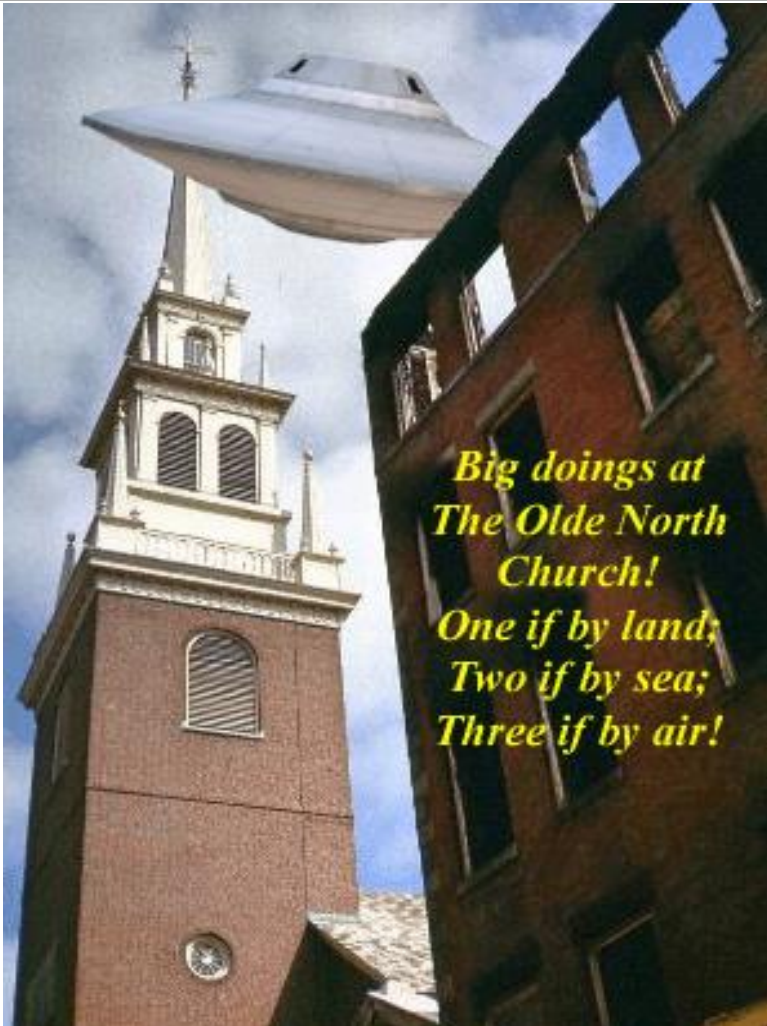


The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 28, No. 5, May 2022

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



***Big doings at  
The Olde North  
Church!  
One if by land;  
Two if by sea;  
Three if by air!***

*Will McGuffin photo modified by Michael Havelin*

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When Paul Revere brought the message “The British are coming” to the Old North Church on April 18, 1775, the sexton and a vestryman climbed to the steeple and displayed two lanterns. The ensuing battles at Lexington and Concord ignited the American Revolution.

We commemorate Revere’s death on May 10, 1818.

***Submissions to the Broadcast***

Deadline for articles, letters, and comments 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.

*Sierra Oscar Sierra*

**FBM Events Calendar**  
**May 2022**

**Monday, May 2, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting**

at The Village Porch, 51 North Merrimon Ste.113 (in Reynolds Village)

RSVP by May 1 to [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

**Friday, May 6, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch**

at O'Charley's, 2 Kenilworth Knolls, just off Tunnel Road in Asheville

If you plan to attend, please contact Fae Armstrong:

[one4fae2@yahoo.com](mailto:one4fae2@yahoo.com) or 828-575-0121

**Saturday, May 14, 1:00pm: Second Saturday Gathering**

at Southern Appalachian Radio Museum, Inc.

