

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 24, No. 11 November 2018

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

The person who does not
vote is as oppressed as the
person who cannot vote.

If God wanted us to vote,
He would have given us
candidates. ~ Jay Leno

Politicians are like diapers.
They both need changing
regularly, and for the same
reason.

~Author Unknown

If pigs could vote, the man
with the slop bucket would
be elected swineherd every
time, no matter how much
slaughtering he did on the
side. ~Orson Scott Card

Elections belong to the people.
It's their decision. If they decide
to turn their backs on the fire
and burn their behinds, then
they will just have to sit on their
blisters. ~Abraham Lincoln

Always vote for principle,
though you may vote alone,
and you may cherish the
sweetest reflection that your
vote is never lost.

~John Quincy Adams

Not voting is not a protest. It
is a surrender. ~ Keith Ellison

It's not the voting that's
democracy. It's the
counting. ~ Al Smith

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Holiday Party

Save the date: Saturday, December 15! And watch your email for more info as the details are arranged.

Submissions to the Broadcast

Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 15th of each month preceding publication. Original material is welcomed. Maximum length is 250 words. Editor reserves the right to decline publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning are retained.

Please, no personal attacks!

Events Calendar

Friday Nov. 2, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

at O'Charley's, 2 Kenilworth Knolls in Asheville (on the hilltop north of the intersection of Kenilworth Knolls and Tunnel Road)

Website: <https://www.ocharleys.com/locations/detail/NC/OCharleys-of-Asheville/268>

Contact: Fae Armstrong, one4fae2@yahoo.com

Tuesday Nov. 6, 6pm: Executive Committee Meeting

at Pomodoro's South, 75 Long Shoals Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

Website: <http://www.pomodoroscafe.com/>

Contact: SharronArmel@gmail.com.

Sunday Nov.11, 3pm-5pm: Discussion Group

at 60 Gerber Road, #209, in Asheville. The topic is "Why does the United States behave as it does in the world?"

Contact: Fae Armstrong, one4fae2@yahoo.com

Monday Nov. 12, Trivia (6:30 for dinner, 7:30 to play)

at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville NC (828) 252-3445

Website: <https://jackofthewood.com/>

Contact: Will McGuffin, wmcguffin@charter.net

Thursday Nov. 22, Happy Thanksgiving!

(next Thu.D! will be in January 2019)

NOTE: RSVPs are important for table planning. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't reply to the contact person, we might not be able to seat you. Seating preference goes to those who confirm attendance.

And don't forget to look for the Big Yellow M Table on the table at Mensa events!



Discussion Group

The **first Discussion Group** was held September 23rd, with six people attending. We perused the rules for this group and discussed the recommended topic and books for September, current events, other good books, collectables, etc.

The next meeting will be **Sunday, November 11, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** at the same location, 60 Gerber Road, #209, Asheville. The topic may answer the question "Why does the United States behave as it does in the world?" The recommended book, **THE BROTHERS by Stephen Kinzer**, is about two brothers, Allen Dulles and John Foster Dulles. Allen was Director of the CIA and John was Secretary of State. The book states they played on America's fears and delusions, which led us to the Vietnam war and many other hostilities in the world, and that this ethos still affects the United States.

Those attending can choose whether to read the book beforehand (or not). It was published several years ago. We will again also exchange books, discuss books we are reading and whatever other topics may arise.

Nominating Committee Report

These members have agreed to be candidates for the French Broad Mensa Executive Committee for 2019:

Sharron Armel

Grace Lehto

James Stewart

Bob Bouvier

Jeff Patterson

Aixa Wilson

Additional nominations may be made by a petition signed by ten FBM members in good standing and sent to Wayne Stanko, Nominating Committee Chairman (26 Greenleaf Circle, Asheville NC 28804) by November 15, 2018.

Candidate statements and ballot will be in the December Broadcast. Four members will be elected at-large then decide among themselves which office each will hold.

Regional Vice-Chairman's Column

Although I couldn't attend the Peachtreat RG, I have been told that it was amazing. Much thanks to co-chairs Jolie and Lynn for the great work. Instead, I was attending the Fall AMC meeting in Arlington, TX.



