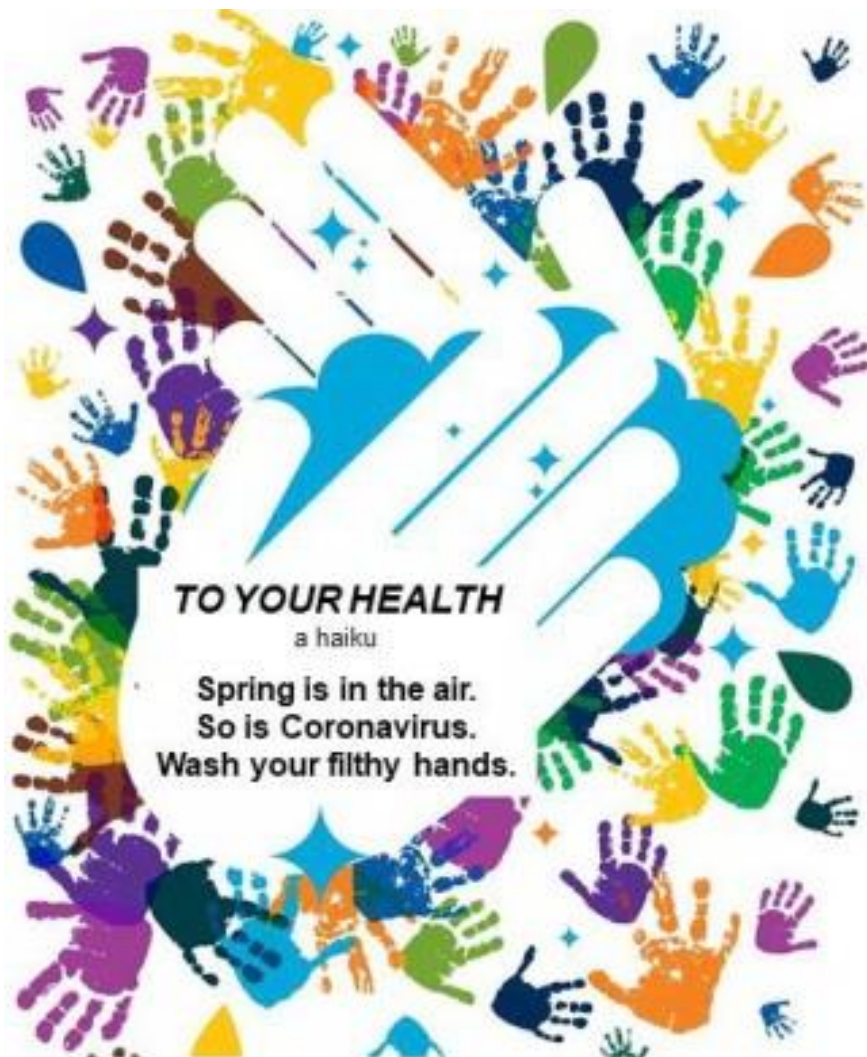


The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 26, No. 4, April 2020

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



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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  
April 2020**

**All April Mensa events are cancelled.**

We want everyone to stay healthy. We'll resume regular activities as soon as practical. Check the website, or next month's Broadcast, for May plans.

If circumstances require, the Executive Committee will conduct business via email, telephone, and maybe even Skype.

Regular and special 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.**

There once was a woman named Vina  
Who travelled to Wuhan in China  
Tainted bat she did eat  
It was such a treat  
And now she is having angina.

## **Local Secretary's Message**



In what may seem like an overabundance of caution, the Executive Committee has agreed to cancel all group events for the month of April, and to decide about this time next month what to do about May. If any urgent matters need Executive Committee action, we will “meet” by telephone, e-mail, or Skype.

If we're wrong in our precautions, we'll never know. But it's better to be wrong in this direction, than to find ourselves dealing with a disaster and wishing we'd taken it more seriously.

We are taking it seriously. And seriously, take care of yourselves, and those you love, and those you care about, and even those strangers who look like they could use a “Hello” and a smile. Every time I hear the local TV news announcer say “Check on your elderly neighbors, even if you don't know them well,” I expect some young stranger to knock at my door. Let's hope he doesn't use the word “elderly” in his greeting!

