have Electricity.

Alaska: 11,623 Eskimos Can't Be Wrong!

Arizona: But It's A Dry Heat.

Arkansas: Literacy Ain't Everything.

California: By 30, Our Women Have More Plastic Than Your Honda.

Colorado: If You Don't Ski, Don't Bother.

Connecticut: Like Massachusetts, Only The Kennedy's Don't Own It Yet.

Delaware: We Really Do Like The Chemicals In Our Water.

Florida: Ask Us About Our Grandkids.

Georgia: We Put The Fun In Fundamentalist Extremism.

Hawaii: Haka Tiki Mou Sha'ami Leeki Toru
(Death To Mainland Scum, Leave Your Money)

Idaho: More Than Just Potatoes... Well, Okay, We're Not, But The Potatoes Sure Are Real Good

Illinois: Please Don't Pronounce the "S"

Indiana: 2 Billion Years Tidal Wave Free

Iowa: We Do Amazing Things With Corn

Kansas: First Of The Rectangle States

Kentucky: Five Million People; Fifteen Last Names

Louisiana: We're Not ALL Drunk Cajun Wackos, But That's Our Tourism Campaign.

Maine: We're Really Cold, But We Have Cheap Lobster

Maryland; If You Can Dream It, We Can Tax It

Massachusetts: Our Taxes Are Lower Than Sweden's
(for Most Tax Brackets)

Michigan: First Line Of Defense From The Canadians

Minnesota: 10,000 Lakes...And 10,000,000,000,000 Mosquitoes

Mississippi: Come And Feel Better About Your Own State

Missouri: Your Federal Flood Relief Tax Dollars At Work

News from the (former) Regional Coordinator continued

Coordinator for Region 8". I have resigned as Regional Coordinator for Region 8. This has nothing to do with the Region, nor with any local group, nor with anyone in R8. I have enjoyed my time as RC8. What prompted this is that I have accepted a position on the Constitutions Review Committee, which is Mensa International's equivalent of American Mensa's Bylaws Committee. The International Chairman asked me to come back to this position I held a few years ago to cut through a backlog, which is actually the same thing that happened when I came back to chair AML's Bylaws Committee a few years ago. But the CRC comes with a requirement that its members not be on their national boards, which I was as RC8. I wish I could do both.

There is not a new RC8 at this writing (which is why I am writing this column), but there likely will be by the time you read this. The process to choose a new RC8 is the same this time as last time: The LocSecs of the local groups in R8 have been asked to nominate someone, then the AMC will appoint that person unless something really unusual happens.

Lawsuit update: No change as of this writing. We are still waiting for the judge to rule.

Omak Mensa

Bob Hunt

In Okanogan County, in the far Northern reaches of Columbia River Mensa, we have recently gained two new members. As three of the four of us are located close to Omak, we arranged an impromptu gathering at the Subway (a thank you to the good folks there who allowed us to take up several tables for a few hours).

All of the spouses also attended. As one member commented, they are effectively "ghost mensans" and were readily part of the various conversations. And there were a LOT of conversations! It seemed like we had been waiting to meet old friends for the first time. For this first meeting our goal was no grander than to meet each other and connect. After quick introductions there were stories about career paths, marriages, kids and grandkids, moves around the country, hobbies and avocations, and time in Mensa. Being as this is an older group, there was a good amount of health and medical discussion.

I've been in Mensa since 1986 and this is only the second time I've attended any sort of Mensa event. For all the time I was in Renton I just never found the time or interest and since moving to Twisp face-to-face events have involved a REALLY long drive. I thought I would be uncomfortable with a group of people I didn't know, and that my wife would either choose not to come, or feel left out. Neither of these issues arose and I'm thinking I may have deprived myself and my wife of some great company over the years. These people were delightful to spend time with and I'm looking forward to seeing them again.

Many of you face similar challenges of distance, but I understand that Yakima, Ellensburg, and Wenatchee (Chelan and Moses Lake might make the trip if invited) have met in the past and all that seems to be lacking is someone in each of those areas to make the effort to reach out. I also see that, while not quite as close together, there are a number of folks down along the Columbia near Oregon that might consider finding a central spot to meet. It's not a huge effort and the potential reward is worth the time.

