

THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 23, No. 7 July 2017

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

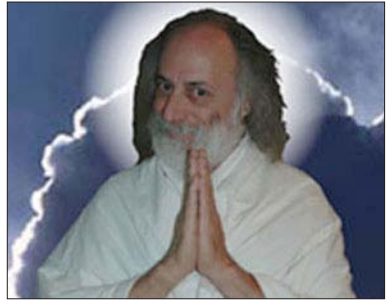


# THE NEW NORMAL

I'm okay (sort of).  
What's your reality look like?

## *Editorial Muttering*

I thought hallucinations were over. I mean, that was years ago, wasn't it? Or maybe I've imagined my entire life. It's hard to tell sometimes. The past few months have been particularly difficult, what with the New Reality chasing us around.



I've suspected for years that I was born to the wrong people. My parents were solid peasant stock and lived in the wrong strata (stratum?) of society. Either that or I should have remained a lawyer and gotten rich on the travail of others. I could have become a corporate type, worn a bowtie, and chased the Almighty Dollar around for the pleasure of watching the gold glint in the sunlight I shaded from others.

But none of that happened. I was born to peasants, yes, but they were honest peasants. When I quit lawyering and my father asked why, I answered that he'd brought me up too well. Flippant? Or true as hell? Somehow I picked up something called the Golden Rule along the way. It works for me. It's civilized, don't you think? (If you don't know what it is, google it.)

The world seems to have changed a bit from when I was growing up. Let's face it: capitalism is a greed-based economy. Sure, we have to find meaningful work to give our lives value, to provide for ourselves and our families, but the society we now live in encourages accumulation without conscience. "More, more, more" is the war cry of the capitalist. But how much is enough? Is there ever enough? And what do you have to do to get it anyway? Lie? Cheat? Steal? Backstab? Murder? Invade other countries that just want to be left alone?

In spite of my cynicism and curmudgeonism, at bottom I believe that most people are reasonable and simply want to be able to live quiet lives with their families and attend to propagating the species (which is another big issue). (My considered opinion: any politician running for office who shows a picture of him/herself

with 3, 5, 7 or more children is immediately disqualified for office by being an indiscriminate propagator who doesn't understand the world's problems and has a twisted sense of personal responsibility.)

Your Childless and No-Holier-Than-Thou Havelin  
(I'm still trying to find my way through life.)

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*Addendum to Havelin's monthly Editorial Muttering  
(written after the president's climate decision)*

A few days ago our president withdrew the USA from the Paris Climate Accords. HE has done this. It was not a decision taken and acted upon by the American people, the vast bulk of whom (including huge multi-national corporations) see danger ahead for the planet and didn't want to withdraw.

By doing this, he has alienated those few parts of the world that he had not previously insulted, derided or alienated, and he has again shown his ignorance of and lack of concern for the climate issue which threatens the very existence of our species.

But there is a positive side to this. His action has served to unite the rest of the world's players, great and small, to ignore his idiocy and frankly, his mentally unbalanced, unthought-out positions, and plow ahead with reduction of green house gas emissions and perhaps give our species "breathing room."

I'm sorry (not really), but I have to say it: the man is a fool, a "willfully ignorant" jerk who has no sense of reality and seems to hate America and its people. When has there ever before been a politician of our very own who purposefully tried to destroy America? He's made his mark in history, all right.

*Editor's Note: I'm open to printing other people's opinions about what's happening to America. Send your editorial material to me at [michael@michaelhavelin.com](mailto:michael@michaelhavelin.com).*



## *From the Grand Poobah...*

Is it reasonable to believe that people other than myself have done something they know to be detrimental to society, yet are content with themselves? Not something horrible, but expedient. And I'm not sorry.

During a vacation to Los Cabos, Mexico a couple of years ago, we stopped at our favorite we-just-got-off-the-plane-look-out-we're-on-vacation place, Zipper's On The Beach. Beach front with cold drinks and tasty foods, we shook off the seven hours of travel and got to 'relaxin.' Yes, I had more than my usual one beer. I doubled my usual intake, but according to the law in Mexico, that's too much.

