

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 26, No. 1, January 2020

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



*French Broad Mensa wishes you
Peace and Happiness
in the coming year*

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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 January 2020

All Mensa events are open to members in good standing. RSVPs are important for table planning. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't, we might not be able to seat you. And don't forget to look for the Big Yellow M Table on the table at Mensa events!



New Members: French Broad Mensa welcomes you! Watch your mail for a coupon that you can trade for a \$5 contribution to your first meal with the group.

Friday, January 3, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

at Tupelo Honey, 1829 Hendersonville Rd. in South Asheville

Website: <https://tupelohoneycafe.com/location/southside-asheville/>

Contact: Fae Armstrong, one4fae2@yahoo.com if you can attend; drop-ins are welcome, too.

Monday, January 6, 6pm: Executive Committee Meeting

at Zia Taqueria, 521 Haywood Rd in West Asheville

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

Contact: sharronarmel@gmail.com

Monday, January 13, Trivia (6:30 for dinner, 7:30 to play)

at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave. in Downtown Asheville

Website: jackofthewood.com

Contact: wmcguffin@charter.net

Thursday, January 23, 6pm: Thu.D!

at Piazza, 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd. #301 in East Asheville

Website: piazzaeast.com

Contact: SharronArmel@gmail.com

MERF Scholarship Judges Needed

This is French Broad Mensa's tenth year of participation in the Mensa Education and Research Foundation scholarship program. The awards are based on an essay of not more than 550 words describing the applicant's academic and career goals. Three judges are required to evaluate the essays. Judging guidelines are provided. The deadline for entries is January 15. The judging process will be online. The essays will be sent to the judges as a PDF. The judging forms are Excel files. If you would like to serve as a judge, please contact Wayne Stanko at 253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net.

Trivial Report

Sad to say, French Broad Mensa did not participate in Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in December. Travel, weather, and health issues kept some of the regulars away. We could REALLY use your help next month!



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Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Back by popular demand! Gabbie hears your woes, and offers advice. Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the BROADCAST Editor.



Dear Gabbie,

I'm confused about the coming Presidential election. So many candidates on the one side but only one on the other. Is this normal? Who should I vote for?

Seeking Light in a Dark Tunnel

Dear Seeker,

Buy a newspaper. Read it. Then burn it. It's all hype anyway. The Election Show means Big Money to newsrooms and the publishers.

As for the sanctity of your vote... ha! How much will you sell it for? What's it worth? Do you think your vote will tip the scales in one direction or another – toward societal collapse, or the salvation of all us smart monkeys? Nah!

Remember: vote early and vote often. It's the American Way (according to some).

Gabbie

Humor in Unexpected Places

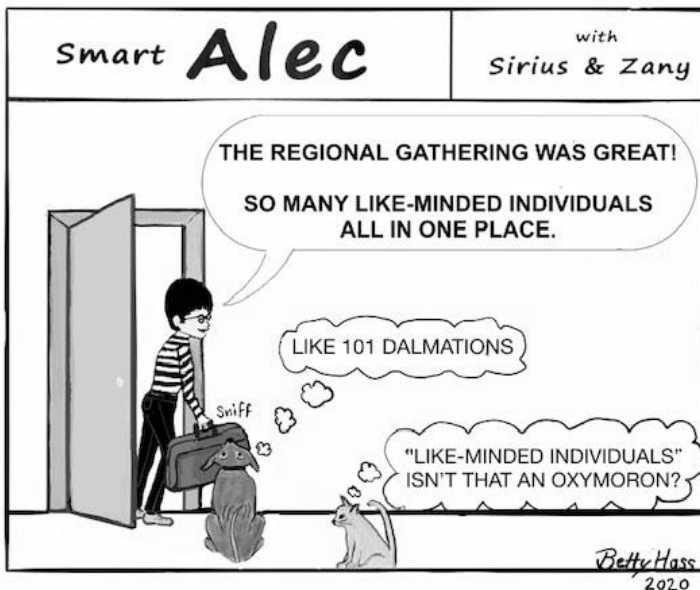
by Josie

Don't you love when you encounter humor where you least expect it?

My windshield was looking rough, so I went on ebay to order some cerium, which can be used to polish glass.

And there it was in the comments (paraphrased) . . .

"I wanted to order cerium, but I ordered cesium, and now I'm in prison."



Eau de Toilette

by Josie

After reading a most interesting article about smart toilets (<https://mashable.com/article/smart-toilets-urine-analysis/>), I went looking for what else is new in Pottyland.

There is a website that is always doing articles about new and emerging technologies called newatlas.com, so I went there and did a search for ***toilet***.

Try it – simply amazing →

- A trike motorcycle with a toilet seat and giant roll of toilet paper that is powered by biogas
- Toilets that flush without touching them
- Space toilets that are worn like diapers
- Stickers to make children happy to see the toilet
- An alarm that will let you know if the lid is up and a pet or child is approaching
- Toilets without water
- New coatings that are so slippery that only half the amount of water is needed for flushing
- Toilets that destink your bathroom
- Stealth Toilets
- Self-cleaning toilets
- Self-closing lids
- Foot flushing
- Wee targets
- Transcendental toilets
- Fish and flush -- Lets you put live fish in special compartment around tank

And much, much more.

