

# CHINOOK

Volume 33, Number 9

The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa January-February 2007

<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>

It is with sadness that we let you know that our long-time Treasurer, Les Aldrich, tragically passed away December 29. Les did a fantastic job keeping Columbia River Mensa's books up to date. More important than that, Les was a welcome figure whenever he was able to attend a meeting. Les is leaving big shoes to fill, and will be missed very much.

## **MONTHLY DINNER MEETING (Generally at 6:00 p.m.):**

January 27- Bella Italia, 100 N. Morain, Kennewick 374-0451 - This little family-owned Italian restaurant is hidden in the corner of a strip mall on the corner of Morain and Kennewick Ave. Hard to find but good.

**UPCOMING MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS (Generally at 6:00 p.m.):** At Jim's suggestion we are again putting the plans for the next few months

February 24 - Cedars Clover Island, Kennewick 582-2143 Well-known standby for excellent seafood locally  
March 24 - 3 Margaritas, Richland Well-known standby for excellent Mexican food locally, corner of  
Jadwin and Lee

**ELLENSBURG FIRST SATURDAY BRUNCH: February 3, 11:00 am, at The Palace Café 323 N Main St Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 925-2327 [thepalacecafe.net](http://thepalacecafe.net)** The table will be marked with two wine glasses turned upside down. If you want to make a trip of it, you could come for the First Friday Art Walk and stay for Mensa Brunch on Saturday. Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake. Contact: [EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org) Regarding share rides: [locsec@crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@crm.us.mensa.org).

**New Loc Sec and Assistant Loc Sec** – At the December meeting Mark Mitchell was elected Loc Sec; he managed to talk Jim Williams into being Assistant Loc Sec. Due to Les's passing, the Treasurer position is vacant – we need a business-oriented member to step up to this, the duties are not that demanding, Les has left the office in great shape – this should be like taking over GE from Jack Welch, just keep doing what he was doing and look like a hero for little effort..

**Introduction and general blurb from Mark:** Most of you in the Tri-City and Ellensburg areas have met me before, first I would like to say thanks for the vote of confidence in making me Loc Sec; and thanks to Jim for agreeing to be my Assistant and trying to keep me out of trouble! We'll continue to have the first Saturday brunch and the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday dinner in Ellensburg and in Tri-Cities, respectively, and I invite your ideas for any other activities you might be interested in. We are a small group spread out over a large area, and sometimes winter weather interferes with our getting together, but hope to see you at one of our events anyway.

I'm always open to ideas for other activities, if you want to do something different or beyond the brunch and dinner meetings, possibly a TGIF gathering, please let Jim or me know, we'll be glad to put an announcement in the Chinook!

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## **Welcome to American Mensa's newest member benefit!**

American Mensa's Membership Committee is charged with coordinating activities relating to members, member benefits and services, retention of members, membership renewals, etc. Following this charge, AMC Membership Officer Heather Miller and her committee would like to announce the following new member benefit.

"Scientific American MIND," a fairly new magazine from the editors of "Scientific American," takes you inside the most riveting breakthroughs in psychology, neuroscience and related fields, including dreaming, consciousness, intelligence, imagination, emotions, mental illness and perception. Currently, American Mensa provides a puzzle column called "Head Games" to Scientific American MIND for each issue. Now Scientific American MIND offers Mensa members a \$4.95 discount off of the annual subscription rate of \$19.95 for six issues; this Mensan rate of \$15 is the lowest rate they are currently offering.

To get your subscription discount, visit

[https://admin.buysub.com/servlet/OrdersGateway?cds\\_mag\\_code=MND&cds\\_page\\_id=32155](https://admin.buysub.com/servlet/OrdersGateway?cds_mag_code=MND&cds_page_id=32155).

And, a reminder that you can "take care of business" with your Mensa discount at Office Depot. Mensans will receive a 10-percent discount on purchases and will save 60 percent on printing. You will also get free next-day delivery in most areas; save time through your choice of three convenient ordering methods: Internet, phone or fax; and get access to technology products and advice through their sister company Tech Depot. There are certain requirements and restrictions. Visit [https://odams.officedepot.com/registrations/mensa\\_cc.php](https://odams.officedepot.com/registrations/mensa_cc.php)

## **FREE LUNCH AT THE LDW**

If you are a current, former, or prospective volunteer leader in Mensa, please come to Portland, OR, to take part in a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) scheduled for Feb. 9-11, 2007. The LDW will be the third held in Region 8 in as many years, and they have alternated between the north and the south in the region to give as many folks as possible the opportunity to participate. The idea of the LDW is to present sessions on topics that leaders in our Local Groups need to know about, in order to help them do their best at what they have volunteered to do.

Our chief source of material for the sessions is the LDW Guide, which is available on the American Mensa Web site. The topics in the LDW are organized in tracks, and are given at various levels, and we always try to combine some of the basic courses that first-timers will want to know about, along with a few more in-depth topics. Our presenters have both experience with their subject and experience in leadership positions in Mensa, which helps them bring the material to life and provides them with examples of best practices to share with the attendees.

The conversations tend to be very lively, and there is a kind of energy present that comes out only when people really work together to build something. It's very exhilarating, and it can be very intense. The current program schedule will have us starting at 6:30 pm on Friday, and finishing at 9:15 p.m. that evening; starting on Saturday at 9:30 a.m., and finishing at 7:00 p.m. that evening; and then reconvening on Sunday morning over a no-host breakfast for a general discussion at the breakfast table for those who are staying over. We should be done by mid-morning on Sunday. We'll also have an informal suite for hospitality; nothing very elaborate, just a place for additional chat on Friday and Saturday evenings after the formal sessions.