315 Elm Building, near 283 Victoria Rd. on the AB Tech campus

<https://www.avlradiomuseum.org/>

RSVP by May 12 to [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, May 18, 7:00pm: Team Trivia**

Asheville Pizza & Brewing, 675 Merrimon Ave. in north Asheville

RSVP by May 16 to [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

**Thursday, May 26, 6:00pm: Thu.D!**

at Twisted Laurel, 10-A South Main Street in Weaverville

<https://www.twistedlaurel.com/location/twisted-laurel-weaverville/>

RSVP by **May 20** to [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

RSVPs are important for table planning, and many public eateries are still operating at limited capacity. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't, we might not be able to seat you.

All regular and special Mensa events are open to members in good standing. However...

**Until further notice, in-person events are  
open to fully-vaccinated members & guests only.**



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

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



The timing is bad this month – the quarterly AMC meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2022 in Hurst TX (the National Office) and the agenda is packed. I would dearly wish to be able to report on our deliberations and decisions this month, but that will have to wait for next month.

Some of the agenda is just housekeeping motions – like the changes to ASIE 2007-073 to clarify how the Strategic Planning

Committee's Chair and members are appointed. Some of the Agenda is Top Secret, like the ever-present Executive Session to discuss personnel, legal, and other issues. Some of the Agenda is second-hand – topics which were so inflammatory at the last meeting that they were postponed to the next meeting. This includes use of the Membership List.

New topics include the motion to adopt the 2022-2023 budget, the annual motion to appoint the auditor, and a motion to establish the three- and five-year membership fund, which has been in existence for a number of years but is finally being formally recognized as an AMC-designated endowment fund. There are also motions to establish two new Task Forces, the Volunteerism Task Force and the Criminal Acts Task Force, because Task Forces must be established by the AMC.

There is also a flurry of motions from the new Chair of the Communications Committee, Robin Crawford, and her Committee. First is a motion to delete ASIE 2006-019, which has to do with the Forum Administrator(s). Next is a motion concerning ASIE Appendix 15, Release of Information, followed by a review of the Information and Privacy Policy. The Committee is also moving to replace Appendix 23 of the ASIEs with a new statement.

This will be followed by several presentations – Education by the Treasurer, Taz Criss; A Strategic Planning Committee Update by Jon

Gruebele; and a Lapsed Member Data Presentation by the Membership Officer, Kimberly Strickland.

Altogether, the Agenda is 22 pages long. In preparation for each meeting, the AMC member must also sift through multiple forum entries in the private AMC Forum explaining each motion, and agitating for or against its passage. How did I ever think this job was going to be fun? Oh, wait – fun was never the objective. But I was focused on how nice it would be to visit other local groups and meet the leaders. Ah, but COVID took care of that. Few local groups want to risk COVID by having a face to face meeting these days.

Anyway, I'll let you know how these agenda items worked out, next month. Happy New Year! (You have renewed your membership already, right? If not, do it fast! You'll be dropped from the rolls April 30 if you haven't renewed by then!)

Till next month,

***Nancy Campbell***, RVC5

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

### ***Local Secretary's Message***

Check out the first appearance of a special new column: Grace Lehto will be posting your strange questions (and perhaps even stranger answers) each month. What's been puzzling you?

By mid-April, French Broad Mensa had 133 members in our 17-county area, compared to 152 at this time last year. We're gradually building back to our pre-pandemic numbers.



If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, please let them know about the testing site in Asheville, which American Mensa has approved for Mensa Admission Testing. Wayne Stanko, Testing Coordinator, received this feedback from the first candidate we've referred to that site:

“Just took the test this afternoon (and qualified!). Very, very easy process. Setting was comfortable with other non-MAT test takers in the room. Results were obviously very quick! Two thumbs up.”

Welcome to members joining or rejoining our group:

*Andre Cote*

*Tristan D'Adamo*

*Aaron Guillotte*

*Tilden Singleton*

*William Smith*

*Jack Wilkinson*

Happy May Birthdays to:

*Sharron Armel*

*Wendy Reid*

*Mark Evans*

*Diego Rivera*

*Matthew James*

*Josephine Smithyman*

*Will McGuffin*

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

*Larry Anmuth*

*Rosalie Rogers*

*John Breazale*

*Joy Ruhe*

*Kathryn Cole*

*Owen Taylor*

*Randy Farmer*

*James Womack*

*Douglas Prater*

If your name is missing from any of the applicable “celebration” lists, please check your profile at [AmericanMensa.org](http://AmericanMensa.org), to make sure you're allowing display of your information.