One of the items that the AMC has approved is an Event Safety Taskforce. This was put together as a result of a couple of incidents that happened at the Annual Gathering. Mensa takes its members' safety very seriously and we're looking for ways to do that. We also created an AML History Task Force. There are some new and exciting things happening in Mensa. I know that when the membership is notified, you will be excited too.

One item that has been announced is that the Mensa Foundation, the AML's landlord, has sold the building where our national office is located. The building, which we have been in since 1998, had many challenges, so it was determined that a new home was needed. We will be in the current office until Dec. 15. After that, the plan is to be in a rented location for about a year, in order for the Foundation to find and purchase a suitable building. All local group officers and members will be notified about the changes that will affect them.

Central Alabama Mensa has scheduled their Regional Gathering, "Owlabama Blast From the Past." Early registration is \$60 before December 31. For information and updates, go to: www.facebook.com/CentralALMensa.

Speaking of RGs, Piedmont Area Mensa's 2019 RG will be take place March 22 - 24. Early registration is \$70 prior to January 4. This year's theme is: "NaNa", honoring the 80th Anniversary of Batman! Be there or be Square.

The Winter AMC meeting will be a teleconference. I will be attending it in Cincinnati, at their RG. I hope that some of you will join us there. You may attend the meeting, with us, remotely, if you wish. Or not. If you are interested, you can go to the Event Calendar on the national website and look for it in December.

During my Fall Break, I visited my family vacation home on Florida's panhandle. At the end of the week I went to visit South Coast Mensa. Thanks to Al and Bunny Warsh for their hospitality. Also visited South Mississippi Mensa. Thanks to Lisa Bernard for organizing and hosting a wonderful gathering. These are two of the smallest groups in American Mensa and they are keeping their groups active.

Members can now submit referendum proposals for changing American Mensa's bylaws. They should be submitted, along with the requisite 250 signatures, by Nov. 1. Also coming up: Candidate petitions open Dec. 1. Find details, dates, and requirements in the 2019 American Mensa Election Portal.

A big thanks to all the Proctors who tested during October, National Testing Month. Testing is an important part of increasing membership. You do a great service for your local group.

Baker Ring
Region 5 Vice-Chairman

Scholarships

Wayne Stanko, FBM's Testing Coordinator for the Mensa Scholarship Program, has sent notices of availability to 43 public and private high schools, junior colleges, and universities in our region. Deadline for applications is January 15, 2019.

Do you know a deserving student you could encourage to apply?

Meet a Fellow Mensan: Ron Jones

NORAD: North Bay, Ontario, Canada

by Ronald Jones, MSPE

Introduction

In the late '60s, I worked as a programmer on the first US air defense system. It was called SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment). For those who know a bit about coding, the software was entirely written in assembly language. They now allow tours of the formerly top-secret installation in Colorado, which in the '60s was called Southern NORAD. I worked in Canada at Northern NORAD. In the past, I couldn't say much about my work because NORAD facilities were considered top-secret.

Northern NORAD

The Northern NORAD main building was three stories tall and could house over 400 people. The air defense complex was 680 feet underground and had two very long entry tunnels. The north tunnel came from the air base and was 6600 feet



long. The south tunnel came from the city of North Bay and was 3150 feet long. The tunnels joined each other such that a bomb blast would enter at one end and exit the other. To get to the building, we came down the long tunnel in a bus which had lost its side-view mirrors to the wall of the tunnel. The complex was situated behind three 19-ton steel bank vault-type doors.

Air defense operations officially began in October 1963, and continued around-the-clock, unabated for 43 years until October 2006. There was nothing like it in NORAD (the Cheyenne Mountain Complex did not officially open until 1966) or in Canada. SAGE was a massive computer system that linked the ground elements of Canadian and American air defense—such as command-and-control centers, radar sites, and headquarters—providing high-speed detection of aircraft, assistance in their rapid identification, and, when required, aiding quick Ground Controlled Interception of unknown, suspicious and hostile aircraft.

