

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 28, No. 11, November 2022

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

CELEBRATE!

1 National Cook for Your Pet Day ❖ 2 National Devil's Egg Day ❖ 3 National Sandwich Day ❖ 4 Use Your Common Sense Day ❖ 5 National Chinese Take-Out Day ❖ 6 National Saxophone Day ❖ 7 National Cancer Awareness Day ❖ **8 ELECTION DAY** ❖ 9 National Scrapple Day ❖ 10 Sesame Street Day ❖ **11 VETERANS' DAY** ❖ 12 National Happy Hour Day ❖ 13 Sadie Hawkins Day ❖ 14 National Pickle Day ❖ 15 America Recycles Day ❖ 16 National Button Day ❖ 17 Great American Smokeout ❖ 18 Mickey Mouse Day ❖ 19 National Play Monopoly Day ❖ 20 International Hug a Runner Day ❖ 21 Odd Socks Day ❖ 22 Love Your Freckles Day ❖ 23 National Espresso Day ❖ **24 THANKSGIVING** ❖ 25 Native American Heritage Day ❖ 26 Small Business Saturday ❖ 27 Turtle Adoption Day ❖ 28 Cyber Monday ❖ 29 Throw Out Your Leftovers Day ❖ 30 National Computer Security Day

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November Reminders

***VOTE
THANK A VETERAN
BE GRATEFUL***

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
November 2022

Friday, November 4, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

at Olive Garden, 121 Tunnel Road in Asheville

If you plan to attend, please contact Fae Armstrong:

one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

Monday, November 7, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

at The Village Porch, 51 N. Merrimon #113 in Woodfin

RSVP by November 6 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

Saturday, November 12, 11:00am: Amboy Road River Park Cleanup

Our community service project at 180 Amboy Road in Asheville

RSVP by November 9 to WStanko@charter.net

Thursday, November 17, 6:30pm: Thu.D!

at Pack's Tavern, 20 S. Spruce St. in Asheville (nearby free parking!)

RSVP by **November 14** to SharronArmel@gmail.com

Saturday, December 10: Holiday Pot Luck Party

Save the date and watch for details next month!

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



I'm sitting in a hotel room in Hurst, TX as I write this, after a full day at the quarterly American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting, and I am as close to brain-dead as I have been in years. Those of you who watch AMC zooms know that our "30 minute" Executive Session lasted almost three hours. I can't tell you any of the things that were discussed in the Executive Session, but I will tell you that it was brutal.

New topic: Back in July, at the Annual Gathering (AG), I was appointed to the Communications Committee. The Chair, Robin Crawford, warned me in advance that hers was a very active Committee. I already knew this – the "Volunteerism" report from that committee ran 47 pages, and as a result of that report we added Volunteerism to the Strategic Plan at the July meeting. Anyway, our first assignment was to look at the websites from all 124 groups, and critique them. We were assigned about a dozen groups each, none of them in our own region. We had to rate them in about ten different areas, including whether they were password protected, inviting to prospective members, up to date, included the group newsletter, etc. Robin's plan is to find a way to facilitate excellent websites for all groups.

Another area that is under investigation, but this time by the National Office (NO), is group newsletters. In order to remain a Local Group, the group must hold at least quarterly meetings, and must publish a newsletter at least quarterly. Groups not meeting these minimum standards are in danger of being dissolved and split up among nearby groups. Please, please, if your group is not publishing newsletters at least quarterly, find an Editor immediately and start uploading your newsletter. I'd hate to lose even one Local Group from the Southeast Region (Region 5.)

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/>

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

Local Secretary's Message



French Broad Mensa elections are coming up soon! Check out the candidates' statements in this issue, and expect to see your ballot next month. Everyone will get a printed December edition with a fold-and-return ballot included.

What kinds of activities would you like to see in the new year? Now's the time! Well actually, anytime's the time because your Executive Committee is always happy to hear your ideas.

Welcome to members who have recently joined our group:

Laura Austin

Wendy Reid

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

Jack Bahm

Laurence Johnson

Jacey Begnaud

Steven Lerner

Andre Cote

Elizabeth Russell

Brett Culhane

Michael Shelley

Martin Davis

Lan Sluder

Phyllis Franklin

Reuben Williams

Philip Griswold

Aixa Wilson

Pamela Harders

Paul Wright

Michael Havelin

Happy November Birthdays to:

