

THE FRENCH BROAD  
MENSA NEWSLETTER

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 28, No. 10 Oct 2022

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



***Bwah-ha-hah!***



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***Cover Art***

by *Michael Havelin*  
with a little tweak by *Sharron Armel*

***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.

**FBM Events Calendar**  
**October 2022**

**Monday, October 3, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting**  
at Grace Lehto's home, 25 Hopedale Circle in Asheville  
RSVP by October 4 to [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com)

**Friday, October 7, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch**  
at TGI Fridays, 115 Hendersonville Rd in Asheville  
If you plan to attend, please contact Fae Armstrong:  
[one4fae2@yahoo.com](mailto:one4fae2@yahoo.com) or 828-575-0121

**Saturday, October 15, Great Smoky Mountain Train Ride**  
Noon lunch at High Test Deli, 145 Everett St in Bryson City  
1:30pm Board the GSMR, 226 Everett St in Bryson City||  
6:30pm Train returns to depot  
More info on page 11  
RSVP by October 10 to [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

**Thursday, October 27, 6:30pm: Thu.D!**  
at Andale Way Mexican Grill, 63 Southside Ave. in Asheville  
(where the Iconic Grill used to be)  
RSVP by **October 25** to [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

RSVPs are important for table planning, and many public eateries are still operating at limited capacity and/or reduced staffing. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't, the venue 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 only to members & guests who are  
fully-vaccinated against COVID.**

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

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



### **WOW! THREE YEARS IN A ROW!!!**

Think your group is too small to accomplish much? Think again!! One of our smallest groups, **South Coast Mensa**, has just won the Diamond Jewel Award—for the third straight year! And **French Broad Mensa** won Diamond, too! I am so proud of you both!! The Jewel awards are given to recognize a variety of activities and accomplishments, earned by the group as a whole, including publishing an awesome newsletter, participation in Mind Games®, CultureQuest®, Mensa Testing Day, and Leadership Development Workshops. Accordingly, the program awards points for participation in Mensa. You can see all the criteria at <https://www.us.mensa.org/recognize/group-awards/local-group-jewels/>

Here's the complete list of winners from Region 5:

Class I: (1100 + members)

Class II: (400-1099 members): Sapphire, **Charlotte-Blue Ridge Mensa**

Class III: (200-399 members): Ruby, **North Alabama Mensa**; Emerald, **Piedmont Area Mensa**

Class IV: (125-199 members): DIAMOND, **French Broad Mensa**; Emerald, **Central Alabama Mensa**

Class V: (fewer than 125 members): DIAMOND, **South Coast Mensa**.

### **Congratulations to all!**

Remember, back in May, I visited Coastal Carolina Mensa, Savannah Area Mensa of Georgia, and Mensa in Georgia? In August, I visited South Coast Mensa, Mississippi Mensa, and Memphis Mensa. I love getting to meet Mensans all around the Region! In September I will be visiting Triad Mensa and Mensa of Eastern North Carolina. Those dates

will be advertised to all who are on Mensa Connect. Please plan to attend. I want to meet you in person!

Another upcoming Regional Gathering (RG)—**Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa’s Annual RG—To Infinity and Beyond, November 4-6, 2022** will be held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Charlotte Uptown. To register for the RG, register online at <https://cbrmensa.org/2022-charlotte-blue-ridge-mensa-rg-registration/>.

Both of these RGs will have a Region 5 gathering to meet other Mensans from Region 5 and get the lowdown on what we are planning next.

*Nancy Campbell*, RVC5  
704-533-3351 or [RVC5mail@gmail.com](mailto:RVC5mail@gmail.com)

***The Haiku Habit***

***Reflection***  
by ***Will McGuffin***

Who is that stranger  
That lurks behind my mirrors?  
I once knew him well...

*(Please send yours!)*

## **Local Secretary's Message**



So many generous people help French Broad Mensa solve problems and get things done. Often they work behind the scenes, but let's take time to recognize some of these efforts:

THANK YOU to **Becky Folger**, American Mensa's Local Group Services Manager. She solves an impressive variety of problems for us, and was recently able to help a member whose address had been marked "HOLD" by American

Mensa. We hope **Cynthia Eayre** will soon be able to receive FBM communications sent via U. S. Mail.