As an employee of SDC (System Development Corporation), I was assigned to help program the AN/FSQ-7 computer. The AN/FSQ-7 was, by far, the largest computer ever built and is expected to hold that record. It consisted of 24 machines each weighing 250 tons. All programming was done in assembly/machine language. Each of us carried a card punch on our belt. Changes to the software were either done by punched card or entered directly into the computer registers by use of switches. I was responsible for implementing high-speed aircraft tracking algorithms.

Enough of the background; now, for the fun stuff.

The Trip to SAGE

In 1966, my wife and I drove with my coworker, Red, and his wife, from California to North Bay, Ontario. On the way, we stopped in New Mexico for dinner. The restaurant had a special: if you finished a 5 lb steak, it was free. My coworker ate the whole thing. I cannot remember his real name, but I called him Red because of his hair and beard.

I also remember an incident that occurred when we reached upstate New York. I had just filled the gas tank of my Toyota Celica. A little later, the engine developed a miss. I stopped at another gas station and asked the mechanic what the problem was. He had

never seen a Celica before, but he put his hand on the running engine and diagnosed water in the fuel tank. He drained the tank and refilled it. The engine then ran perfectly, and he only charged me for the gasoline.

Life in North Bay

We arrived in North Bay, checked into a motel, had dinner, and went to bed. The next day, I went house hunting. The entire town of North Bay was five short blocks long and had at least two bars on each block but only one used bookstore. I found a house for rent just across from Lake Nipissing. While looking around the house, I noticed snowshoes hanging next to a second-story window. The realtor said that sometimes in the winter that was how we would exit the house. In the two years I was there, it was never necessary.

I really enjoyed fishing in Lake Nipissing. I caught lots of pike. They're great for eating, but these fish have teeth. Once, I was fishing from a pier and saw two women in a rowboat catch a pike. When they saw it had teeth, they jumped into the lake. I just had to yell at them and say, "There are more in the water!" During the winter, we would fish from an ice hut. We would keep the pike but throw the cod out onto the ice. French Canadians would come by take the cod away on sleds.

When the ice on the lake became thick enough, the city would put an old car on the ice. Then they held a contest to guess when the car would sink. I also remember that everyone had electric outlets near the curb so that one could plug a block heater in and keep the water in the car's engine from freezing. Sometimes the radio station would inform us as to how much time we had to safely get from a building to the car. Some days it was so cold that, if my beard was wet, I could snap beard hair off.

Some Experiences While Working on SAGE

(to be continued next month)

Financial Report for October 2018

Opening Balance	\$4,468.25
Credits:	
Am. MENSA Contribution 9/21/18....	\$109.80
Total Credits.....	\$109.80
Debits:	
Ck#629, W. Stanko, postage, bulk mail deposit, clean-up lunch	\$192.00
Total Debits.....	\$192.00
Closing Balance	\$4,386.05

Financial Report for Third Quarter 2018

Opening Balance	\$4,357.30
Credits:	
Am. MENSA Contribution July' 18	\$159.55
Am. MENSA Contribution Aug. ' 18....	\$110.95
Am. MENSA Contribution Sept. '18...	\$109.80
Total Credits.....	\$380.30
Debits:	
Ck#629, W. Stanko, postage, bulk mail deposit, clean-up lunch	\$192.00
Total Debits.....	\$192.00
Closing Balance	\$4,386.05

Submitted by Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

Dinner and a Show?

Have you heard a speaker who might interest your fellow FBM members? Your Executive Committee is eager to resume this fun and rewarding program. If you can arrange a speaker and a location for one of our Thu.D. events (4th Thursday of each month except November & December), FBM will cover the cost of the speaker's dinner, and yours as well. Contact Wayne (wstanko@charter.net) or Will (wmcguffin@charter.net) for more information.

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018**

Held at Post 25 Kitchen and Lounge, Hendersonville Road, Arden.

Present were ExComm members Sharron Armel, Bob Bouvier, Johanna Dokter and Will McGuffin.

The Executive Committee is still searching for one new member for 2019. Please contact Wayne Stanko, Chair of the Search Committee, if you would like to serve.

The Financial Statement submitted by Bob Bouvier was discussed and approved.

For the December Holiday Party, date and location are still not finalized. Marie Lewis will get into contact with someone who may be able and willing to host this party. Details to follow.

Submitted by
Johanna Dokter
Deputy LocSec

You may suggest topics for future agendas by emailing SharronArmel@gmail.com.



