Chinook
The newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

December 2025

Volume 4, Issue 4

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From Our Local Secretary (LocSec)

Bill Sheretz

I would urge you all to reread Bob Hunt's column from the September Chinook. Bob, our member at large, related how he started an Omak get together with the Okanogan County folks. My Mensa experience is very similar to Bob's. I joined in 1993, but didn't attend a Mensa function until after I retired from the Coast Guard in 2006. Once I did, I felt like kicking myself for missing so many opportunities to meet interesting people from all walks of life. I had no idea Mensa was such an eclectic organization full of so many intriguing people.

In October, I attempted to set up a Yakima lunch meeting, but it was overcome by events. I will try to set up another visit with more warning in the New Year. In November, I made the trip up to Omak to join the Okanogan folks for their Monthly lunch and it was a great time. *Please see the photo on page two.* Nikolas, Tim, Bob and I will continue our efforts to encourage groups to gather to enjoy each other's company. Hopefully, these get togethers will eventually enhance all our members' Mensa experience, which is our goal as an Executive Committee. You ***all*** have paid for your membership dues; our job is to give you the best bang for your bucks. Columbia River Mensa has the bank (I can hear Tim groaning from here when I say that, but it's the truth!) to finance almost any endeavor that will meet that goal. In the past, Columbia River Mensa has hosted a Wine Country Regional Gathering (RG) – which came close to financially breaking even. We would be glad to bankroll another such event,

Continued on page two

"The IQ and the life expectancy of the average American recently passed each other in opposite directions."
—George Carlin

From the Newsletter Editor

Tim Dees

Mensans know they're bright, but they also know that high intelligence has its downsides. Social interaction can be difficult for some high IQ types. Autistic-type traits are commonplace. Instead of being recognized for what those traits are, the smart folks are just regarded as weirdos.

It's difficult to talk about this issue in most social settings. In the midst of what a former girlfriend called "neurotypicals," any mention of one's superior intellect is viewed as condescending. I can talk about how I'm taller than most people, how many articles I've published, just about any other accomplishment on my CV, but if I mention a high IQ, it's a jerk move. You just can't discuss this stuff with most people.

This is one of the reasons that Mensa membership can be valuable. Bring up this topic among Mensans, and you'll get the intellectual equivalent of "Preach, brother!" We know your pain.

Okanogan County Lunch Bunch



LocSec Bill Sheretz recently joined our fellow Mensans in Okanogan County for lunch. According to Bob Hunt, from the left are Bob, Barbara, Gloria, John, Bill, Terri, Michael and Phyllis.

LocSec Message, continued

but we need someone willing to step forward and guide the effort.

It doesn't have to be as labor intensive as an RG, we could have a Member Appreciation Dinner, a Movie Night or a Museum Tour (Pasco Aviation Museum, the Reach Museum, or the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO). Perhaps a tour of Pacific Northwest National Labs or even a group getting together to watch an NFL, College or Basketball game. Please, if you have an idea, Nikolas, Tim, Bob and I are eager to hear it and we're all only a phone call or email away.

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

It's never a competition. When we met a group of Mensans at a restaurant in Wenatchee, the manager got wind of the common association. He came to the table and asked, "Who's got the highest IQ?" Everyone kind of shrugged, and the consensus was "We don't know. We don't care."

Not long ago at one of our weekly North Richland Wrecking Crew lunches (also sometimes known as Nerd Outreach or The Conclave of the Illuminati), LocSec Bill brought up a YouTube video whose link he had sent around by email the week before. Titled *Strange Daily Habits That Are Actually Signs Of High Intelligence* (if you're reading the print edition, search YouTube for that phrase), it describes, as the title suggests, some traits that most people would consider weird. When we started talking about these, most everyone around the table was saying something like "Yeah. I do that." In any other circle, we're weird. Among our Mensa homeboys (and girls), it's just another day.

Another article in the same vein is *9 Quirky Habits That Research Says Are Actually Signs of High Intelligence.* That one comes from that paragon of scientific research, *Modern Teen* magazine, and discusses habits not mentioned in the video, but it still rang true for me.

It's such a shame that so many Mensans join for bragging rights or just to see if they can qualify, pay a year's dues and get the monthly magazine, and let their membership lapse, never exploring the other benefits of membership. People I knew through Mensa helped me get established in a new town I moved to for a job. It gave me social contacts at another new place when I knew no one and was working from home, meaning I met no one through the workplace. I've found Mensans to be quirky and unpredictable, but they understand what it's like to have those extra IQ points that cause us to see the world differently. At our weekly lunches, I can feel normal in a world where I'm otherwise something of a plaid shirt with a pinstripe suit. We can talk about controversial issues without animosity. Please come and join us so you, too can take a little vacation from the neurotypicals.