When we left Zippers, rather than go through an arroyo and scrape the bottom of the car, I followed the lead of the locals and went up the off-ramp. The long range view was partially obstructed by a curve, but it seemed safe to me and I proceeded. Almost immediately I noticed the grill of a pickup in the rearview mirror, too close to see the blue flashing lights.

Who, me? The speed limit was 45 mph, but the Federale's had to be going at least 60. Some say that the traffic laws are merely a suggestion, but not this time for me. I got out and gave them my documentation, and the sergeant wanted to know if we were going to the airport. My Spanish is pitiful, and his English was the same, but nonetheless I admitted that I went out the in. Was I drinking? The standard "two beers" reply did not defuse the situation.

I had heard that the ticket process was not overwhelming, and just do it without argument, but it just seemed to anger him. About that time an ex-pat walked up and intervened, telling me that they wanted \$200 to let me go. I held my hands together wrists-up, and prepared for my tour of the police station, determined to stop the cycle of shake-downs. The Ex-pat suggested I give them \$100 and call it a day, which seems like a better deal at 50% off the regular price. Who can pass up a bargain?

My ethical dilemma doesn't haunt my dreams, and I actually felt Hemmingwayesque for paying a bribe to the cops in a third world country. Kind of a lower case bucket list item.



John Federspiel  
The Grand Poobah

## *Useful Ambrose Bierce Definitions*

**Corporation**, n. An ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility.

**Faith**, n. Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge, of things without parallel.

**Future**, n. That period of time in which our affairs prosper, our friends are true and our happiness is assured.

**Habeas corpus**, n. A writ by which a man may be taken out of jail when confined for the wrong crime.

**Harangue**, n. A speech by an opponent, who is known as an harrangue-outang.

**Homicide**, n. The slaying of one human being by another. There are four kinds of homicide: felonious, excusable, justifiable, and praiseworthy, but it makes no great difference to the person slain whether he fell by one kind or another - the classification is for advantage of the lawyers.

**Politics**, n. A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage.

**Truth**, n. An ingenious compound of desirability and appearance. Discovery of truth is the sole purpose of philosophy, which is the most ancient occupation of the human mind and has a fair prospect of existing with increasing activity to the end of time.

**War**, n. A by-product of the arts of peace.

**Whangdepootenawah**, n. In the Ojibwa tongue, disaster; an unexpected affliction that strikes hard.



## *RVC Column, July, 2017*



I'm writing this column a couple of weeks prior to the 2017 Annual Gathering in Hollywood, FL. July 5-9 will see almost 2,000 Mensans from across the US and other countries. The 2018 AG will be in Indianapolis, and drivable for most people in Region 5. Hope that we have a good turnout next year.

I just returned from a visit with Memphis Mensa and wish to welcome their new Loc Sec, Doug Van Riper and Asst. Loc Sec, Harold Smith. I think that they and the rest of the Ex Com are on a strong footing and are beginning to move things forward.

The next Regional Gathering will take place in Georgia. They are hosting "Peachtreat 42: the Answer (to Life, the Universe, and Everything), September 22-24 at the Best Western Plus, Atlanta Airport, East. This is always a good RG and should be lots of fun. For those who live in the eastern part of our region, Atlanta is a pretty easy drive. Registration information can be found at: <http://www.georgia.us.mensa.org/RG2017.php>.

American Mensa elections are over. On July 1 I begin my 3rd term as your RVC and I'm thankful for the support that I have received. Other new officers are: LaRae Bakerrink- Chair; Lori Norris – 1st Vice Chair; Billie Lee – 2nd Vice Chair; Lisa Maxwell – Secretary; and Deb Stone – Treasurer. If most of these names are familiar, they should be. Other than Billie Lee, they all served last term's AMC in different positions. I'm one of 3 returning RVC's. The other 7 are new to the job. I'm happy to let them know what an awesome region I am proud to serve.

Just as I'm writing this, results of the Mensa International election were released. I'm pleased to announce that Dan Burg, our former Chair was elected as Director of Administration. In addition, Nick Sanford, our former RVC and AMC Treasurer was elected as Treasurer of Mensa International. Congratulations to both of them.

