

THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

BROADCAST

Vol. 23, No. 4 April 2017

<http://frenchbroad.us.mensa.org>

English Language Edition

The pen is mightier...

-Richelieu



From the Grand Poobah...

My family relocated from Durham, NC to Carmel, a suburb of Indianapolis, the day after my older sister graduated from high school. This was at the end of my junior year, and I was faced with ‘starting over’ for my last year of high school. I was not pleased, but we had moved several times before as my father was a marketing executive; that’s just what they did. I promised my friends that I would return for a visit that summer.



When looking at my ancestors, there seems to be a gene for daredevil and adventurous behavior, so there’s the genetic reason for my propensity to strike out into the world. My parents had allowed me (after much negotiation) to live with two guys I met at work. This provided me with the opportunity to be absent for five or six days without finding my picture on a milk carton. (I know...)

The hitchhike was relatively uneventful, but it was reinforcing for my belief that people are (mostly) basically good. During the summer of 1971 I was hardly alone as a kid on the side of the highway, only two years after Woodstock and feeling a part of the generational movement.

This is not the same world I grew up in, and the uncertainty and fear felt by so many is disheartening. It is a different world, but how did it happen and why? When was the last time you saw a 17-year old traveling safely alone over 1,000 miles? What happened?

John Federspiel
Grand Poobah

*Talent hits a target no one else can;
genius hits a target no one else can see.*

- Attributed to Arthur Schopenhauer
- Submitted by Ron Jones

Editorial Muttering

I was feeling kinda negative at this writing, as you can plainly see. It wasn't the national or international news that got to me this time though. It was the news that my 30-plus year friend Will McGuffin has been touched by the Fickle Finger of Fate (remember that?). We'll all be touched sometime, and when we least expect it, too. Remember: the actuaries are out to get you... and they will eventually.



Soon after joining Mensa, I moved to Asheville in 1988 from Takoma Park, MD. The only Mensa contact name listed was Will's. I called when I arrived and we've been Mensa friends ever since. I expect to be able to wring a bunch more years out of our relationship. (You hear that, Will? Hey, I might need you to drive me to my next colonoscopy.)

As for Mensa, Grace Lehto may not be our Revered LocSec any longer, but she's still up to her old tricks. She threw (through?) a Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday party on Feb 28 which was perhaps the greatest party she's thrown. (Pictures are on page 5.)

More Mensa business. Because of Will's recent incident, French Broad Mensa is looking for someone to train as a proctor for the Asheville area. We could use someone in Hendersonville too. Any volunteers? It's not such a tough job and just think of all you'll be doing to help save the world from itself.

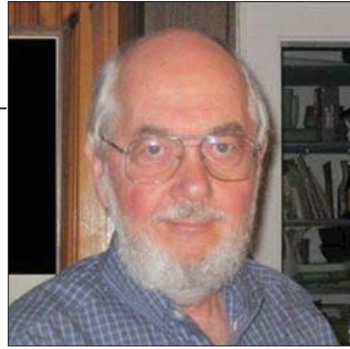
Your Struggling Editor
You-Know-Whom



Member News

Excerpted from Will McGuffin's FaceBook page
(posted Feb 28, 2017):

I just wanted to let you know that I had a minor stroke a few days ago, not to solicit sympathy so much as to dispel misinformation that sometimes crops up with situations like this. I think my piano tuning days are probably over, walking is precarious and speech is slightly affected but at least I can get around, drive to the store safely (I think!) and be somewhat self-sufficient.



How much recovery is possible remains to be seen but I'll know more when I start some kind of rehabilitation. At my age we can expect something unexpected to happen to our health but don't know what it might be until it happens. So any wishes for good luck are most welcome! My neighbors and friends have offered help when I need it, which I deeply appreciate. More later...

In Cerebration of The English Language Issue, Two Limericks From Nel Ruffin

Please tell me how we're saving power
By setting our clocks up an hour?
My poor mind is bending,
The work day is ending --
And I'm still asleep in the shower.

The following limerick is neither time-limited nor intended to represent any actual person, living or whatever:

A brainy and fit man of Mensa
Sadly had no common sensa.
He ran out of luck and
In front of a truck, and
Directly into the past tensa.

*Grace Lehto's Feb 28 Fat Tuesday Party
"The Masking of Mensa"*



A Highly Successful Event!