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary, [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

### ***Bob DeBrecht interviewed by John Boyle***

About halfway through this article, you'll find a picture and a few words about our fellow member's thoughts on voting day.

<https://amp.citizen-times.com/amp/4932395002>

## ***Regional Vice-Chairman's Message***



As I am writing this, at the ides of March, the COVID-19 cancellations keep rolling in. First the AMC meeting was changed to an electronic meeting; then the ExComm of my local group, Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa, cancelled all events scheduled to be held in public venues in March and April; then the Piedmont Area Mensa RG was cancelled. Next week the AMC will discuss (electronically) whether we should cancel

Mind Games and even the AG in Kansas City. Several state governors have asked that all meetings of over 100 people be cancelled. All I can say is, keep safe, folks! Keep yourself safe, and don't become a cause of problems for others!

In January, I listed my top four goals for Region 5. Goal number 4 was to increase the number of events in your local group's remote areas. You should try to have an area coordinator in each city within your local group with a population over 100,000. My method for getting these groups started is to schedule an event in the target city, and advertise it heavily. The local newsletter is a good start, but you should also "email your members" in the target area and surrounding zip codes. There is a free package at [www.eVite.com](http://www.eVite.com) that allows you to create an attractive invitation with graphics that announces an event, asks for RSVPs, and then reminds guests of the event two days ahead.

At the event, be sure to ask the attendees what kind of events they are interested in for the next meeting. In other words, plan the next meeting while you are still at the present one. Single out the most engaged person and ask them to coordinate the meetings in the future. It is always easier to ask in person.

And here is a trick I learned from Mary Ann Cox, a member of Piedmont Area Mensa in Greenville, SC. It is the "No Flop Squad." Get a group of volunteers to commit to going to the first three or four meetings of the new event. It takes a couple of meetings for a new event to reach

“critical mass.” These volunteers can help a group get there much sooner. One local group runs a “Ya Shoulda Been There” page in its newsletter. The page has pictures of each event and runs a brief blurb about what happened. “Everyone had a good time” is stated even if “everyone” was two people that month!

Don’t depend on your LocSec to do everything! If you want an activity in your area, you should suggest it, and offer to be the contact person for it. Ever heard that saying, “If it is to be, it is up to me”?

Finally, your group can repeat the URL for Isolated M every month in your newsletter. It is [www.isolatedm.com](http://www.isolatedm.com). Isolated M provides a monthly newsletter and a chat group for those who do not live within easy commuting distance of their group’s major population center(s).

Nancy Campbell, 704-533-3351 or [RVC5mail@gmail.com](mailto:RVC5mail@gmail.com)



## **Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie**

Gabbie hears your woes, and offers advice. Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the BROADCAST Editor.



*Dear Gabbie,*

*I've always been a little weird about germs. I thought the little buggers were out to kill us all, and I for one didn't want to be a victim. I believe in cleanliness being next and I'm continually worried about catching something from a sneezing companion.*

*And then my dreams (read: nightmares) came true! All of a sudden COVID-19 comes along. What should I do?*

*A Hypochondriacal Citizen*

*Dear Hypo,*

*How do you like living in a science fiction novel? 'Cause that's what it seems we've finally devolved to. If you haven't read enough sci-fi yet, better hurry over to the library and get started. Without sufficient sci-fi experience, you won't have the concepts needed to understand what's going on. That's the problem with the politicians; they didn't read the pulps and don't have a clue. How can they solve the world's problems?*

*I've said it before and I'm sticking with it...the actuaries are after us, and they're gonna get us. Always remember that someone has to be a statistic and most people don't volunteer for the job.*

*As for good advice on this, forget it. I don't think there is any.*

*Gabbie, Citizen of Earth*

***Virus Vacation:***  
***Eat, Drink, and Be Merry for Tomorrow We May Die***  
*by David Fincher*

What a long strange trip it has been... Today I am sitting under grey rainy skies at my home in Shanghai China, trying to untangle the fever dream that has been the past six weeks. Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> I flew to Hong Kong for a business meeting, and then a planned Chinese New Year holiday with my wife who would fly to join me on Thursday evening the 23<sup>rd</sup>. At 2am while most people were sleeping on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Chinese government announced a sweeping quarantine lockdown of the city of Wuhan with over 11 million people inside. The announced cause was the dangerous spread of the new Coronavirus. My wife successfully arrived in HK that night, and as you can guess our conversation was all about the dangers and fears that had caused such a massive reaction by the Chinese government. HK was abuzz and everyone was remembering the 2002-2003 SARS virus epidemic that also started in mainland China and eventually killed nearly a thousand people in HK. Wow what a way to start the Chinese New Year...

