

THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

BROADCAST

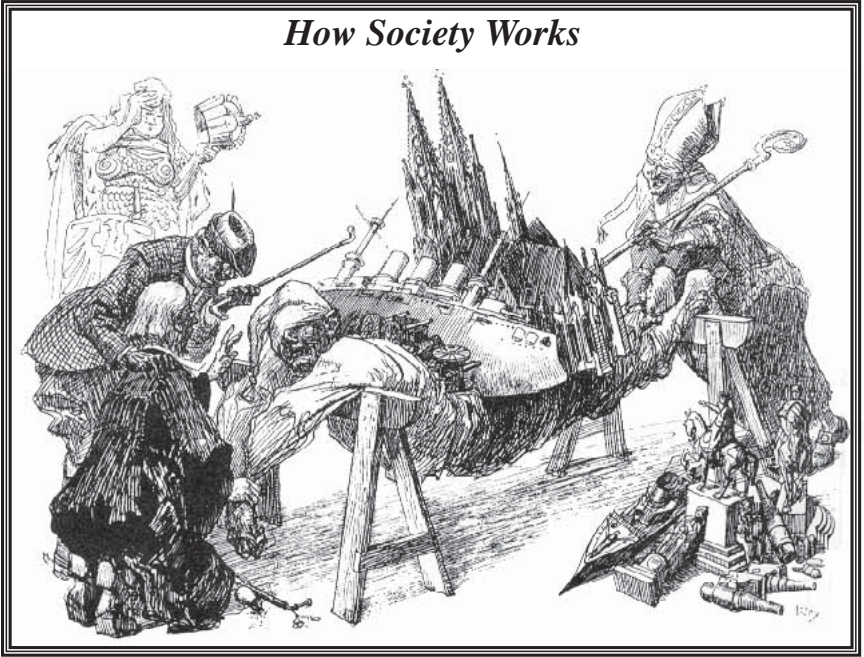
Vol. 23, No. 11 Nov 2017

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



***Annual Mensa Election
Rite is Imminent!
(Who ya' gonna
vote for, eh?)***

How Society Works



The rest of this
page has been
intentionally left
blank for lack of
input.

Editorial Mutterings

Next month you will cast your ballot (we hope) to elect a new crew of skilled administrators and politicians to run this outfit for 2018. Lets keep this election fair and honest. Bribes must be passed personally under the table (the Mensa... get it?). Highest bribe wins. (Hint: food items make the best offerings.)

But seriously, folks, this is an annual rite and we try to do it fairly, hewing to the straight and narrow. Statements from the candidates will appear in the December *BROADCAST*, along with your Official Ballot and instructions for making your vote count.

I think that we should consider establishing a LocSec Hall of Fame. Boy, we've had a few beauties, don't you know. Let's get another good one, not a moron. There's a great deal at stake.

Your Patriotic Editor,
Michael Havelin



Politician seeking a vote from a loyal supporter.

Nominating Committee Report

The following members have agreed to be candidates for the 2018 French Broad Mensa Executive Committee.

Sharron Armel
Nel Ruffin

Bob Bouvier
Scott Samson

Additional nominations may be made by a petition signed by ten members in good standing of French Broad Mensa sent to Wayne Stanko, Nominating Committee Chairman (26 Greenleaf Circle, Asheville, NC 28804) by November 15.

**Candidate statements and ballot will be in
the December newsletter.**



From Rotten Boroughs to the Great Reform Act of 1832

Copied & adapted from: <http://www.lookandlearn.com/blog/26993/the-long-road-from-c18-rotten-boroughs-to-the-great-reform-act-of-1832/>

This article about the English parliament originally appeared in *Look and Learn* issue number 397 published on 23 August 1969, "Chairing the MP."

Beneath the gaiety of election time and the chairing of the Member lay a process riddled with corruption.

George III made William Pitt the Younger Prime Minister in December, 1783. Pitt was only 24 at the time. Pitt led England through the first hard years of the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1789, France erupted into a blood-soaked Revolution. The Guillotine and The Terror were thought likely to plunge England into revolution. Only years later, after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 had brought the war against France to an end, that England dared to discuss the reform of Parliament.