*Sharron Armel*, Local Secretary

[SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

***The Perils of Online Dating***  
*by Grace Lehto and Will McGuffin*



*Photograph by Will McGuffin*

*He says:* “But her online profile said...

*She says:* “I am an agreeable woman. I never raise my voice. I prefer to remain silent and demure. I am not at all a gossip and will never reveal anything you tell me or anything that may occur in our boudoir. Going on a trip? You needn't worry, I will not bother you with back seat driving. To me, a man is my captain, and I am his mate.

“I will not contradict you in any way. I admit to being a bit cool and distant at first, but I assure you that with the right touch, I can be completely warmed by your presence.

“I like men who realize that they are in charge. I will eagerly accede to your wishes, whatever they may be. You will hear no back talk from me.

“For a really different kind of relationship with a woman, do message me and let's start corresponding with the possibility of eventually building a friendship and even beyond that.”



## **Quite Contrary**

*by Merrie Mary*

Look before you leap.  
He who hesitates is lost.

Opposites attract.  
Birds of a feather flock together.

Clothes make the man.  
Don't judge a book by its cover.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.  
Out of sight, out of mind.

Actions speak louder than words.  
The pen is mightier than the sword.

You're never too old to learn.  
You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.  
Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

The more, the merrier.  
Two's company, three's a crowd.

Hitch your wagon to a star.  
Don't bite off more than you can chew.

The only thing constant is change.  
The more things change, the more they stay the same.

The early bird catches the worm,  
but the second mouse gets the cheese.



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

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



*You can file this column under "General Useful Information," which I'm sure most of y'all need pretty bad, what with the ongoing deterioration of the free universal edjmokashun system y'all want but don't wanna pay for.*

*There I was, peaceably riding my little old man tricycle and some clown on a moped cut me off just entering the park. I woulda run into that big old oak tree and had a fatal conundrum if I didn't run off the paved trail, down the embankment and end up in the creek, which luckily was dry because of the drought.*

*Well, I done give that terrorist youngster a piece of my mind. "Hey, you flat-earther, why don't chu go back where you came from?"*

*Doncha see, that's a major part of the problem. Nobody's satisfied where they are with what they already done got. Everybody wants to go "over there" where the grass is greener, land is cheaper, and opportunities abound. I think everyone ought to go back where they came from. And take your so called "civilization" with you when you go. And don't have any more children neither. We got plenty of them already.*

*I mean, stop and think about it. Where did we get America from anyway? We stole it. That's right. We, or our ancestors, stole it from the native people who were living here in the millions before we arrived with a weird religion, smallpox, and a thirst for gold. "Manifest Destiny" my great aunt Bessy's bunions! Manifest B.S. is more like it! If you work at it, you can justify anything, donchu think?*

## **Strange Questions (& Stranger Answers)**

*by Grace Lehto*

### ***Stalagmites on my ice cubes?***

What causes stalagmites to form in my ice cube tray? It doesn't always happen. And it's never ALL of the ice cubes in the tray. One person who has experienced this is trying both tap water and bottled water. I've tried both hot and cold water. There must be someone in Mensa who can answer this question.

And while we're at it, how about the questions you've wondered about?

I'd like to start a column about the puzzles that we confront. What puzzles you? Send an e-mail to [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com)

to posit your question or possibly to answer my question about what causes those dang stalagmites on my ice cubes.\



How many different symbols of distress can you spot in this issue?

## **May Day Celebrations**

Beltane (Celtic)

International Workers' Day

Lei Day (Hawaii)

King and Queen of the May (England)

May Bush (Ireland)

First day to go barefoot!

Wash your face in fresh morning dew.

Dance around the Maypole!

Plant turnips.

Celebrate the return of warm weather.



But what about Mayday? That really isn't a celebration, nor is it related to the month of May. It comes from the French *M'aidez*, "help me."



### ***Planning Ahead***

***Michael Havelin***

Here's a link to info about the coming total solar eclipse. It's 2 years away yet, but put it into your calendar anyway.