There was even a 2-day “Reinventing the toilet” fair in Seattle

Who knew?

Regional Vice-Chairman's Message



Holiday Greetings to all! Take time to relax, visit friends and family, and enjoy the holidays. I know that's a challenge with holiday traffic...

December is the last month for your friends and family to convert the MVP Code into a testing voucher. This must be done by December 31st. Once converted, the testing voucher will be good for two years, so start nagging your friends to go to the National website <https://www.us.mensa.org/join/> now and convert the MVP Code into a voucher. Mention that the MVP Code will not be applied until the checkout page, which will then make the testing voucher free. The voucher is good for Prior Evidence as well as for testing. Can't remember your group's MVP Code? Contact Becky Folger at the National Office. She's a gem!

Don't forget to register for Central Alabama Mensa's upcoming RG in Birmingham, AL from February 14-16, 2020 (Valentine's Day weekend.) Registration before January 1, 2020 is only \$60; from January 1 till February 1, \$65. Walk-ins are \$70. If you have never been to an RG, you're missing out on one of the best experiences in Mensa. Get details about the RG and hotel info from maryambridge@gmail.com

Region 5 will be holding a Leadership Development Workshop in Mobile, AL on March 6-8, 2020, hosted by South Coast Mensa. The LDW is not restricted to current officers. If you want to learn more about leadership in Mensa, then you are welcome, too. The registration fee is \$25 per family. Region 5 will provide all meals, including snacks. There will be some home hospitality available for those who are financially challenged. Plan now to send your LocSec, Treasurer, Gifted Youth Coordinator, Editor and several members for a weekend of training by regional and national leaders. We won't have another LDW on the west side of the Region for at least two years. Registration form is at <http://www.frenchbroad.us.mensa.org/ldw.pdf>

Nancy Campbell , 704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

Local Secretary's Message

A baker's dozen FBM members and guests got together on December 14 for a year-end celebration at Grace Lehto's home. As usual, we had a great time enjoying each other's company, and Grace's hospitality. Thanks to all who participated, and if you didn't, we hope you'll try again next year.

French Broad Mensa happily welcomed 24 new or returning members this year:

Dan Armstrong
Carroll Burnette
David Carmody
Mark Crossley
Martin Davis
Mark Gamble
Phillip Griswold
Don Hilbelink
Walter Johnson
Brian Johnson
David Karesh
Margaret Knighton



Alison Lee
Timothy Leogrande
Paul Linton
Allison Mautz
Wendy Reid
Sally Reid
John Runnberg
William Smith
Robyn Tapley
John Thomas
Christina Velderman
Deborah Welt

After saying Goodbye to 10 members who have left the group, we have total membership of 140 at mid-December. With a geographic area covering part or all of 17 counties, many of us live "a fur piece" from others. This newsletter is one way we can keep in touch, and our growing website is another. Please tell us what you'd like to see in either place!

And we're going to start the New Year with a **Show and Tell** page on our website. If YOU have art you've created, books you've written, crafts you've made, or anything else you want to share, send pictures or an article about it to lizzz@dnet.net or mail material to Lizzz Russell; 353 Carolina Mtn Drive #105; Franklin, NC 28734.

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary, SharronArmel@gmail.com

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2019

The Executive Committee met December 2 at Early Girl Eatery in Asheville. Attending were Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko.

The January schedule of events was established.

We also discussed the need for a Testing Coordinator, and hope that some fine member of our local group will step forward to shoulder the responsibility.

We also were pleased to discover that we have FOUR new members.

Submitted by
Grace Lehto
Deputy Local Secretary

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

Financial Report for November 2019

Opening Balance at October 31, 2019	\$4,090.24
Receipts:	
Am. MENSA Monthly Subsidy	\$139.05
Train Ride Tickets.....	160.00
Total Receipts.....	\$299.05
Disbursements:	
Postage (roll of stamps)	\$50.00
Total Disbursements.....	\$50.00
Closing Balance at November 30, 2019.....	\$4,339.29

Submitted by Wayne Stanko, Treasurer

French Broad Mensa Contacts

National Office... 817-607-0090... AmericanMensa@mensa.org

Region 5 Vice-Chairman

Nancy Campbell..... RVC5mail@gmail.com

French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:

Executive Committee

Local Secretary

Sharron Armel..... 828-280-6234 ... sharronarmel@gmail.com

Deputy Local Secretary

Grace Lehto..... 828-575-2877 ... gracelehto@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Wayne Stanko 828-253-8781 ... wstanko@charter.net

Member-at-Large

Jeff Patterson..... jefflpatt@icloud.com

French Broad Mensa Appointed Officers:

Proctors

Karen Youket 828-645-4569 ... kyouket@charter.net

Carmen Jessup ciej@aol.com

Editor

Sharron Armel..... 828-280-6234 ... sharronarmel@gmail.com

Webmaster

Lizz Russell..... lizz@dnet.net

Testing Coordinator..... Position Open

Ombudsman

Will McGuffin 828-296-7544 ... wmcguffin@charter.net

S.I.G.H.T.....

Lizz Russell..... lizz@dnet.net

Membership Coordinator Position Open



BROADCAST

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