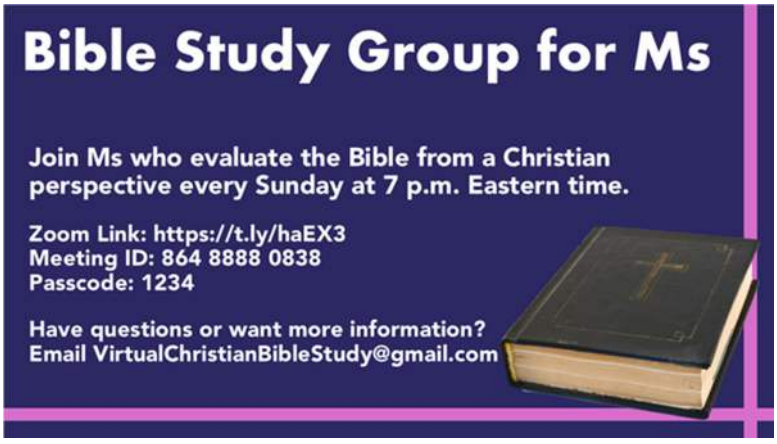


The North Richland Wrecking Crew at Shogun on December 5, 2025—from left near: Alan Brothers, Ilene Strong, Tim Dees, Mark Mitchell. From right near: Dennis Wester, Mike _____, Bill Sheretz.

Speaker Series & Discussion Groups









Turning curiosity into discovery.

The Mensa Foundation's new Excellence in Science program transforms everyday curiosity into real-world discovery. Explore hands-on activities, earn badges, and help learners of all ages engage with science in practical, exciting ways. Learn more: https://www.mensafoundation.org/launching-excellence-in-science



Colloquium 2026 explores brain health from before birth through late life, with expert talks and actionable guidance. Join us in Fort Worth on June 30, 2026. Details & Register: https://www.mensafoundation.org/mensa-foundation-colloquium-2026/



The Mensa Foundation is exploring an AI Mentor to provide ethical, tailored support for gifted and neurodivergent people. Learn what we're building and share your feedback: https://www.mensafoundation.org/rethinking-traditional-mentorship/

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.

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 12: Ann's Best Creole & Soul Food, 1901 Terminal Dr., Richland
- December 19: Baby J's BBQ, 2243 Stevens Dr., Richland
- December 26: Family Garden , 1340 Jadwin Ave., Richland
- January 2: Fresh Leaf Co., 1080 George Washington Way, Richland
- January 9: Isla Bonita, 1524 Jadwin, Richland
- January 16: Lil' Moon Diner, 3790 W. Van Giesen, West Richland
- January 23: Shogun, 760 Dalton St., Richland

Executive Committee Minutes

December 4, 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 10:06 AM

ExComm Officer reports

LocSec:

- **8+2 Lawsuit vs. American Mensa:** Dismissed, but apparently under appeal
- **Region 8 Volunteer Coordinator: Debra Reiger (Elected)**
- Columbia River Mensa Snapshot
- Proctor-in-Training
- Yakima trip
- Omak trip
- Just a get together – Zoom meeting - January

Asst LocSec:

Treasurer: Treasurer's Report

As of September 11, 2025:
Checking: $ 8,322.79
Cert. of Deposit: $ 2,691.27
Biggest expense – Newsletter $ 625.36

Review / Approve Treasurers report: Approved

Member-At-Large: Okanogan County 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)– **Completed**
- Member Appreciation Dinner – ?

New Business

- Strategic Plan – On hold
- Funding local gatherings / Regional Gathering / Regional appreciation dinners
- March ***Chinook*** **–** Will solicit articles
- Leadership Development Workshop / Membership Meeting (January)
- Specific invitation to Millennials / Gen X via email
- LocSec – will send out a poll soliciting activities
- Barbecue?
- Any other suggestions - Zoom events, in person events
- For the good of the order – Facebook, Outward facing Facebook and Instagram?
- Adjourned: 10:37 AM

