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 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

Chinook
The newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

December 2023

Volume 3, Issue 8

Inside this issue:

LocSec's Notes	1
Why Volunteer?	2
From Our RVC	5
ExComm Minutes	6
North Richland Wrecking Crew	4
ExComm Contact Info	8

Columbia River Mensa

From Our Local Secretary (LocSec)

Bill Sheretz

As you can see from the attached ExComm Minutes, Mark, Tim, Bob and I are all exploring different activities in hopes of getting our members more involved. If you have an activity you would like to see us schedule in the future, please reach out to any of us with your suggestion and we will do our best to get it on our schedule. This is *your* local group, so please, we'd love to hear from you. We're all here to help you make your membership in Columbia River Mensa as valuable and meaningful as possible.

You all are highly encouraged to participate in the Leadership Development Workshop on Saturday, December 16th at 11 am. The topic will be Local Group Bylaws 101, a closer look at American Mensa's Minimum Standard Bylaws and Model Bylaws. Registration is free for this event. To attend, simply go to https://tinyurl.com/bdenryhy with the following info:
Meeting ID: 828 1826 1404
Passcode: 229535

For more information, contact Tracey Guice (206-635-8295).

Hope you all have a wonderful and memorable Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year.

> *"Success is a little like wrestling a gorilla. You don't quit when you're tired. You quit when the gorilla is tired."*
>
> **Robert Strauss**

Testing Venues

Tim Dees

As the chapter's testing coordinator, I'm always looking for new venues to offer qualifying test sessions for Mensa. The test site needs to be a quiet classroom or conference space we can have for a bit over two hours. I have a great site at the Kennewick branch of the Mid-Columbia Library, but I'd like to extend our recruiting outside of the Tri-Cities. If you know of a suitable site, get in touch with me. We can pay a small usage fee if needed.

Likewise, if you know of someone who is a good candidate for Mensa, have them register their interest at the American Mensa website or get in touch with me. I'm happy to proctor a test session anywhere in our region if I can get at least three candidates at the session.

My contact info is on the last page of this newsletter.

Why Volunteer?

Bob Hunt

I find that I've gotten into a few more volunteer activities than I realized. It's not a bad thing, but when someone recently asked what I was working on the list was longer than I had been aware of.

I usually choose to offer help when I see someone asking for something where my skills can apply. I started doing this long before retirement, but not to this extent. Different volunteer tasks have stretched my experiences and helped me understand environments with which I was unfamiliar. They have also introduced me to new people and organizations, including governmental and non-profit. There have been a few times when things got a bit stressful when my leadership role got caught up in some local politics, but on the whole the work has been interesting and rewarding.

I don't volunteer from some altruistic motive. I like the problem solving aspects and making "things" better. Those things can be as varied as fixing someone's electrical issue, re-establishing a teaching program, or navigating a commercial real estate transaction for a non-profit. I've found it all to be fun.

So why would you want to consider going out and offering to be a volunteer? I don't mean that you would have to do it for Mensa (though there are always some opportunities there!), but there are all kinds of groups and organizations that can use volunteer help. When you find a good fit, you get to meet people who share some of your interests. You get to find ways to apply your skills and ways to acquire new skills. If you're of that age, you can use volunteer work to enhance your resume. The opportunities could include town or county commissions where you get to work towards improvement goals for the community. Maybe you could help at the library or whatever passes for a museum or historical society in your area. Many small fire departments have a volunteer component. Food banks, shelters (animal and human), senior centers, Kiwanis, Masons, and other similar operations will always welcome another set of hands and a good head. I've taken over organizing the Hunter Education program in my area as a part of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and they are always glad of gaining some new instructors. Even if you are home-bound for some reason, you may find that manning a telephone or writing/editing will be a boon for a local agency.

I see lonely, isolated people who still have things to offer, and this is always what comes to mind. Get out. Learn. Experience. Live.

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 North Richland Wrecking Crew at a recent gathering at Isla Bonita Mexican Restaurant.

North Richland Wrecking Crew



Our weekly lunch gathering continues to be well-attended. The North Richland Wrecking Crew (NRWC, as christened by Assistant LocSec 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. On November 24, 2023, the Lil Moon Diner was closed for the long Thanksgiving weekend, so we gave Sterling's On the River a try. Everyone agreed the food and service were excellent, although there was some difficulty hearing the conversation around the table. We haven't yet decided if we will add Sterling's to the list.