Elections were extremely corrupt. Some towns like Old Sarum, which became part of Salisbury in 1953, had really ceased to exist. Nevertheless an M.P. still represented the fields where they once stood. These were the so-called "Rotten Boroughs."

Different laws in various parts of the country concerning those who could vote. There was no secret ballot and people were often threatened into voting for a certain candidate.

The Reform Bill of 1832 marked the beginning of democracy in England as we know it today. "Rotten Boroughs" were abolished and the law about who had the right to vote became uniform if restrictive.

In the country the right to vote was allowed to occupants of lands and tenements at a rent of not less than £50 per annum. In the boroughs the right to vote was allowed to occupants of houses and shops at a value of at least £10 per annum.

56 English boroughs lost their Parliamentary membership altogether and 30 had their membership reduced to one. 22 new boroughs were created with two members each, and 20 with one member each. As if to mark the end of the Age of Corruption, the Houses of Parliament were accidentally burnt down.



Attention Mensa Test Candidates

Mensa Admissions Tests Are Scheduled.

Where: American Red Cross, 2201 Charlotte Ave, Nashville, TN.

When: Tuesday, October 24, 6:30–8:30pm.

Where: Whole Foods Community Room, 1566 W. McEwen Dr., Franklin, TN.

When: Thursday, October 26, 7-9pm.

Where: Halo Realty Community Room, 700 W. Main St., Hendersonville. TN.

When: Thursday, October 26, 6:30-8:30pm.

Where: Common Ground, 405 4th Street, Crossville, TN.

When: Saturday, October 21, 2-4pm.

Mensa Admissions Test: 2 tests are given. You only have to meet the requirements on one to qualify for Mensa. Please let us know if you are coming so that we know how many to expect.

What to bring: Your payment (\$30 in cash, check made out to American Mensa or credit card), photo I.D. Anyone under age 18 must have a signed parental permission form (available at the test or from the Testing Coordinator via e-mail). The test is only for candidates age 14 and older. Younger candidates may apply using evidence from other tests.

With a break, the testing should last about 2 hours. Plan to arrive a few minutes early; if you arrive after the first test has begun, you will have to wait until it is completed and can join the other candidates for the second test.

Baker Ring, Testing Coordinator, Proctor
idtnmensa@comcast.net (615-585-6819)

Baker Ring and David Morelli are the Proctors for the Franklin/Hendersonville/Nashville area testing sessions.

Jeff Strain will be the Proctor for the Crossville testing.

French Broad Mensa
November 2017 Events Calendar

Fri, Nov 3, 11:30 - First Friday Lunch at Olive Garden, 121 Tunnel 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, Nov 4, 11am - Amboy Greenway Clean-up. Let Wayne know if you are coming by Wednesday, Nov 1 (253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net) so we can tell Riverlink how much equipment we will need. Lunch to follow.

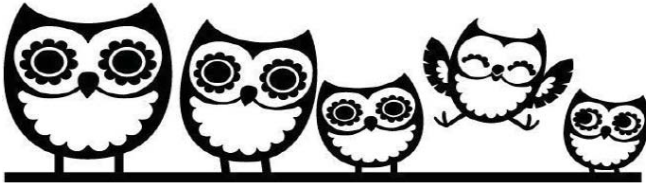
Tues, Nov 7, 6 pm, ExCom at Ole's Guacamole, 401 E. State, Black Mountain. Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463, feder-spiel@bellsouth.net.

Mon, Nov 13 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave., Asheville. Dinner at 6:30 pm, game at 7:30 pm. Contact: Wayne Stanko 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net

Thurs, Nov 16, 6:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Haus Heidelberg, Hendersonville, NC. Please RSVP for table planning. Contact: Wayne Stanko 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net

Dec TBA, Krisquanzikah & Festivus for the Rest of Us Annual Extravaganza & Greed-Off, TBA.