If you're not getting your local group newsletter by e-mail, I encourage you to change your preferences on the National Website. You won't get spam, but you'll be able to get notifications about what's happening in your local group.

For most of us, Mensa is a social organization. The only way to use that benefit is by attending local group, regional, or national functions. Who knows, you might find your new best friend, or even your significant other. It happens!

Have a great summer.

# *2017 American Mensa Committee Election Results*

## **Chair**

### **First Vice Chair**

Lori Norris is declared elected.  
Lori Norris 1,736 (50.4%)  
Dave Cahn 1,706 (49.6%)

### **Second Vice Chair**

Billie Lee is declared elected.  
Desiree Elliott 1,417 (41.7%)  
Billie Lee 1,985 (58.3%)

### **Secretary**

Lisa Maxwell is declared elected.

### **Treasurer**

Deb Stone is declared elected.

### **Regional Vice Chair 1**

Ian Strock is declared elected.

### **Regional Vice Chair 2**

Jason Seiler is declared elected.  
Todd Jacobs 231 (49.7%)  
Jason Seiler 234 (50.3%)

### **Regional Vice Chair 3**

John Voymas is declared elected.  
Shana Lincoln 154 (46.5%)  
John Voymas 177 (53.5%)

### **Regional Vice Chair 4**

Jon Gruebele is declared elected.  
George Haynes 124 (22.9%)  
Jon Gruebele 418 (77.1%)

### **Regional Vice Chair 5**

Baker Ring is declared elected.

### **Regional Vice Chair 6**

Taz Criss is declared elected.

### **Regional Vice Chair 7**

Richard Olcott is declared elected.  
Greg Kontz 77 (44.3%)  
Richard Olcott 97 (55.7%)

### **Regional Vice Chair 8**

Sandra Lackovic is declared elected.

### **Regional Vice Chair 9**

Michael Wong is declared elected.  
Jerilyn Phippeny 147 (38.0%)  
Michael Wong 240 (62.0%)

### **Regional Vice Chair 10**

Thomas Thomas is declared elected.



*Minutes of the French Broad Mensa Executive Committee*  
held at Phil's BBQ, Black Mountain, at 6pm, Tues, June 6, 2017.

Present: John Federspiel, Pat Benard, Bob Bouvier, Grace Lehto, Michael Havelin, Will McGuffin.

Financial Report for May 2017

Opening Balance:.....\$3,701.75  
Credits:  
Am. MENSA Contribution 5/19/2017 .....\$103.15  
Total Credits:.....\$103.15  
Debits: [none]  
Total Debits:.....\$0.00  
**Closing Balance:.....\$3,804.90**

Events for July: See calendar on Page 9

Meeting adjourned 6:55 pm

Submitted by Pat Benard, Deputy Loc. Sec.



**MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS PRESENT**  
**TAMING OF THE SHREW**  
**BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

**JUNE 2 - JULY 1** | **FREE**  
**FRIDAY/SATURDAY/SUNDAY** | **HAZEL ROBINSON AMPHITHEATRE**  
**7:30PM** | **92 GAY ST ASHEVILLE, NC**

**RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT**  
**WWW.MONTFORDPARKPLAYERS.ORG**





***French Broad Mensa***  
***July 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.

**Fri, July 7, 11:30am - First Friday Lunch at Tupelo Honey**, 1829 Hendersonville Road. Details will be furnished later in a reminder e-mail to members. Contact: Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com or phone 828-298-1707.

**Sat, July 8, 11am, - French Broad River Greenway Clean-Up** on Amboy Road between the French Broad River Park and Carrier Park. We will also pick-up trash along Amboy Road. Riverlink supplies bags, gloves, safety vests, and pickers. Meet at Amboy Greenway parking lot. For incentive, Mensa will provide lunch for the volunteers after we finish. Contact Wayne Stanko at 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net by **July 1** if you want to help. Reservations are needed so we will know how much equipment we need from Riverlink.