Let me pause and introduce myself. My name is David Fincher and I am a Mensan who has been living in Shanghai China for eight years. I came to Shanghai to work as an Engineering Fellow at a global semiconductor company, and am now the CTO at a Chinese semiconductor startup company. I am used to solving very hard engineering problems, but for those who don't know, understanding modern China with its Communist/Historical/Capitalist/Authoritarian mixture is more cryptic and contradictory than any IQ test or problem you have ever solved. Some parts of China have become more rich, technically advanced, and vibrant than just about any place on earth. Other parts of China still live like 3<sup>rd</sup> world, superstitious villagers on \$2/day. Now imagine that some people live in both worlds with jobs in high tech corporate life in major cities (like Shanghai with 25 million people), but still have family living in villages where eating odd things like snakes, bats, raccoons, etc have been thought for thousands of years to create health, long life, and magical Qi.



This year, Chinese New Year, the 10 day biggest family holiday of the year, started on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of millions of Chinese every year travel from cities back home to their villages, or travel overseas on holiday for this festival time. What a perfectly tragic time of the year to have a virus outbreak start and spread. Just like December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve in the US, January 23<sup>rd</sup> in China wasn't the start of the holiday travel, travel had already begun ramping up for a week or more. Closing Wuhan's transportation links on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was a bit of closing the barn door after the horses have already bolted, and Chinese travelers with exposure to the new virus were already on their way to spread it around China and the world. The mayor of Wuhan estimated that millions of potential virus carriers had already left the city for everywhere. For me and my wife, and everyone in HK, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> we were suddenly worried that the virus was already amongst us. Face masks started showing up on people, but no sense of panic, and we enjoyed our vacation eating and touring, but the museums were closed as a sign that something bad was brewing.

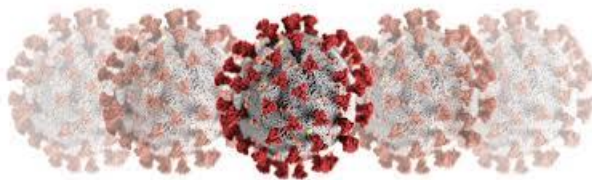
Each day the news got worse from Wuhan, so instead of flying home to Shanghai, we stayed in HK a few extra days. But by then, the countries of the world started locking flights and immigration for Chinese visitors, so one of the few places we could still go was Thailand. We decided to hit a remote beach and take a few weeks to see how the apocalypse would proceed. A few weeks in Koh Lanta and Koh Ngai with fresh air, blue ocean, and sand while doing work remotely via phone and internet on my laptop was the perfect cure for the dread.

My wife's visa was only good for 15 days in Thailand, so we finally left paradise and headed to Phuket to fly home. However, after some more unsettling headlines and then quick trip to the immigration office to extend the visa, we canceled the plane tickets, paid the fee, and caught the boat back to the less crowded beaches of Koh Lanta for another 2 weeks. Some days I had meetings all day online in the hotel while she enjoyed the beach, and some days she was on the phone to her European customers, while I swam and napped. No matter how busy we were, every day we ended it together with some spicy food and cold beer on the beach. Heaven...

Nearly 6 weeks after Wuhan had been locked down, China was now reporting almost no new virus cases, the situation in the rest of the world was starting to get worse, and a few cases were starting to show up in Bangkok. We decided it was time to get back to home and join our friends in the semi-quarantined situation of Shanghai, in the seemingly safer and definitely cheaper location of home. It was a strange entry to our airport with white suited and masked virus personal boarding our plane, checking our temperatures, and checking our documents and travel history. A trip across town on the mostly deserted highways showed that big city life was on nervous hold. Now instead of waking up at the beach and reading virus news from China before getting a mango smoothie for my breakfast, I am reading about the terrible situation in Italy and starting to worry about my parents in Asheville. Here in Shanghai spring flowers are starting to bloom, the city seems quiet as students are still out of school attending online classes, and adults are working from home if they can. It isn't life as normal, but then again in the modern world, maybe life is always in flux and we need to be flexible.