Minutes of the French Broad Mensa Executive Committee

Held 3/7/17 at the Trail Head Restaurant, Black Mountain

Present: John Federspiel, Pat Benard, Bob Bouvier, Nel Ruffin, Michael Havelin,
Wayne Stanko

Financial Statement for February 2017

Opening Balance:	\$3,679.06
Credits: Am. MENSA Contribution	<u>\$114.05</u>
Total Credits:	\$114.05
Debits: Check 606-bulk mail deposit	-\$50.00
Check 607-Mardi Gras food	-\$46.05
Total Debits:	<u>-\$96.05</u>
Closing Balance:	\$3697.06

Submitted by Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

Events for April –

Sanctuary Brewery & Dinner at Moe's (around the corner), Sat, April 15, 5 pm.

Contact - John Federspiel

ExCom- April 4 Tues, 6pm, Phil's Bar-Be-Que Pitt, 701 NC Hwy 9, Black Mountain. Contact - Pat Benard

First Friday Lunch, April 7, 11:30 am at Copper River Grill, 1302 Hendersonville Road. Good variety of food. New members: \$5 off your food if this is the first event you have attended with us. Contact Fae Armstrong 298-1707 or one4ae2@yahoo.com. You may drop-in also.

Trivia - April 10 - Jack of the Wood, 6:30 to eat, 7:30 to play. Contact - Will or Wayne

Earth Day - Sat, April 22, 2 pm, Grassy Creek Falls all Downhill Hike, followed by cook-out grill potluck at Pat Benard's house, 675 Lynn Gap Rd, Spruce Pine - Contact - Pat Benard

Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner, Thurs., April 27, 6:30pm, Haus Heidelberg German Restaurant, 630 Greenville Hwy, Hendersonville. Contact - John Federspiel.

Other business:

We will invite David Diehn to dinner at Asiana on the 23rd and present him with a Certificate of Appreciation for publishing our newsletter.

We will also pay for his Mensa membership. Wayne will take care of the renewal. Michael will produce the certificate.

Nel will personally contact Mensa members in Hendersonville and invite them to the dinner at the Heidelberg on April 27th.

We should establish an assigned contact when a new member shows up for an event for the first time. A rotating position.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm

Submitted by Pat Benard, Deputy Loc.Sec. 

French Broad Mensa April 2017 Events Calendar

NOTE: RSVPs are important for table planning. Please RSVP if you plan to attend an event. If you don't RSVP to the contact person, we may not be able to seat you. Preference goes to RSVPs.

Sat, April 1, 5pm - April Fool's Day Celebration at Sanctuary Brewing Company, 147 First Avenue East, Hendersonville, NC 28792. Note: Lisa McDonald, co-owner of Sanctuary is a Mensan. **Followed by dinner at Moe's Original B-B-Q**, 114 N. Main, Hendersonville, NC. See more at: <http://www.sanctuarybrewco.com>. Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463 or federspiel@bellsouth.net

Tues, April 4, 6pm - ExCom at Phil's Bar-B-Que Pit, 701 NC Highway 9, Black Mountain, NC 28711, (828) 669-3606. Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463 or federspiel@bellsouth.net

Fri, April 7, 11:30 - First Friday Lunch at Copper River Grill, 1302 Hendersonville Road. A good variety of food. New members: \$5 off your food if this is the first event you have attended with us. Contact: Fae Armstrong 298-1707 or one4ae2@yahoo.com. Drop-ins welcome.

Mon, April 10 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville, NC 28801, (828) 252-5445. 6:30pm for dinner, 7:30pm to play. Contact: Wayne at 253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net.

Sat, April 22, Earth Day Hike at Grassy Creek Falls all Downhill Hike, followed by cook-out grill potluck at Pat Benard's house, 675 Lynn Gap Rd, Spruce Pine. Contact: Pat Benard, 828-467-7350, patbenard@gmail.com.

Thurs, April 27, 6:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Haus Heidelberg German Restaurant, 630 Greenville Hwy, Hendersonville. Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463 or federspiel@bellsouth.net



RVC Column, March, 2017



After a Weird Winter, I'm hoping for a (relatively) Standard Spring. As I write this it's over 70 degrees and in 48 hours they are predicting snow! As a teacher, I would have liked to have had AT LEAST one snow day! However, this snow is going to be on a Saturday! I hope that some of you teachers in Region 5 had better luck than we did.