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 above.

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.

- December 15: Baby J's, 2243 Stevens Dr., Richland
- December 22: Family Garden, 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland
- December 29: Fresh Leaf Co., 1080 George Washington Way, Richland
- January 5: Isla Bonita (where the photo below was taken), 1524 Jadwin Ave., Richland
- January 12: Lil Moon Diner, 3790 W. Van Giesen St., West Richland
- January 19: Shogun, 760 Dalton St., Richland
- January 26: Ann's Best Creole and Soul Food, 1901 Terminal Dr., Richland

News from the Regional Vice Chair (RVC)

Tracey Guice

The next AMC meeting is scheduled for March 9th in Hurst, Texas. I expect to attend. A link to the meeting will be posted when available. Feel free to ask me any questions you have about our national board meetings.

Congratulations to Region 8 Regional Service Award winners Tim Dees and Dan Burg. Tim was nominated for being "the vital part of keeping Columbia River Mensa alive". Tim has been a core member of the Columbia River Mensa leadership team since 2008 holding multiple officer positions. His group noted that whenever help is needed, Tim steps forward to keep the team going. Dan Burg was awarded his Regional Service Award for exemplary work in helping with the Bylaws Education Series as well as the additional time and one-on-one assistance that he provides to Region 8 groups updating their bylaws.

The 2024 Election portal is now open. If you are interested in running for a position on the AMC, you can find information about election procedures here: https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2024-election-portal/. This is also the link to go to for the proposed amendments to the American Mensa Bylaws that will be sent to the membership for consideration. The Election Committee invites members to submit statements for and against the proposed amendments to the American Mensa Bylaws by 11:59 p.m., Central time on Jan. 31, 2024. Representative statements will be published along with the amendments in the Mensa Bulletin and with the ballot. All statements received by the deadline will be published in the election portal, which can be found at the link above.

The deadline for the Mensa Foundation Scholarship program is approaching. Applications must be submitted online on or before 11:59 p.m. Central (4:59 GMT), on Jan. 15, 2024. If you are interested in judging essays at the regional level, contact me at rvc8@us.mensa.org. To read essays at the regional level, you may not be a reader for another local group in Region 8.

Leadership Development

The Bylaws Education Series has kicked off. The first workshop was Bylaws 101 on November 18th.

The second workshop in the series is Local Group Bylaws 101 on December 16th at 11am. Local Group Bylaws 101 takes a closer look at our Minimum Standard Bylaws and Model Bylaws. Announcements of other workshops will be in this column and in the Region 8 groups at a minimum. While the series is hosted by myself and Region 8, any current member may attend.

The third workshop in the series will be What the Heck is An ASIE anyway. The fourth workshop in the series will be Meet Your AMC Bylaws Committee. The dates and times will be posted in Region 8, my column and the national events calendar.

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

Columbia River Mensa
Executive Committee Minutes
November 28, 2023

In attendance: Bill Sheretz, Mark Mitchell, Tim Dees, Bob Hunt, Tracey Guice – RVC8

Open positions: Program Chair, Publications Officer

Call To Order at _7:02___

ExComm Officer reports

Review / Approved Minutes from June 2023 Meeting

LocSec: Help Local Group Succeed presentation, Snapshot, Generations, Bill will query Millenials / Homelands

Potential new members, Jan Hood

Tim's Award

Asst Loc Sec:

Treasurer: $ 9650.06 / CD $ 2,669.81

Member-At-Large: Contacted members outside of Tri-Cities, several articles submitted / printed

Testing Chair: Testing session 10/07/23

Actions Still in Effect (Old Business)

Funded visit to Pasco Air Museum
Approved at July 14, 2022 Excom
Took place 10/14 – Only Tim and I

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

Member Appreciation Dinner – January ???
Bill to develop plan

Columbia River Mensa
Executive Committee Minutes
November 28, 2023

New Business

Newsletter discussion – Isolated M's, Mensa Connect
Next Newsletter publication date December 10, 1023

Any other suggestions - Zoom events, in person events

For the good of the order

Adjourned: 7:59___ PM

William C. Sheretz, Local Secretary
Submitted