THANK YOU to **Will McGuffin**, who has resigned as Chair of the Nominating and Election Committee. **Brian Johnson** has been appointed to fill the remainder of the term ending December 2022. The Executive Committee thanks each of them for their part in keeping French Broad Mensa going. A slate of candidates will appear in your November newsletter. Everyone will get a printed December **BROADCAST** in late November, including a ballot that you may complete and return by December 20. So watch your mailbox!

Welcome to members who have recently joined our group:

**Gregory Halbach**  
**Owen Schultz**

**Michael Wilk**

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

**John Bulgin**  
**Carl Edwards**  
**Veronique Eichler**  
**Mark Evans**

**James Lesko**  
**Robert Seay**  
**Christina Velderman**  
**Roger Vesely**

Happy October Birthdays to:

**Brett Culhane**  
**Philip Griswold**  
**Laurence Johnson**  
**Michael Korstange**

**Craig Russell**  
**Christina Velderman**  
**Paul Wright**

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)

**Mensa Membership Month:  
OCTOBER**

Please give some thought to what you value about your Mensa membership. Do you have some friends or relatives who might enjoy some of the same things we do?

You can refer interested folks to [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org), where they’ll find out how to take a practice test and an actual test, or to submit scores from previous tests recognized by American Mensa.

Now is the time to Talk It Up!



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

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



*Dear Gabbie,*

*Yesterday while I was taking a shower the radio told me there's a drought going on. What's with the weather anyway? Even deserts are having real bad floods. Something seems out of whack. Am I wrong??*

*Thirsting for Knowledge*

*Dear Dessicated Reader,*

*I'm impressed with your awareness of our (humanity's) current dilemma. You're correct. Something's out of whack, all right. But I wouldn't worry about it. You probably won't live to see the worst of what's coming. Just ask Saint Greta. She said, "You haven't seen anything yet."*

*And besides, nobody knows how to spell or say the dreaded word. Why didn't they spell it "drou" in the first place? Give us high school dropouts a break, will ya? How would you feel if... well, you get the idea, right?*

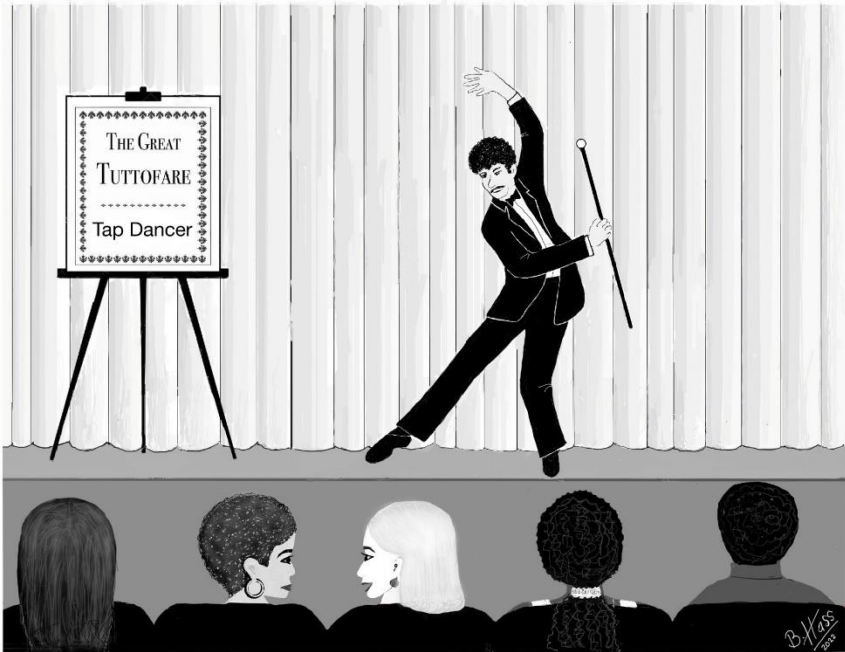
*There's no water in California, and far too much in Pakistan where I thought they had mountains that all the water would run off. Isn't that where we were having so much trouble finding Bin Laden because he was hiding in mountain caves? Just tell me; who's telling the truth here, and who's fibbing. It's hard to figure out sometimes.*



Gabbie goes on...