<https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-news/countdown-two-years-2024-american-eclipse/>

## ***Bob & the Bobettes***

Breaking News: The Bobettes are still growing! Plantnanny ***Grace Lehto*** reports that Brutus, pictured below, is getting so fat and juicy that his stem is bending, and he's leaning over toward the ground. Before long, Grace will be asking for pineapple recipes!



*Grace Lehto photograph*

## ***Executive Committee Report***

The Executive Committee met Monday, April 4 at Asiana Grand Buffet in south Asheville. Officers and advisors present were Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, and Wayne Stanko.

The group welcomed Dawn Hardin as a visitor to today's meeting.

*Testing and Proctor Issues:* Wayne shared some very positive feedback he received (as Testing Coordinator) from an applicant he had referred to the local Mensa-approved testing site.

*Scholarships:* Wayne (as Scholarship Chair) expects to have the final results from American Mensa regarding scholarships to be awarded this year. Then we will be able to award our local scholarship to the candidate with the highest score (excluding any who have received national awards).

*Membership:* Sharron reported that she and Johanna have been making plans for further contact with candidates who take the practice test but haven't yet pursued admission, starting with personal contact by telephone. The group brainstormed more ways to reach interested people, and Wayne noted the advertising he does in connection with the scholarship contest. Free advertising throughout the year may be available at AVL Today, Daily Planet, Iwanna, Asheville Freecycle, UNCA, Craig's List, signs in bookstores and libraries. Sharron and Johanna will follow up on these possibilities.

*Website:* Sharron reported that our current Webmaster, Lizz Russell, has asked us to find her replacement. Lizz took over the website in early 2019, and has managed it flawlessly. She has indicated that she will continue to post our newsletter while needed, and is available to train her replacement. The group talked over some features that we'll want to continue. Sharron will approach an AB Tech instructor and local website designer who may be able to give us suggestions for keeping our website simple and functional; follow-up next month.

Locations for May events were established:

Submitted by ***Grace Lehto***, Deputy Local Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**

Closing Balance at February 28, 2022 ..... \$5,722.18

Receipts:

    Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa ..... \$108.80

Total Receipts ..... \$108.80

Disbursements:

    Newsletter printer dues ..... \$79.00

Total Disbursements ..... \$79.00

Closing Balance at March 31, 2022 ..... \$5,733.98

Annual Financial Report has been submitted to American Mensa, as required.

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer





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## ***French Broad Mensa Contacts***

**National Office**...817-607-0090...[AmericanMensa@mensa.org](mailto:AmericanMensa@mensa.org)

### **Region 5 Vice-Chairman**

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

### **French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:**

**Executive Committee** (January 2021- December 2022)

#### **Local Secretary**

Sharron Armel ..... 828-280-6234 ..... [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

#### **Deputy Local Secretary**

Grace Lehto ..... [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com)

#### **Treasurer**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

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

Johanna Dokter ..... [johannadillo@gmail.com](mailto:johannadillo@gmail.com)

### **French Broad Mensa Appointed Officers:**

#### **Editor**

Sharron Armel ..... 828-280-6234 ..... [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

#### **Publisher**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

#### **Webmaster**

Lizz Russell ..... [lizz@dnet.net](mailto:lizz@dnet.net)

#### **Testing Coordinator**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

#### **Ombudsman**

Will McGuffin ..... 828-274-5050 ..... [wmcguffin@gmail.com](mailto:wmcguffin@gmail.com)

**S.I.G.H.T.** ..... Position Open

#### **Scholarship Chair**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

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

#### **Advisors**

Michael Havelin ..... [havelin@yahoo.com](mailto:havelin@yahoo.com)

Will McGuffin ..... 828-274-5050 ..... [wmcguffin@gmail.com](mailto:wmcguffin@gmail.com)



# BROADCAST

Periodical Postage  
PAID  
Asheville, NC 28810

BROADCAST (USPS 0013-506) is published monthly for \$8 per year by French Broad Mensa. Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC 28810. BROADCAST is the official newsletter of French Broad Mensa Group 287 in [Region 5](#) of American Mensa. ¶

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