I send my best wishes to everyone in Asheville and around the world in this virus outbreak. As I told a friend in Washington State where so many elderly people have died in the US now: "I hope we can sit down over a beer in a few years and remember the short, crazy panic that was Coronavirus." Their response was: "at least we know alcohol kills germs, and no matter the outcome of this situation, enjoy life right now before time or illness takes it from us. Same as it ever was..." I am glad I have wise friends, and the internet, and hopefully you all do too.

*David Fincher*



## ***Everything We Know About Rabies Turns Out to be Wrong***

*by Lizz Russell*

This is the premise of a lecture presented by Dr. Rodney Willoughby Jr. from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee about rabies. It was shocking.

The human fatality rate for rabies is the highest of all infectious diseases. In developed countries, rabies is extremely rare because of vaccinations. Worldwide, somewhere between 50,000-65,000 people die from it each year. Until recently, an untreated rabies infection was a death sentence.

Most rabies cases in humans come from being bitten or scratched by infected dogs, foxes, raccoons, skunks, or bats. In undeveloped countries, bites from unvaccinated dogs that are the #1 source.

Without appropriate medical care, rabies can develop anywhere from 3 days to 8 years after being bitten or scratched. It is a hideous disease that affects the central nervous system.

Dr. Rodney Willoughby Jr. developed a treatment which can be used in treating rabies-infected human beings. It is called **the Milwaukee Protocol**--The protocol requires the patient to be put into chemically induced coma, followed by antiviral drugs combined with ketamine and amantadine. His method lets the human defense mechanisms get rid of the virus while the patient is oblivious to the horrors of rabies.

Dr. Willoughby believes that with further research his treatment can be refined and eventually will lead to an 80% survival rate where there once was no chance of survival.

Video: The Girl Who Survived Rabies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLoEI9jNBvk>

Selection criteria for Milwaukee Protocol:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/news/mp-haiti-lg.html>

## **Education and Health Care**

*by Sharron Armel*

Over the years I've paid property and school taxes in 6 states. Although I've never sent a child to public schools, I've never objected to paying for public education. An educated populace is a benefit to me in so many ways – from something as simple as knowing people will understand traffic signs and warning labels to the higher-level critical thinking that can keep our society sane. Everyone is much better off in a society that supports a high level of education.

Similarly, we're better off in a society where people are healthy. With good health care, folks can get inoculated and not spread preventable diseases. Individuals of limited means will not have to choose between buying groceries this month, or filling their life-sustaining prescriptions, and then needing more complex medical care no matter which they choose. Money we spend on unnecessary emergency room services and treatment for conditions that could have been prevented can be better spent on research to develop more effective preventive measures. And on and on...

***So why isn't healthcare for all as fundamental a right  
(and responsibility) as is education?***



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## **Medical Cybersecurity**

by Josie

The current state of medical cybersecurity is **SCANDALOUS!**

Hackers and thieves go where the money is, and the money is definitely in healthcare. There are foreign enemies that are looking for funding for weapons to attack us by ransoming healthcare data. There are huge tech companies that would like to monetize our healthcare information for their own benefit. There are governments and large companies that want to know everything about you. There are individuals that are looking for personally identifiable information to be used to commit identity theft. And of course, there are people who are just haters or who just want to hurt somebody. If somebody hates you and you have a pacemaker or are attached to a controlled drip, the hater could hack your medical device and kill you.

According to the <https://www.hipaajournal.com/>, ransomware attacks Have Cost the healthcare industry at Least \$157 million Since 2016. You can bet that this amount is grossly understated, and it will be going up from here. The Lazarus Group (North Korea) needs money. So does Iran.

Side casualties of ransomware are that some small medical firms were forced to close after being ransomed, and hospitals and clinics had to be temporarily closed to new patients because the medical records could not be accessed. (e.g., Wood Ranch Medical in CA and Brookside ENT in MI were forced out of business due to ransomware.)

According to <https://www.zdnet.com/article/big-data-and-medical-records-is-it-time-to-trust-big-tech/>, big data is gaining access to our medical records under the guise of bringing treatments to patients faster. Of course, there will be ancillary benefits of things like being able to predict when you will die or get ill or what healthcare devices you might need to buy.