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Trivial Report

After finishing out of the money in September, the Whoos were eager to get back on the winning track. Robert, Pat, Jan, Wayne, Will, and Sharron competed against 19 other teams at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in October.

The theme of the first round was seven letter words.

1. What is the term for moonshine and a deceptive football play?
 2. What billiards game uses 15 red balls?
 3. What is the musical term for a loud flourish of trumpets?
 4. What is the name of a forbidden Brazilian dance?
 5. What cosmetic additive is obtained from the sebaceous glands of sheep?
- Extra. In a McCartney song, what is the rank of the man compared to Uncle Albert?
6. As opposed to length, what is the measure from side to side?
 7. What Asian storm comes from the southwest in Summer and northeast in Winter?
 8. The tail side of a coin is the reverse side. What is the head side called?
 9. From Latin for soldier, what is a citizen army called?
 10. From the lexicon for please, what is the effect of a false drug called?

Round one answers: 1. Bootleg; 2. Snooker; 3. Fanfare (Will); 4. Lambada (Sharron); 5. Lanolin; Extra. Admiral (Wayne); 6. Breadth (Sharron); 7. Monsoon; 8. Obverse; 9. Militia (Will); 10. Placebo.

We answered 10 of 11 correctly, “jokered” this round to double our score, and were in a five-way tie for first place.

The theme of round two was the Appalachians.

1. What is the area between the mountains and the coastal plain called?
2. What mountain pass discovered in 1750 was named after King George's son?
3. What 1972 movie was filmed on the Chattooga River?
4. Clingman's Dome is located in what sub range?
5. What sub range runs from western Pennsylvania to middle West Virginia?
6. Daniel Boone marked what trail from Virginia to Kentucky?
Extra. What sub range runs from Carlisle, Pennsylvania to Mount Oglethorpe?
7. What is a three-stringed Kentucky zither called?
8. What TV show was based on a novel about teaching in the Appalachians?
9. In 1920, Jews settled in an area of the Catskill mountains called what?
10. The Appalachians run from Alabama to the Gaspé Peninsula in what Canadian province?

Round two answers: 1. Piedmont; 2. Cumberland (Wayne); 3. Deliverance (Wayne); 4. Smoky Mountains; 5. Alleghenies (Robert); 6. Wilderness Trail (Wayne); Extra. Blue Ridge; 7. Dulcimer; 8. Christy; 9. Borscht Belt (Pat); 10. Quebec (Robert)

We again got 10 of 11 right, and were in first place by ourselves with a one-point lead.

The third round was the speed round. We were given a sheet of questions that we have five minutes to answer. In the first part, we were given the names of two people. We had to name their common spouse. We only got one correct. In the second part, we had to place a list of things in chronological order. We did much better getting six correct. The other teams had difficulties too. We were now in second place one point back.

The theme of the fourth round was potpourri.

1. What chemical element melts after tungsten?
2. In the song *Una Paloma Blanca*, what is the English word for paloma?
3. Desert night, woodland scene, and multicam are forms of what?
4. What diacetyl cough suppressant did Bayer patent in 1895?
5. What do the flags of Argentina, Uruguay, Greenland, and Bangladesh have in common?
6. What is the name of Pluto's twin dwarf planet discovered in 2005?

Extra. What is the name of the recently discovered icy dwarf planet beyond Pluto called?

7. From the Latin for breaking bread, what is the math term for a part called?
8. What West African country is completely surrounded by Gambia?
9. Jose Cordano was President of what South American country from 2013-2015?
10. 3.6 megajoules of energy is equivalent to what?

Round four answers: 1. Carbon (Robert); 2. Dove; 3. Camouflage (Sharron); 4. Heroin; 5. The sun; 6. Eris (Robert); Extra. The Goblin (Robert); 7. Fraction (Will); 8. Gambia (Robert); 9. Uruguay (Robert); 10. Kilowatt hour

We got 8 of the 11 questions correct. We would have had one more if we had used Robert's answer for number nine. We ended up in first place by one point earning a \$40 gift certificate.

Why don't you join us next month? The answer you know could be the one to keep our winning streak going

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