And you folks in the Tri Cities area? What's up? There are weekly events that are begging for more attendees. Lunch on Fridays not working for you? How about some feedback on what would work? You are truly depriving yourself of some wonderful new friends. Let Tim and Bill know if something else could suit your availability. This group of people offers the possibility of finding Your People; you know, the reason you joined Mensa in the first place.

Bob Hunt is a Member-at-Large of the Columbia River Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm)

When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.

—Abraham Joshua Heschel

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.

- October 3: Isla Bonita, 1524 Jadwin, Richland
- October 10: Lil' Moon Diner, 3790 W. Van Giesen, West Richland
- October 17: Shogun, 760 Dalton St., Richland
- October 24: Ann's Best Creole & Soul Food, 1901 Terminal Dr., Richland
- October 31: Baby J's BBQ, 2243 Stevens Dr., Richland
- November 7: Family Garden , 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland
- November 14: Fresh Leaf Co., 1080 George Washington Way, Richland

The rotation thereafter continues with Isla Bonita.

Any frustrated authors out there?

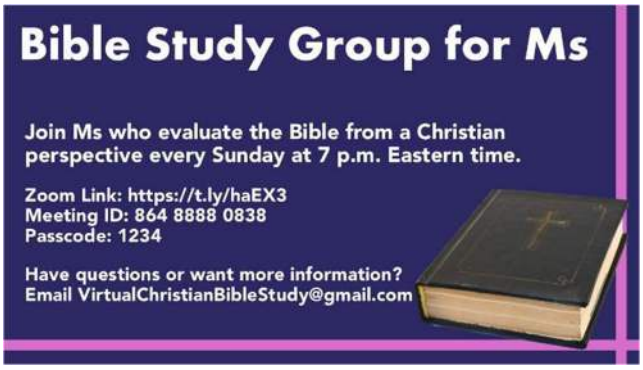
Tim Dees

The allegedly humorous copy on pages four and five is included out of desperation. The design of this newsletter is such that I can't just cut one page—in order to reduce the size of the issue, I have to cut four pages. That doesn't leave me enough room for the material I'm obligated to include. The upshot is that I'd really like to see some members contribute to the newsletter. Poetry, what you do for a hobby, how you got started in your career, what you get out of (or want to get out of)Mensa, just about anything of a non-prurient nature will do. You'll get to say you're a published author, and you will have my eternal gratitude. Photos and other artwork are likewise welcome. Contributions should be held to around 500 words, although I'm flexible there within limits. I hope to hear from you. Send your contributions as text or Word files (no PDFs) to treasurer@crm.us.mensa.org.

Speaker Series & Discussion Groups









State Mottos (continued)

Montana: Land Of The Big Sky, The Unabomber, Right-wing Crazies, and Very Little Else.

Nebraska: Ask About Our State Motto Contest

Nevada: Hookers and Poker!

New Hampshire: Go Away And Leave Us Alone

New Jersey: You Want A ##$%##! Motto? I Got Yer ##$%##! Motto Right here!

New Mexico: Lizards Make Excellent Pets

New York: You Have The Right To Remain Silent,
You Have The Right To An Attorney...

North Carolina: Tobacco Is A Vegetable

North Dakota: We Really Are One Of The 50 States!

Ohio: At Least We're Not Michigan

Oklahoma: Like The Play, But No Singing

Oregon: Spotted Owl...It's What's For Dinner

Pennsylvania: Cook With Coal

Rhode Island: We're Not REALLY An Island

South Carolina: Remember The Civil War?
We Didn't Actually Surrender

South Dakota: Closer Than North Dakota

Tennessee: The Edyoocashun State

Texas: Si, Hablo Ingles

Utah: Our Jesus Is Better Than Your Jesus

Vermont: Yep

Virginia: Who Says Government Stiffs And Slackjaw Yokels Don't Mix?

Washington: We have more rain than you do

Washington, D.C.: Wanna Be Mayor ?

West Virginia: One Big Happy Family...Really!