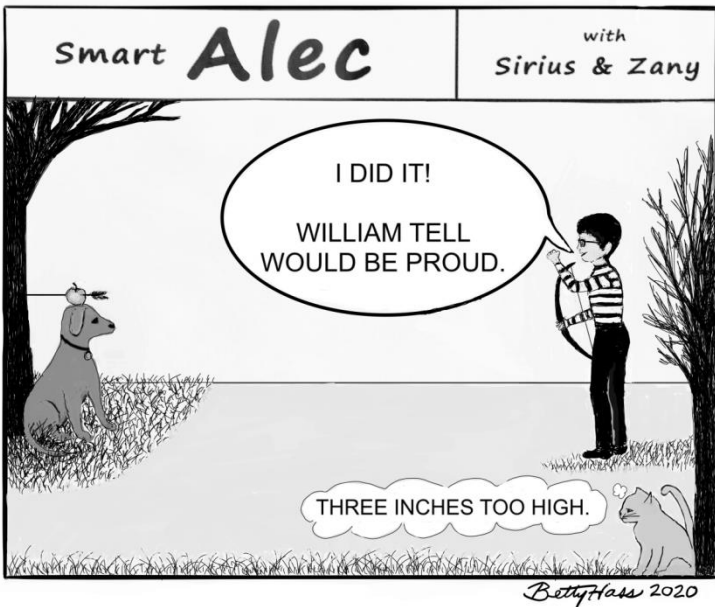
Take a look at some of the data breaches listed on this healthcare security website: <https://healthitsecurity.com/tag/data-breaches>

Things like pacemakers and insulin pumps can be hacked:  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cybersecurity-researchers-show-medical-devices-hacking-vulnerabilities/>

Possibilities, risks explored at University of Minnesota's annual medical device design conference: <http://www.startribune.com/possibilities-risks-explored-at-u-s-annual-medical-device-design-conference/508805402/>

The Case for a Hippocratic Oath for Connected Medical Devices:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6444210/>

A selection of articles about device security from a cybersecurity website:  
<https://www.securitynewspaper.com/?s=medical&submit=Search>



**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 2, 2020**

The ExComm meeting was held at Green Tea Sushi. Attendees included Sharron Armel, Mark Crossley, and Will McGuffin.

We talked over the April events schedule.

Sharron told the group that she had recently learned one of the LocSec duties is preparing an annual budget. She distributed a one-page summary of recent years and a proposed budget for 2020. As a quorum was not present, further discussion of the budget will be delayed until a future meeting. Sharron will send an electronic version of the budget to other Executive Committee members.

Submitted by  
Sharron Armel, for Grace Lehto  
Deputy Local Secretary

You may suggest topics for future agendas by emailing [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com).

**Financial Report for February 2020**

Opening Balance at January 31, 2020.....	\$4,206.99
Receipts:	
Am. MENSA Monthly Subsidy .....	\$131.25
Total Receipts.....	\$131.25
Disbursements:	
None	
Total Disbursements .....	\$.00
Closing Balance at February 28, 2020 .....	\$4,338.24

Submitted by Wayne Stanko, Treasurer

## ***Trivial Report***

The Whoos had six players (Jim, Karen, Wayne, Jan, Will, and Sharron) to challenge 14 teams at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in March.

The emcee warmed us up with a shout-out question: What science fiction literary award is named for an intergalactic gas cloud?

[The Nebula]

The theme of the first round of questions was *MARIOS & MARIONS*.

1. What NHL player was MVP in the 1991-92 season?
  2. Who won his only Indy 500 race in 1969??
  3. Who made a comeback in the WNBA after being disqualified in the Olympics?
  4. Who was host of the TV show *The Chew*?
  5. What South Carolina National Forest is named after The Swamp Fox?
  6. What was the last name of the mother on the TV show *Happy Days*?
- Extra: What game preceded and led to Super Mario Brothers?
7. Who won Best Actress portraying Edith Piaf?
  8. What is John Wayne's birth name?
  9. What son of Melvin won an Emmy as Best Director for *Roots*?
  10. What *Godfather* author wrote the script for *Superman*?

