

Upcoming North Dakota RG at VCSU “President’s House”

We are planning an RG for the last weekend in June! Tony Jackowski suggested in his latest column that local groups hold a Regional Gathering, and we have been planning since August to hold one event each year in Valley City: a picnic to which members could come from all over the state. The two ideas just came together. We will have a potluck picnic, "bring your own fireworks" fireworks shoot, and much more. North Dakota Mensans from east and west can finally meet, and members from other states are invited, especially our neighbors in South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Canada. So are your spouses, kids, and friends. We will give a Mensa admission test, and those who test will be invited to the RG.

Our headquarters will be The President’s House at VCSU, the former residence of the college president which is now a guest inn. Since the group is renting the entire house, which has four bedrooms and sleeps eight, rooms at this beautiful bed and breakfast are priced at an incredibly low \$35 per room (one or two people; 3 rooms have double beds; one has twin). Rooms at the President’s House are on a first come, first served basis, with the overflow going to the Wagon Wheel Inn (about \$40/night, (701)-845-5333), which also has an RV Park.

We will meet officially in Chautauqua Park, Valley City, at 6 PM on Saturday, June 26, and unofficially at 1 PM at the President’s House for those who want to spend time together on Saturday afternoon chatting, antiquing, or whatever they prefer. The group will provide a main dish for the picnic – either roast chicken or, if some of the guys enjoy grilling, a charcoal fire and food to grill. Members are asked to bring something to go with it (the food that Brian, Ann, and Gay brought last August was fantastic!) and fireworks to share if you can get them: Ann Knudson has already bought enough to insure a very good showing. At midnight – the first moment they will be legal – we will go to Medicine Wheel Park and shoot our fireworks!

The group will provide a Continental breakfast at the President’s House. We will meet for brunch at 11:00 Sunday morning at the Broken Spoke restaurant (AKA the BS). Of course, going to church is an option. Ann is bringing her canoe, Valley City has two golf courses and is crawling with antique shops, and everyone is encouraged to bring games, Frisbees, guitars, or whatever you’d like to do and share.

As Ann said, “I like fireworks. Better yet with friends.” Ann will be there – and Brian and Allan – so we will have friends, and the friends will bring fireworks. We plan to have a bang-up time!

Plans are still being made for the event, which is about two months away, and updates will be posted on the ND Mensa website at <http://northdakota.us.mensa.org>. The floor is open to suggestions: please send them to RG co-chair Ann Knudson, kann2@qwest.com, 701-223-2962. Please watch the Bulletin Board page of the website for further details, maps and directions, and please plan to come!!

North Dakota Mensa's FIRST Regional Gathering!

Saturday, June 26:

1 PM: Unofficial Early Bird Start: Meet at The President's House Guest Inn, VCSU, for coffee & conversation, golf, antique-shopping or whatever.

2 PM: Mensa Admission Testing, The President's House.

6 PM: Official RG Start, Chautauqua Park: potluck picnic; canoeing, any outdoor games (lawn darts?) you want to bring.

9? - 11:45 PM: Party, The President's House. Coffee, games and conversation. BYOB; no alcohol for those planning to shoot fireworks.

12 Midnight: FIREWORKS, Medicine Wheel Park. (For those who still feel up to it, VCSU has a 1/2-mile wooded hiking trail from the President's House to the park. Others can drive.)

Sunday, June 27:

11 AM: Brunch, Broken Spoke restaurant; official end of RG.

Noon - Afternoon, optional extra time together: Golf? Canoeing? Hitting the fireworks stands on Opening Day? Please send suggestions to kann2@qwest.net.

RSVP by June 15 to co-chairs Ann Knudson or Shirley Starke (our contact info is on page 2). Please tell us if you want to rent or share a room at the President's House. Registration is FREE; a dish to pass at the picnic and fireworks (if you can get them) are requested. Brunch is on your own. A small donation to the group for its expenses is appreciated but optional.