There is still time to register for the Carolinah RG, PAMinal House, May 5-7. Check out their website: www.piedmont.us.mensa.org/rg2017.htm. The rate is \$70 if you register before March 31. First timers get a \$5 discount. This RG is one of Mensa's favorites. Once you attend, you will want to go back. The Drury Inn in Greenville is the host hotel again. Make sure you bring your own toga!

If you haven't registered your CultureQuest® teams, there may still be time. Registration is open until March 31 and the contest is April 30. Register and get more info at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest>. Several Region 5 teams have done quite well in the past. Maybe this year is your turn.


It's not too late to register for the American Mensa Annual Gathering, "Hooray for Hollywood." Tours are on-line at: <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>. Programs will be on-line over the next few weeks. This year's AG is July 5-9. The speaker at this year's Gala Dinner will be Penn Gillette, the talkative half of the Las Vegas performers, Penn and Teller. The AG will take place at the Diplomat Beach Resort.

This year's Colloquium will take place on July 5, with the theme, "Driven by Disaster." For more information, you can check out the Colloquium section of the AG website.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, it's not too late. Renew today so you don't forget.

The National Community Service Committee is sponsoring "Mensa Cares." The idea is for local groups to participate in a community service event on April 29, National Service Day. Check with your local group ExCom and work with them to schedule something. If you participate, you can order cool "Mensa Cares" t-shirts for just \$10 from the Mensa Store.

Before I end this month's column, I want to express my thanks for those of you who signed my petition for re-election. 100 signatures were required and I received over 150, online and on paper. Since no one else ran for RVC 5, I have been declared elected and won't be on the ballot. I appreciated the friendships that I have made in Mensa and love meeting my fellow Mensans at local group meetings, RGs, AGs, and all other Mensa activities.

All of the volunteers who work in local, regional and national activities work hard to improve the Mensa experience for all of us. I encourage you to attend local meetings and gatherings and get to know them. And, when you have a chance, thank them for what they do. 

Words and Phrases

American English	British English
a bag of sugar, flour etc.	a pack of sugar, flour etc.
across the street from	opposite
amusement	fairground ride
apartment	flat
blonde (hair)	fair (hair)
booked up	fully booked
cafe	coffee shop
cell phone	mobile phone
check (✓)	tick (✓)
check (at restaurant)	bill
closet	wardrobe
clothing store	clothes shop
do the dishes	do the washing - up
dormitory	halls of residence
downtown	city center
elevator	lift
expressway	motorway
fall	autumn
first floor (also ground floor)	ground floor
French fries (also fries)	chips

acyrologia

An incorrect use of words - particularly replacing one word with another that sounds similar but has a different meaning - possibly fuelled by a deep-seeded desire to sound more educated, which results in an attempt to pawn off an incorrect word in place of a correct one. In academia, such flaunting of common social mores is seen as almost sorted and might result in the offender becoming a piranha, in the Monday world, after all is set and done, such a minor error will often leave normal people unphased. This is just as well since people of that ilk are unlikely to tow the line regardless of any attempt to better educate them. A small percentage, however, suffer from severe acyrologiaphobia, and it is their utmost desire to see English used properly. Exposure may cause them symptoms that resemble post-dramatic stress disorder and, eventually, descend into whole-scale outrage as they go star-crawling mad. Eventually, they will succumb to the stings and arrows of such a barrage, and suffer a complete mental breakdown, leaving them curled up in the feeble position.

(unattributed)

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Dear Gabbie,

I have this terrible itch and a gooey white discharge. My teeth are loose. What should I do?

Anonymous

Dear Anon...

AAAAA! Stay away from me! Don't touch me or anything that I might touch! Get you to a hospital fast! If not a hospital, go to hospice. EEEK!

Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the BROADCAST editor.



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French Broad Mensa again thanks Clark Communications for their help in making this the best looking local group publication in the nation.

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is hereby awarded to

David Diehn and Clark Communications

For making *BROADCAST*,
French Broad Mensa's Newsletter,
The Best-Looking Mensa newsletter in the USA.

John Federspiel
Local Secretary

Michael Havelin
BROADCAST Editor

March, 2017

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Membership Coordinator - Position Open

BOILERPLATE: Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Original (!) material is welcome. Editor reserves right to refuse publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning is retained. No personal attacks. Email submissions, with a subject line, to Editor at michael@michaelhavelin.com. Editor deletes suspected spam or emails without subject lines without reading. Opinions expressed are those of the author, not necessarily Mensa's or the Editor's.



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