*But about the drouth... as the Scotsman said: "Water, water, everywhere, and not a drop o' drink." Now there's a guy I could get along with, at least until the whiskey runs out. We may need water to survive, but it's whiskey that makes life livable. Don't chu think?*

*Your inebriated prognosticator,*  
*Gabbie*



*" This guy is amazing. He's a dancer, a magician, an acrobat, a juggler, a contortionist, a tightrope walker, and my plumber."*

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

*by Grace Lehto*

### **What puzzles you?**

Last month's question: Bloomers – when were they invented, and by whom? And why are they called “Bloomers”?

Wikipedia tells us:

Bloomers, also called the bloomer, the Turkish dress, the American dress, or simply reform dress, are divided women's garments for the lower body, developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to being a comfortable alternative to heavy and constricting dresses, the “bloomer” was a physical and metaphysical representation of feminist reform. Some detractors deemed the wearing of pants by women as an immoral usurpation of male authority.



Bloomers were originally worn under a skirt, but the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw skirtless athletic bloomers (also known as “rationals” or “knickerbockers”).

And why are they called “Bloomers”? In 1851, they were named for U. S. feminist reformer Amelia Jenks Bloomer.

And now we'd like to know:  
If photons have no mass, why  
can't light escape a black  
hole?



And while we're at it, how about the questions you've wondered about?  
Send an e-mail to [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com) to posit your question or answer.

## TRAIN RIDE



On Saturday, October 15, we'll venture to Bryson City for a caboose ride on a steam-powered train. The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad (226 Everett St. in Bryson City) will take us "leafer peepers" on a round-trip excursion through the Nantahala Gorge.

Check out some of the scenery we might see: [www.gsmr.com](http://www.gsmr.com)

Before boarding the train at 1:30, we'll gather at noon at the High Test Deli & Sweet Shop (145 Everett Street) just down the street from the depot. A Yelp survey named it the best sandwich source in North Carolina for 2022! [www.thefillingstationdeli.com](http://www.thefillingstationdeli.com)

The round-trip train ride will last from 2:00 to 6:30pm, with a midway break. Sunset on that date will be about 7:00pm, so we'll be able to find out cars easily. Our group has access to 6 reserved parking spaces near the depot, and as the passenger list is filled out, we'll figure out ride-sharing options.

Each member may bring one guest. Members and guests will pay \$20 each, with FBM covering the rest of the cost. The caboose can hold 15 passengers, so get your reservation in early to make sure you're one of them! To sign up, please call **Sharron Arnel** at 828-280-6234 by October 10.

## **Trivial Report**

*by Wayne Stanko*

Only three members tried the trivia game at Highland Brewery in August. There were 25 teams playing. The games consisted of six rounds plus a lightning round at the end.

ROUND 1: TV Moms. We were given the name of a mom on a TV show and were asked to name the show.

1. Moira Rose; 2. Clare Dumphy; 3. Sophia Petrillo; 4. Lucille Bluth; 5. Linda Belcher; 6. Jill Taylor; 7. Rebecca Pearson; 8. Rainbow Johnson; 9. Tammy Taylor.

ANSWERS: 1. Schitts Creek; 2. Modern Family; 3. Golden Girls; 4. Arrested Development; 5. Bob's Burgers; 6. Home Improvement; 7. This is Us; 8. Blackish; 9. Friday Night Lights. We only got three correct.

ROUND 2: Stuffed. We were asked to identify pictures of stuffed animals. We could only name two. (Furby and Beanie Babies)

ROUND 3: Weird Beers. We were asked to name the unique ingredient in the following Beers.

