

Event/SIG/Volunteer ideas

Over the years, some of the more unusual volunteer positions made available include:

- Hobbies demonstration organizer – in a large hall, set up widely spaced tables or stations at which members can display, demonstrate, share and describe their pastime activities.
- Annual “Whatzit” party host – members search second-hand stores, attics, junk drawers, etc. for gizmos that are displayed on a table by the host.
- Disassembling Party Host – old stereo speakers, 8-track tape players, etch-a-sketch games, toasters and more provide hours of “oohh” fun when members take the items apart to see how they work. Great for the whole family, teens and all age groups. Members are invited to bring along any item they don’t use any longer. Bring safety goggles and wear old clothing!
- Quarterly SIN Party Host – that stands for SHY, INACTIVE and NEW. Have games, speakers and other non-threatening activities. Print up a “SIN party coupon” in the newsletter announcing the party and make sure that non-shy members are also warmly welcomed!
- Host a SMUT gathering – SINGLE MENSANS UNDER THIRTY-something or SMOT party host (SINGLE MENSANS OVER THIRTY-something). While members of all ages are welcome, GenX and GenY members will feel that this is especially for them. Vary the programming including family-friendly events.
- Bike SIG – host a monthly bike ride.
- Tame Poker – Saturday night, rotate location among players.
- Bloodless Gaming – fun games nights, no bridge or serious gaming.
- Great Ideas That Transform Your Life – Soiree’s and fellowship discussing philosophical, cultural and psychological issues, generate joy in sharing and caring.
- Brunch Bunch – Once a month brunch in the restaurant of your choice!
- Bowling – Once a month at your favorite lanes.
- Fine Dining – Quarterly or monthly dining at the top restaurants in the area.
- PowerPoint Party – Each attendee brings and delivers a 5-minute pitch, with awards for *Most Educational* and *Most Entertaining*.

Positions that could be comfortable for Introverts (& others!)

Assistant (Deputy) LocSec

Treasurer

MERF Scholarship Chair

Newsletter Editor

Proctor Coordinator

Proctor

Web Designer

Webmaster

Game Warden (bring/set up games at meetings/parties)

Book Drive Coordinator

Business Manager

Online Typist

Advertising Manager

Copy Editor

Activities Bulletin Editor

Calendar Editor

Programs Officer

Gifted Children's Coordinator

Assistant Membership Officer

Hospitality Chair

Newsletter Artist

Official Photographer

Beverage Coordinator

Meeting Set-up Chair

Recording Secretary

Ombudsman

Newsletter columnist

Archivist/Historian

Scholarship Chair

SIG Coordinators:

Fine Dining/Gourmet

Book Lovers

Bridge

Cinema

Games

Trivia

Writers & Storytellers

Member-at-Large

IDEAS FOR SMALL & SCATTERED GROUPS

One of the disadvantages of having a small group is obviously that you don't have enough people to do anything. One advantage of a small group is that it's easy to get to know everybody and the group can soon become like family.

One of the disadvantages of a scattered group is people have to travel long distances to get together. But one advantage of scattered groups is that members are *used* to traveling. A hundred-mile drive is considered nothing if it's something they really want to go to.

How can you build your group into a family?

- Print the Membership Roster in your newsletter by ZIP code.
- Print an article with it titled "Let's Get to Know Each Other." Suggest that people use the list to call each other. Example: "Hi! I'm a fellow Mensan, I'll be coming through your area on Wednesday around 5 p.m. I'd like to meet you. Want to join me for dinner or a few beers?"
- Call people yourself and encourage those you call to call others.
- Find out what interests your members (check the PDQ information listed online for each member at www.us.mensa.org/directory).
- Find out what they would come out to, when they would come out and when they wouldn't. In some communities, farmers come into town on Friday or Saturday to do shopping. If this is so, arrange a get-together when they're in town. You'll get the best results (obviously!) if you provide food, especially if you pay for it. A member could put on stew at their home. Or you could meet at McDonald's for a first couple of times and pay for all members' meals from your Local Group funds.
- Print a coupon in your newsletter offering a free meal. Some people will do anything to use a coupon!
- Start a local Facebook group – it's free!
- Concentrate on coming up with a relaxed, quiet, social environment for the first few meetings.
- Some of the supportive companies have nice conference rooms; use them!