Central Alabama Mensa RG 2018
"Family Reunion"
Putting the **FUN in dysfunctional!**

Hello Neighboring Mensa Groups! Central Alabama Mensa is busily planning our Regional Gathering for February 2018 and we want to get the word out to as many folks as possible. There's a flyer with RG information and a Registration form on our website.

Please feel free to pass this information on.

Everyone is invited to Birmingham in February.

Everyone – Mensans, spouses, kids, pets. "All y'all" come see us!

For more information contact:

RG Chair, Steve Shadix - sandkshadix@gmail.com or

RG Registrar, Mary Ambridge - ambridge@bellsouth.net

And check www.facebook.com/CentralALMensa for updates!



Callow Youth Encounters Famous Poet

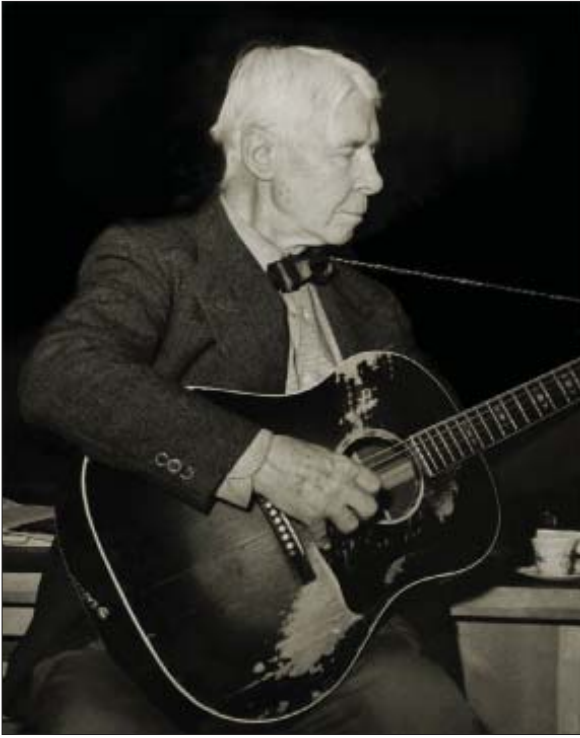


Photo by Dr. Wm. C. McGuffin, ca 1953

Here's a picture my father took of Carl Sandburg at his 75th birthday party. The party was at Don Shoemaker's, my Episcopalian Godfather's house in Kenilworth. Don was the editor of the *Citizen-Times* in the 1940s and 50s and became a friend of the Sandburgs when they moved to Connemara. My father and Sandburg became friends through Don. I was actually at this very party at age 10 and Sandburg asked me if I'd ever read any of his poetry. I said yes but then asked him why it didn't rhyme! (Thankfully he liked children, laughed and proceeded to tell me about poetic license.) Dad developed the negative and printed the photo in his darkroom. I found the print in his effects long after he died and had a local photo shop do a digital restoration and reprint which turned out very well.

Article submitted by Will McGuffin

Financial Report for September 2017

Opening Balance:.....\$3,938.31

Credits:

Am. MENSA Contribution 9/15/2017.....\$106.40

Total Credits:.....\$106.40

Debits:

Check 617

new member discount reimbursement.....\$5.00

Total Debits:.....\$5.00

Closing Balance:.....\$4,039.71

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Dear Gabbie,

Who hired you anyway? He/she/it ought to be fired!

P.O. 'd Subscriber

Dear P.O. 'd,

It's not like I get paid for this job. I do it for the love I get in return, and not much of that. Fax me a kiss, will ya?

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.

NATIONAL OFFICE

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REGION 5 VICE CHAIRMAN

Baker RingRVC5@us.mensa.org

FRENCH BROAD MENSA OFFICERS

Executive Committee

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Deputy Local Secretary

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Rt. Hon. Treasurer

Bob Bouvier 828-713-0270bouv1946@gmail.com

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Nel Ruffin.....ruffianspamson@gmail.com

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S.I.G.H.T.

Cari Watson..... 828-633-2575.....paxtonbooks@yahoo.com

Ombudsperson

Grace Lehto..... 828-575-2877.....grace@mychickensheet.com

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.



BROADCAST

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