### *Answers*

1. Mario Lemieux; 2. Mario Andretti; 3. Marion Jones (Wayne);
4. Mario Batali; 5. Frances Marion; 6. Cunningham; Extra: Donkey Kong; 7. Marian Cotillard; 8. Marion Morrison; 9. Mario Van Peebles;
10. Mario Puzo (Jim, Sharron).

We got only 6 correct and were in second-last place, with scores ranging from 5 to 22.

The theme of the second round was *WHO SAID IT?*

1. On July 4, 1939: "I am the luckiest man on Earth."
2. 1985 Oscar winner "I can't deny you really like me."
3. John Keats called this founding father "full of mean and thrifty maxims."
4. On January 4, 2007, what woman said "We have broken the marble ceiling."



5. What rope-twirling yodeler said “I am not a member of any organized political party; I am a Democrat.”
  6. Sarah Michele Gellar said “How many times do I have to kill you?”
  7. What US President said “All I have I would have given gladly not to be standing here today.”
- Extra: What feminist co-founder of *Ms. Magazine* said “Law and justice are not always the same.”?
8. What *Parks and Recreation* character said “Give me all the bacon and eggs you have.”
  9. Appointed by John Adams, who was the 4<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court?
  10. What Shakespeare character said “Once more unto the breach..”

*Answers*

1. Lou Gehrig (Sharron); 2. Sally Field (Wayne); 3. Ben Franklin (Will, Sharron); 4. Nancy Pelosi; 5. Will Rogers; 6. Buffy the Vampire Slayer (Will); 7. Lyndon B. Johnson; Extra: Gloria Steinem; 8. Ron Swanson; 9. John Marshall (Jim); 10. Henry V

We got 8 right and were still second last; the leading team had 33 points.

The third round is always the *SPEED ROUND*. We were given a sheet of questions and 5 minutes to answer.

Part 1 asked “Which continent?”

1. Location of the Adelie Coast
2. Second largest in area and population
3. The birthplace of Western Civilization
4. Passes through the Prime Meridian (3 continents)

*Answers*

1. Antarctica; 2. Africa; 3. Europe; 4. Europe, Africa, and Antarctica

Part 2 asked for the name of a New York City neighborhood

1. Brooklyn: The Dutch called it Roode Hoek for the way the land jutted into the bay at the end of Van Dyke Street.
2. Queens: Its name comes from Yamecah, Algonquin for beaver.
3. Brooklyn: Its Dutch name was Bos Wyck, meaning wooded district.
4. Manhattan: the neighborhood directly south of Houston Street

5. Southern Brooklyn: Named for a gray-striped fish that was once quite common

*Answers*

1. Red Hook; 2. Jamaica; 3. Bushwick; 4. Soho; 5. Sheepshead Bay.

We got 8 right and moved up three places, but were still 20 points behind the leader.

The theme of the final round is always *POTPOURRI*.

1. What surreal comedy was aired only once, on October 28, 2014, at 4am?
2. What five-letter word comes before the Indian state of Kashmir?
3. In 1668, John Dryden was the first to attain this royal writing position.
4. What beast has the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent?

Extra: What chemical derived from the bark of the willow tree is used to make aspirin?

5. What region in Tuscany is famous for a straw-covered wine bottle?
6. Robert Livingston, James Madison, and the French Secretary of the Treasury signed a treaty to complete this 1803 deal.
7. What two ballroom dances are in the title of a Tina Fey movie?
8. What whale is called “the canary of the sea”?
9. What national radio broadcasting award is equal to the Pulitzer?
10. Who founded “Operation PUSH” in Chicago in 1971?

*Answers*

1. *Too Many Cooks*; 2. Jammu; 3. Poet Laureate; 4. Chimera;
- Extra: Salicylic acid; 5. Chianti; 6. The Louisiana Purchase (Karen); 7. Tango and Foxtrot (Jim); 8. Beluga; 9. Peabody; 10. Jesse Jackson.

We got 7 correct. Each team may choose to double their score for one round; we chose to do it for this round. We moved up to near the middle of the pack, finishing 14 points behind the winning team (who missed only 3 questions all night long!).

The next time we play (who knows when?) maybe you can join us and add to the brainpower and fun.

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#### **Deputy Local Secretary**

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#### **Treasurer**

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#### **Member-at-Large**

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

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#### **S.I.G.H.T.**

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**Membership Coordinator** ..... Position Open



# BROADCAST

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