**Sat. July 8, - ExCom** will meet after Greenway Clean-up (location to be decided after clean-up).

**Mon, July 10, - Trivia at Jack of the Wood**, 95 Patton Ave., Asheville. 6:30pm for dinner, 7:30pm to play. Contact: Will McGuffin, 828-296-7544 or wmcguffin@charter.net.

**Sat, July 22, 7-11pm - Open House at Bouvier Home**, 14 LaRue Court, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715. Park in the street but call ahead if physical limitations prohibit walking up a sloped driveway. If steps are an issue, we have a solution - rear entrance but call first. Non-alcoholic beverages (water, iced tea, a variety of sodas) & a snack or two will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring food and drink contributions. Contact: Bob Bouvier, 828-713-0270, 571-213-5125 or bouv1946@gmail.com.

**Thurs, July 27, 6:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Post 25 Kitchen & Lounge**, 2155 Hendersonville Rd, Arden (the former Black Forest Restaurant) Asheville. Contact: Michael Havelin, 828-712-5570 or michael@michaelhavelin.com

## *Trivial Report*

There were seven players to help *The Whoos* defend their championship at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in June. There were 12 teams playing. The category for the first round was YO.

1. What device is used to get draught animals to pull in unison?
  2. What business company is named after a Philippine word meaning “come back?”
  3. What 2-hour TV show running from 1988 to 1995 was hosted by Dr. Dre and Ed Glover?
  4. What is the smallest and 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet?
  5. What movie character from 40 years ago was modeled after Einstein?
  6. What is a northern suburb of New York City?
  7. What is the common name for the Pennsylvania company Benne and Smith?
  8. What is the common name for the North American Cannabis?
  9. Sexually, what develops from a zygote?
  10. What is a modulating singing style used by Hank Snow?
- We missed one question and were in third place, two points behind the leaders.

The theme for the second round was dropouts.

1. What author born on January 12, 1876 wrote novels based in the American Northwest?
  2. What editor of the *New York Tribune* said “Go west, young man?”
  3. Who was the first lady of Argentina?
  4. What talk show host failed ballroom dancing at SE Missouri University?
  5. What editor of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* was the first U.S. Postmaster General?
  6. What Canadian-American was the anchor for *ABC's Nightly News*?
  7. Who wrote *Alexander's Ragtime Band*?
  8. What Dutch scientist is the father of microbiology?
  9. Who captained Challenger II to a transatlantic crossing record in 1986?
  10. What Russian author wrote *Anna Karenina*?
- We again only missed one and were still in third place one point behind the leaders.

The third round is the speed round. We were given a question sheet that

we had five minutes to complete. The first part had several algebra problems. The second part listed beers that we had to name the brewery that produced them. At the end of the round we were in fourth place with 38 points. There were three teams tied with 40 points.

The fourth round theme was potpourri.

1. Who wore a stuffed swan to the Oscars?
  2. In 2001, who said “Teach a child to read and he will pass a literacy test?”
  3. In 1962, who screamed in Russian “Off we go?”
  4. What Central American country has a large barrier reef?
  5. Every five years, what city is the most populous in the world?
  6. What future guitarist lost a finger?
  7. Every two years, the Sondheim trophy is awarded for what women’s sport?
  8. What middle east country changed its name to Land of the Aryans in 1935?
  9. What southwestern capital was once named Waterloo?
  10. On a medical history, what do circles stand for?
- We finished in fourth place, four points behind the winner.

\*Answers\*

Round 1: Yoke, 2. Yo Yo (Will), 3. Yo-MTV Raps (John), 4. Yod (Karen), 5. Yoda (Karen), 6. Yonkers, 7. Crayola (Will), 8. Coyote, 9. Embryo (Robert), 10. Yodeling.

Round 2: 1. Jack London (Robert), 2. Horace Greely (Will), 3. Eva Peron, 4. Rush Limbaugh (Robert), 5. Ben Franklin, 6. Peter Jennings (John), 7. Irving Berlin, 8. Leuwenhoek (Will), 9. Richard Branson, 10. Leo Tolstoy.