Topics currently on the program schedule will include:

ExCom Basics  
National Office Services  
LocSec Basics  
Welcoming New Members  
Editing and Newsletter Basics  
Planning and Holding a Leadership Retreat  
Getting Involved at the Regional, National,  
or International Level

Fast, Effective Business Meetings  
Getting Area Groups Going  
Getting People Involved  
Scholarship Program  
Fund Raising  
Gatherings

Attendees are most often current leaders in the Local Groups; there were five LocSecs at the most recent LDW. There will be a lot of other volunteers as well, and some who want to know more about becoming a Mensa leader, but who haven't actually tried it yet. Altogether, there have been about 30 people at each of the past two Region 8 LDWs, which is somewhat higher than the average at other recent LDWs that have been held throughout American Mensa.

Registration is free, and there will be a free lunch on Saturday. For more information, please check the notice in the Gatherings section of the Mensa Bulletin, or send an email to John Recht at [rvc8@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc8@us.mensa.org). John would also like to hear from you if you plan to attend, so he can order your lunch. Please join us, and find out how rewarding being a Mensa volunteer can be!



Northwest Passages  
by John Recht  
RVC, Region 8  
[rvc8@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc8@us.mensa.org)

As the year comes to a close, this is a good opportunity for me to acknowledge all of the hard work of our Mensa volunteers in Region 8. I wish I could personally thank them all, but I have only enough space to thank by name the leaders of each of our Local Groups and my Assistant RVCs. They are ably supported by literally hundreds of others, and I would like us all to remember to thank each Mensa volunteer, every chance we get. Volunteers do what they do for the love of it, certainly not for wealth or glory, and Mensa truly couldn't get along without them.

To each of you, my most heartfelt thanks:

Alice Norman, LocSec, Southwest Idaho Mensa  
Alma Lewandowski, LocSec, Columbia River Mensa  
Dan Burg, Assistant RVC, Oregon Mensa  
Debra Reiger, Assistant RVC and LocSec, Sacramento Regional Mensa  
Denise Yancey, President, Mensa Alaska  
Edward Ledger, LocSec, Mensa of Western Washington  
Erinn Height, LocSec, San Francisco Regional Mensa  
Judy Burdick, LocSec, Monterey County Mensa  
Mildred Treherne, LocSec, Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho Mensa  
Robert McAllister, LocSec, Northern Nevada Mensa  
Ruth Parvin, LocSec, Oregon Mensa

Walt Bodley, LocSec, Redwood Empire Mensa

and likewise, I send my deepest thanks to Michael Eager, who just finished his term as LocSec of San Francisco Regional Mensa. My hat is off to you all!

Another item of note: please keep in mind that the postmark deadline for the 2006/2007 MERF Scholarship Essay Contest is almost upon us. Entries are due by Jan. 16, 2007, and forms and information are available online at [www.mensafoundation.org](http://www.mensafoundation.org). This year there are actually two simultaneous contests, with an entry form for the general public, and a separate entry form to compete for special Mensa member awards. If you have questions, please contact Diana Maul, Region 8 Scholarship Coordinator, at [dlmaul@aol.com](mailto:dлмаul@aol.com).

Finally, once again I invite interested members to take part in a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) scheduled for Feb. 9-11, 2007, in Portland, OR. For information, check the Gatherings section of the Mensa Bulletin, or send me an email at [rvc8@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc8@us.mensa.org). Hope to see you there!

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Issue 1, 2007 of Mensa World is now available at [www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld](http://www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld)  
For any questions or comments about Mensa World, please contact Editor Kathy Spaltro at [<mensaworld@mensa.org>](mailto:<mensaworld@mensa.org>). If you have any trouble with your password while accessing these online publications, please email [<WebServices@americanmensa.org>](mailto:<WebServices@americanmensa.org>).

The January/February issue of the International Journal is now online at [www.us.mensa.org/ij](http://www.us.mensa.org/ij)  
You'll want to select IJ Online Library from the left menu.  
For any questions or comments about the International Journal, please contact Editor Kate Nacard at [ijeditor@mensa.org](mailto:ijeditor@mensa.org). If you have any trouble with your password while accessing these online publications, please email [<WebServices@americanmensa.org>](mailto:<WebServices@americanmensa.org>).

The Advance Agenda for the American Mensa Committee meeting in Birmingham, Alabama on January 13, 2007, is now posted on the Web site.

Visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/amc>, select Meeting Reports from the left menu, and then 2007-01 Meeting Reports. If you've misplaced your login information, contact webservices at [americanmensa.org](http://americanmensa.org).

Let me know if you have any problems accessing the agenda.

Please write to your RVC or any member of the AMC with your input on any of the agenda items.

Chairman Russ Bakke regrestfully accepted the resignation of Kevin Myles as Regional Vice Chairman for Region 7. A replacement RVC is being sought.

Respectfully,  
Marc Lederman, Secretary

**Oregon Mensa Invites You to Join Us for  
A Weekend of Sheer Decadence,  
May 11-13, 2007.**

We have two tours already scheduled, wineries and breweries, to get the Regional Gathering started in an appropriately decadent fashion. For more information and the registration form, go to [www.oregon.us.mensa.org/rg/index.php](http://www.oregon.us.mensa.org/rg/index.php) or call Steve Darnell at 360-834-6020.

<b>Local Officers</b>			
Local Secretary	Mark Mitchell	851-4668	<a href="mailto:Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org">Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org</a> .
Newsletter Editor	Beret Ing	(509) 882-2104	Editor@ crm.us.mensa.org
<b>Local Areas</b>			
Eastern Cascades	Alix Drake-Williams George Drake	(509) 933-3117	EasternCascades at crm.us.mensa.org
Far North	Frances Rios		FarNorthArea at crm.us.mensa.org
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