1. Ghost Face Killers; 2. Fried Fried; 3. Of the Sea; 4. Full Circle; 5. Kwalish from Ice Land; 6. Celest Jewel; 7. Big Ass Stout.

ANSWERS: 1. Ghost Peppers; 2. Chic Filet; 3. Lobster; 4. Recycled waste water; 5. Whale testicles; 6. Meteorite dust; 7. Euro bank notes. We only got one right.

ROUND 4: Audio. We were asked to name the song or the performer of popular songs that were altered using the Google Doodle app. We were only able to name two of nine.

ROUND 5. NUMBERS. We were asked to give the numbers of the following:

1. The sum of the opposite sides of a playing die; 2. U. S. Presidents who only served one term; 3. Number of vertebrae in a giraffe's neck; 4. Studio albums by the one-hit-wonder band Chumba Wumba; 5. Lunar phases; 6. Number of years ago that Bob Barker retired from The Price is Right; 7. Number of TV shows spun off from Cheers; 8. The maximum number of answers by the Magic Eight Ball.

ANSWERS: 1. 7; 2. 13; 3. 7; 4. 14; 5. 8; 6. 15; 7. 2; 8. 20. We got two right.

ROUND 6: Impossible. The points are doubled because the questions are harder.

1. What is the term for opening a bottle of champagne with a sword? 2. What is the name of Scooby Doo's vehicle? 3. What is Bob Dylan's real name? 4. On an airplane, what is the color of the black box? 5. What is the term for a person who shoes horses? 6. What is the name of the Play Boy jet? 7. Who is the oldest man to be named the sexiest man alive? 8. What is the main ingredient in Bombay Duck? 9. What pop star composed the music for the movie Sonic Hedgehog?

ANSWERS: 1. Sabering; 2. Mystery Machine; 3. Robert Zimmerman; 4. Orange; 5. Farrier; 6. Bad Bunny; 7. Sean Connery; 8. Fish; 9. Michael Jackson. We got four correct.

The final round is the lightning round. Movie Titles were recreated as book covers. They were flashed on a screen for six seconds. There was a total of 40. We named four.

In the final results, we were in 20<sup>th</sup> place.

To sum up: The venue was good. The beer was good. The food was good. The game was not good. It was totally pop culture. No geography, no history, no science, no literature. The brewery apparently wasn't trying to draw the *Jeopardy* crowd. We will not be back.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE** Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation  
 (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: **BROADCAST**  
 2. Publication Number: **0013 1506**  
 3. Filing Date: **9/22/2022**  
 4. Issue Frequency: **MONTHLY**  
 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **12**  
 6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$8.00**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):  
**26 GREENLEAF CIR, ASHEVILLE, NC 28804-2320**  
 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):  
**26 GREENLEAF CIR, ASHEVILLE, NC 28804-2320**

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
**WAYNE STANKO**  
**26 GREENLEAF CIR, ASHEVILLE, NC 28804-2320**

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.):  
**SHARON ARMEL**  
**7 SAINT DAVIDS CT, ASHEVILLE, NC 28803-8303**  
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**7 SAINT DAVIDS CT, ASHEVILLE, NC 28803-8303**

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box:  
 None  
 Complete Mailing Address:  
**AMERICAN MENSA**  
**1315 BROOKSIDE DR**  
**HURST, TX 76053**

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)  
 PS Form 3526, July 2013 (Page 1 of 4) (see instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

**Report to the US Postal Service**  
 by *Wayne Stanko*

We are required to prepare and submit this report each year, and publish it in our October newsletter, detailing the operations of our mailing permit for the **BROADCAST**.

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| 18. Electronic Copy Circulation   |  | 19. Copies of Single Issues Published Herein or Filings Date |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months                    | No. Copies of Single Issues Published Herein or Filings Date | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months     | No. Copies of Single Issues Published Herein or Filings Date |
| a. Paid Electronic Copies   | ▶ 59   | ▶ 58   | 58   |
| b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 18a)   | ▶ 124  | ▶ 124  | 124  |
| c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 18a)  | ▶ 125  | ▶ 125  | 125  |
| d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (18a divided by 18c × 100) | ▶ 99.2   | ▶ 99.2   | 99.2   |

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 The publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **OCTOBER 2022** issue of this publication.  
 Publication not required.

16. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
 Wayne Stankor  
 Date: 9/19/2022

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|---|--|--|--|
| Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months                    | No. Copies of Single Issues Published Herein or Filings Date | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months     | No. Copies of Single Issues Published Herein or Filings Date |
| a. Paid Electronic Copies   | 72   | 70   | 70   |
| b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 18a)   | 26   | 29   | 29   |
| c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 18a)  | 38   | 37   | 37   |
| d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (18a divided by 18c × 100) | 0  | 0  | 0  |

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 The publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **OCTOBER, 2022** issue of this publication.  
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## ***Executive Committee Report***

The Executive Committee met Monday, September 5 at Andale Way Mexican Grill. Members and advisors present were: Sharron Armel, Grace Lehto, Michael Havelin, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko. Dawn Hardin was welcomed as a guest.

### *Picnic Update:*

Sharron reported that we have reserved the Carrier Park Picnic Pavilion again for September 22, taking the place of our Thu.D! gathering. We have arranged catering of individual box lunches from Panera Bread (same source as last year). The Executive Committee established the group's spending cap of \$20 per attendee; members and guests will pay nothing, and each attendee may bring one guest. Sharron will finalize our order for meals to be delivered on September 19, after all reservations and menu choices are received.

### *Election Update:*

The Executive Committee accepted, with thanks and regret, **Will McGuffin**'s resignation as Nominating & Election Committee Chair. **Brian Johnson** has been appointed to complete the 2022 term.

- By October 15, the names of candidates will be reported for publication in the November **BROADCAST**.
- The official "fold here and mail back" ballot will be published in the December **BROADCAST**.
- Completed ballots will be returned to Brian by December 20, for counting and publication in the next available issue of the **BROADCAST**.

### *Scholarships Update:*

**Wayne** will handle the advertising of the scholarship program. **Sharron** will handle the communication and reporting among FBM, volunteer readers, and American Mensa throughout this year's process. **Grace Lehto, Dawn Hardin,** and **Michael Havelin** have volunteered to read and evaluate the essays submitted.

### *Great Smoky Mountain Railroad Ride Update::*

October 15: We have arranged to rent the caboose of the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in Bryson City for Saturday, We'll board the train



around 1:30pm and ride through the Nantahala Gorge from 2:00-6:30pm. Six nearby parking spaces are reserved for us. The total cost is \$1,111.35 (15 passengers max); the Ex.Comm. voted to charge attendees \$20 each. The outing will include an optional lunch at noon at the nearby High Test Deli and Sweet Shop, recently rated the best sandwich shop in North Carolina by Yelp. The October BROADCAST will include full information about the trip, and how/when to sign up.

*Holiday Party:*

**Dawn** has offered to make her home available for a pot-luck dinner party in early December. Details will be worked out at the October Ex.Comm. meeting, and publicized in November.

Locations for other future events were established.

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

### ***The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program***

The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program is an essay contest open to anyone enrolled for the following academic year in an accredited U. S. college or university. Entrants do not have to be Mensa members!

But if you are a Mensa member, your essay will compete in that public competition, and in a separate Mensa Members-only competition. There are a number of endowed scholarships available to specific categories of applicants, too.



More info is available at [www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships).

## **Treasurer's Report**

Closing Balance at July 31, 2022..... \$4,880.75

Receipts:

    Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa ..... \$104.85

Total Receipts..... \$104.85

Disbursements:

    Train Ride Reservation ..... \$1,111.35

Total Disbursements..... \$1,111.35

Closing Balance at August 31, 2022..... \$3,874.25

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**

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

#### **Scholarship Assistant 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. ¶

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED ¶  
AMERICAN MENSAS ¶  
1315 BROOKSIDE DRIVE ¶  
HURST, TX 76053 ¶

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