Wisconsin: Come Cut The Cheese

Wyoming: Where Men Are Men... And The Sheep Are Scared



This was the view from my airplane window last week, flying into Seattle. I can't claim much responsibility for anything other than pushing the button. Sometimes Mother Nature does all the work for you. —Tim Dees

Executive Committee Minutes

September 11, 2025

In attendance: Local Secretary – Bill Sheretz, Assistant Local Secretary – Nikolas Caiole, Treasurer / Testing Coordinator/ Proctor / Newsletter Editor – Tim Dees, Member-at-Large Bob Hunt
Open positions: Program Chair, Publications Officer, Scholarship Chair
Call To Order at 2:02 PM

ExComm Officer reports

LocSec:
Recall Election Results - EFFECTIVE JULY 31st , Jon Gruebele assumed the role of American Mensa Chair after the recall of past Chair Lori Norris. The vote was 3,903 in favor and 2,176 against.
Total votes: 3,903 (8%) + 2,176 (4%) = 6,079 (12%) **Note:** *Percentages based upon 50,000 members*
Correction: 3,903 (10.5%) + 2,176 (5.9%) = 6,079 (16.5%) **Note:** *Percentages based upon 36,895 members*
8+2 Lawsuit vs. American Mensa: Dismissed, but apparently under appeal
Region 8 Volunteer Coordinator: Debra Reiger (Appointed)
American Mensa Committee 2025 Special Election Procedures and Timeline
Due to recent vacancies on the American Mensa Committee, a Special Election is being held to fill the seats for eight Regional Vice Chairs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. The election for these RVC positions will take place from Nov. 1, 2025, through Nov. 30, 2025. Candidate petitions may be signed until Oct. 12, 2025.
Candidate petitions As of this writing, neither candidate has received the required 100 signatures.
Columbia River Mensa Snapshot
Proctor-in-Training
Yakima trip
Just a get together – Zoom meeting
Mid-Columbia Library Game Night
Asst LocSec:
Treasurer: Treasurer's Report
As of September 11, 2025:

Checking:	$ 8,427.14
Cert. of Deposit:	$ 2,691.27

Biggest expense - Newsletter
Review / Approve Treasurers report: Approved
Member-At-Large: Contacted Lapsed Members, Scrubbed membership list
Omak Regional Group – First Tuesdays

Actions Still in Effect (Old Business)

Conditionally reimburse test / prior evidence fee – only if the candidate joins CRM –
Approved at July 14, 2022 Excomm
Bank account signatures (Add Nikolas Caoile and remove Mark R. Mitchell)– **Approved**
Member Appreciation Dinner – ?

New Business

Strategic Plan – On hold
September ***Chinook*** **–** Will solicit articles
Leadership Development Workshop / Membership Meeting (Oct/Nov)
Being on the ExComm isn't scary
Specific invitation to Millennials / Gen X via email

LocSec – will send out a poll soliciting activities

Columbia River Mensa Treasurer's Report
April 1, 2025-August 31, 2025

Assets, April 1, 2025	
Checking account	$ 8,729.29
CD	$ 2,686.70
Income	
American Mensa	$ 373.88
CD Interest	$ 4.57
Expenses	
Advertising	$ 225.11
Newsletter Postage	$ 28.28
Newsletter Printing	$ 350.11
Testing Expense-Postage	$ 6.14
Mileage for remote testing	$ 66.39
Assets, August 31, 2025	
Checking account	$ 8,427.14
CD	$ 2,691.27

Notes:

1. Advertising: we purchased a table banner for use at events. You can see it in the photo of Bill & I on Page 2.
2. Mileage: the chapter reimbursed Bill Sheretz for mileage when he drove to Seattle to observe a test session to further his proctor certification.



Timothy M. Dees
Treasurer, Columbia River Mensa
September 24, 2025

WHEN IN DOUBT, LOOK INTELLIGENT.

-GARRISON KEILLOR

Executive Committee Minutes continued

Barbecue?
Any other suggestions - Zoom events, in person events
For the good of the order – Facebook, Outward facing Facebook and Instagram?
Adjourned: 2:41 PM

William C. Sheretz
William C. Sheretz
Local Secretary—Columbia River Mensa
Submitted September 20, 2025

Columbia River Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm)

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Tim Dees,
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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

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