Round 4: 1. Swan (Robert), 2. George W. Bush, 3. Yuri Gagarin, 4. Belize (John), 5. Mecca, 6. Jerry Baron, 7. Golf (Wayne) 8. Iran, 9. Austin, 10. Women



## *Congratulations to Sarah Frye*

Winner of the local Dianna Mossip Memorial  
Scholarship worth \$600.  
Sarah attends Asheville High School

There I was in the veterinary office, finally getting to experience the thrill of surgery and the thrill of saving a life. This was an experience of a lifetime. I was watching a urethral surgery on a young puppy, that was only a couple weeks old and had his life on the line. The doctors worked quickly and diligently with articulate and precise hands. Before I knew it, the puppy was stitched up and handed to me in a soft blanket. I got the privilege of holding his limp body and tiny life in my arms as he awoke from anesthesia. I was seven years old.

Ever since I was young I knew what I wanted to do as a career. Most children go through the stage of wanting to be a veterinarian at some point. Usually it's when they get their first pet or when they have a good experience at the zoo. That phase lasts usually only a little while, maybe a couple years at most. For me, that phase never ended.

The summer of my Freshman year of high school, I attended North Carolina State University's VetCAMP summer program. At NC State I was privileged to listen to lectures from professors, dissect animal hearts and brains, learn how to suture, and work hands on with pigs, horses, sheep, dogs, cats, and goats. It was an amazing experience that engaged me in a way that American History or Calculus lectures never had.

Two summers ago I started volunteering at Charlotte Street Animal Hospital. Being the only volunteer in the clinic allowed me to work intimately with the Vet Techs and Veterinarians. After a summer of volunteer work, I was offered a job at the Charlotte Street Animal Rehabilitation and Canine Social Club. I have been working there for the past six months and plan to continue working there until I start college. This has been a great addition to my exploration of animal science.

I am currently working on a Senior Research Project in

partnership with the Humane Society about controlling domestic animal overpopulation in our county. My project involves spending 35 hours with the Foster Coordinator, doing research on overpopulation, writing a paper and doing a presentation on this issue. This project has helped me realize my passion for controlling animal overpopulation and the social and economic complexity of this issue. It has allowed me to gain experience writing and creating a research paper with practical experience.

My passion for animals has developed through a variety of experiences over many years. I am looking forward to advancing my education formally in a university setting. This will allow me to explore careers in this field and help me achieve my goal of a career in Animal Sciences.

### *Mensa U.S. Scholarship Program FAQ*

#### **When can I apply for a Foundation scholarship?**

Applications for Foundation scholarships are only available during the fall of each year. In general, applications are available from Sept. 15 until Jan. 15, which is the application deadline.

#### **Who can apply for a Foundation scholarship?**

Students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents & who will be enrolled in accredited colleges for the following academic year may apply.

#### **What must I do to apply?**

Applicants must complete the online application, including the essay describing their career, vocational or academic goals. Limit = 550 words.

#### **Tips for writing a winning essay?**

Scholarship applications will be judged solely on the basis of your essay. It's important that your essay accurately and fully describe your life, academic, career and/or vocational goals and how you plan to achieve them. The scholarship information states that the essays are judged on grammar, organization and craftsmanship; further, the word limit is 550. We're not recommending you use every last syllable available, but keep in mind that the word length was set after determining how many words should be necessary to describe your plan for the rest of your life. Brevity is good, but not at the expense of providing complete information.



Interest is building (four people so far) for a book club devoted to “thought” books rather than fiction; books about everything from sociology to astronomy and physics are what I have in mind. We could

meet once a month at some mutually agreed upon venue? Suggestions and ideas are welcome. If interested, give me a call at 828-575-2877 or send me an email at [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com).

*Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie*

*Dear Gabbie,*

*My life is okay. I have a decent place to live, enough to eat, I'm healthy and surrounded by nice people. Is there something wrong with me?* *Well-adjusted Citizen*

*Dear Citizen...*

*What sort of drugs are you taking? Can you send me some?*  
*Gabbie*

*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.*

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**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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