William C. Sheretz

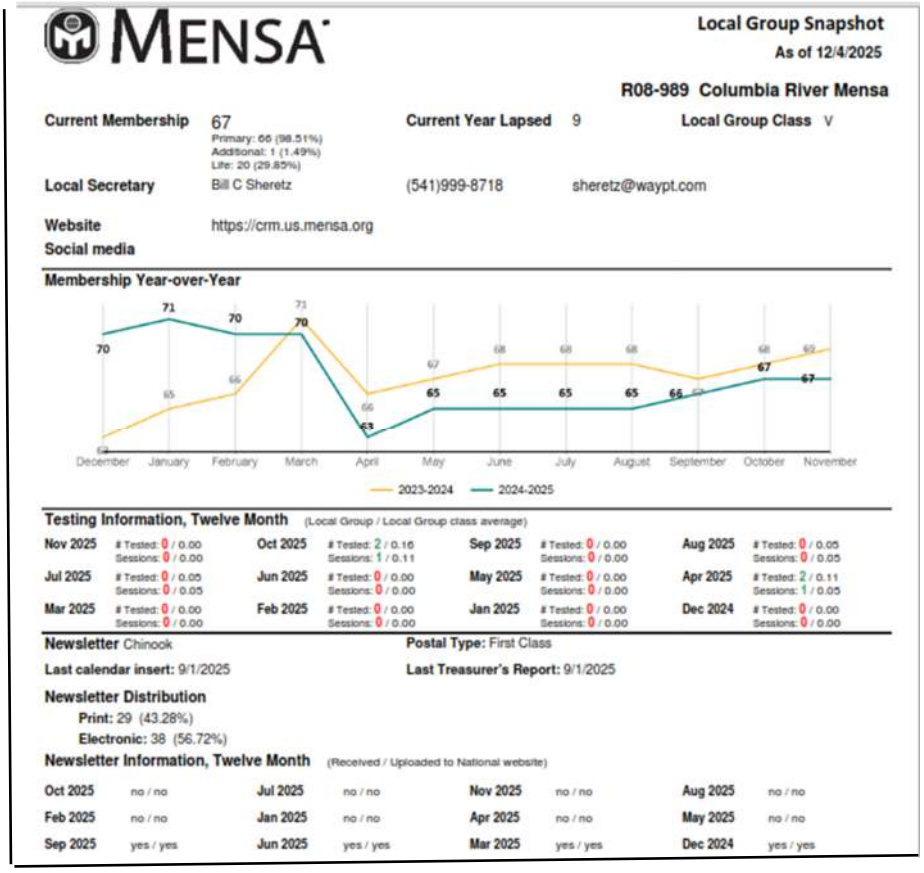
William C. Sheretz
Local Secretary—Columbia River Mensa
Submitted: December 4, 2025

Columbia River Mensa Treasurer's Report
April 1, 2025-November 30, 2025

Assets, April 1, 2025		**$ 11,415.99**
Checking account	$ 8,729.29	
CD	$ 2,686.70	
Income		**$ 629.53**
American Mensa	$ 624.96	
CD Interest	$ 4.57	
Expenses		**$ 1,031.46**
Advertising	$ 225.11	
Newsletter Postage	$ 53.21	
Newsletter Printing	$ 625.36	
Testing Expense-Postage	$ 13.61	
Fuel reimbursement for remote testing	$ 66.39	
Fuel reimbursement for Omak luncheon	$ 47.78	
Assets, November 30, 2025		**$ 11,014.06**
Checking account	$ 8,322.79	
CD	$ 2,691.27	



Timothy M. Dees
Treasurer, Columbia River Mensa
December 4, 2025



MENSA

Local Group Snapshot
As of 12/4/2025

R08-989 Columbia River Mensa

Current Membership 67
Primary: 66 (98.51%)
Additional: 1 (1.49%)
Life: 20 (29.85%)

Current Year Lapsed 9

Local Group Class V

Local Secretary Bill C Sheretz (541)999-8718 sheretz@waypt.com

Website https://crm.us.mensa.org

Social media

Membership Year-over-Year

Testing Information, Twelve Month (Local Group / Local Group class average)

Nov 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	Oct 2025	# Tested: 2 / 0.16 Sessions: 1 / 0.11	Sep 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	Aug 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.05 Sessions: 0 / 0.05
Jul 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.05 Sessions: 0 / 0.05	Jun 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	May 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	Apr 2025	# Tested: 2 / 0.11 Sessions: 1 / 0.05
Mar 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	Feb 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	Jan 2025	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00	Dec 2024	# Tested: 0 / 0.00 Sessions: 0 / 0.00

Newsletter Chinook
Postal Type: First Class
Last calendar insert: 9/1/2025
Last Treasurer's Report: 9/1/2025

Newsletter Distribution
Print: 29 (43.28%)
Electronic: 38 (56.72%)

Newsletter Information, Twelve Month (Received / Uploaded to National website)

Oct 2025	no / no	Jul 2025	no / no	Nov 2025	no / no	Aug 2025	no / no
Feb 2025	no / no	Jan 2025	no / no	Apr 2025	no / no	May 2025	no / no
Sep 2025	yes / yes	Jun 2025	yes / yes	Mar 2025	yes / yes	Dec 2024	yes / yes

Columbia River Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm)

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

Nikolas Caoile ,
Asst. Local Secretary
asstlocsec@crm.us.mensa.org
(206) 817-3116

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
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Kennewick, WA 99337-4444