Larry Anmuth

Earl Hunt

J Bost

Michael Wilk

Carlos Holsonback

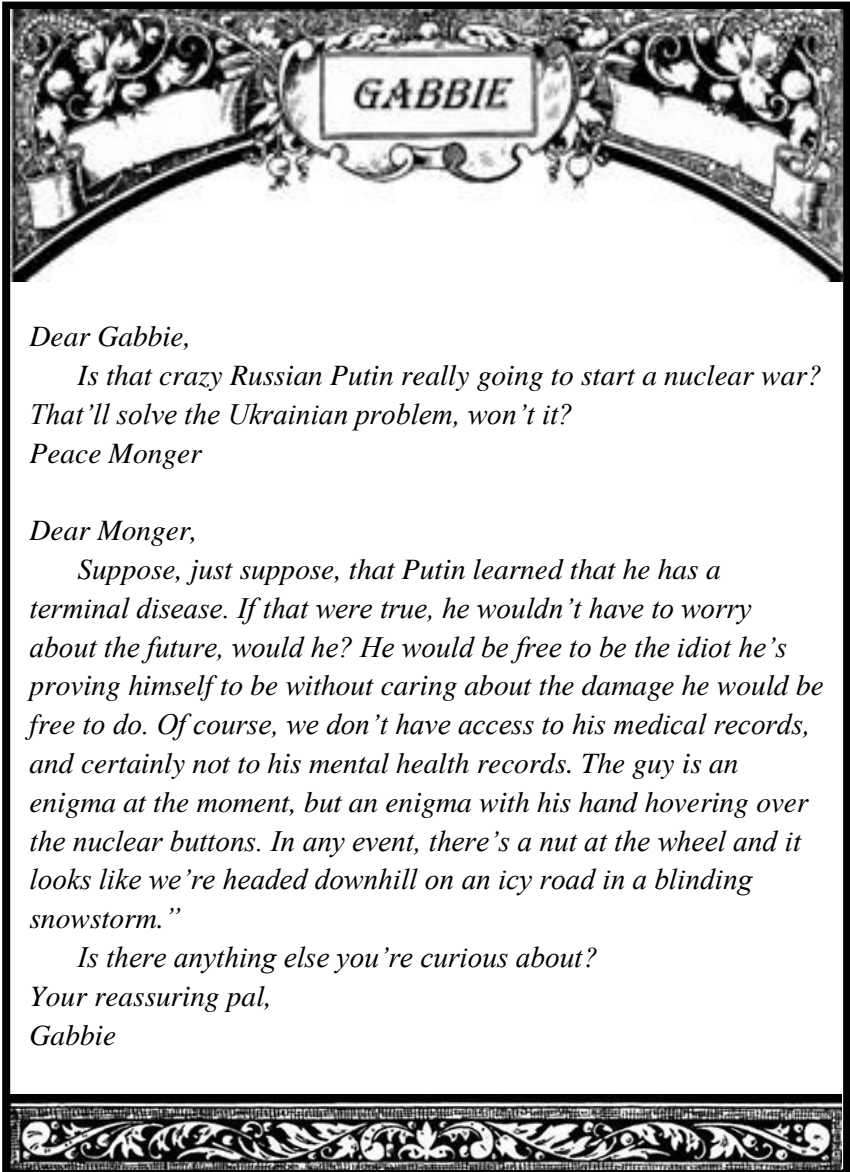
If your name is missing from any of the applicable "celebration" lists, please check your profile at AmericanMensa.org, to make sure you're allowing display of your information.

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary

SharronArmel@gmail.com

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,

*Is that crazy Russian Putin really going to start a nuclear war?
That'll solve the Ukrainian problem, won't it?
Peace Monger*

Dear Monger,

Suppose, just suppose, that Putin learned that he has a terminal disease. If that were true, he wouldn't have to worry about the future, would he? He would be free to be the idiot he's proving himself to be without caring about the damage he would be free to do. Of course, we don't have access to his medical records, and certainly not to his mental health records. The guy is an enigma at the moment, but an enigma with his hand hovering over the nuclear buttons. In any event, there's a nut at the wheel and it looks like we're headed downhill on an icy road in a blinding snowstorm."

*Is there anything else you're curious about?
Your reassuring pal,
Gabbie*

Strange Questions (& Stranger Answers)

by *Grace Lehto*

What puzzles you?

Last month's question: If photons have no mass, why can't light escape a black hole?

Will McGuffin quotes an article in *Astronomy Magazine*, Monday June 24, 2013 by Sarah Scoles, associate editor:

"Black holes bend space-time more than anything else in the universe because of their extreme densities. Think of satellites: If scientists want a satellite to stay in orbit, they have to send it up with a certain speed. If the speed is too low, it will fall back down to Earth. If it's too high, it will keep on going out into space. The speed at which the satellite would continue into space is called the "escape velocity." All of these effects are due to the actual curvature of space-time from Earth's mass.

At a certain distance from a black hole's center, the escape velocity is faster than the speed of light, so photons that come within that distance follow space-time into the black hole and cannot escape."

And Will further offers this animated description that may shed some more "light" on the situation. It explains why time and space swap in black holes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQZ3R81iyE0>

And now we'd like to know: What makes curly hair curly?



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

Train Ride

In October, FBM adventurers shared lunch in Bryson City and then went on a caboose ride. The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad took us on a round-trip through the Nantahala Gorge. The warm, sunny weather was delightful, not to mention the beauty of the fall foliage. We were surprised at the low water level in Fontana Lake.

Wayne reminded us that “Nantahala” means “land of the midday sun” – the valley’s sides are so steep that the sun is visible for only a short time.



*Nancy Campbell, RVC5
Michael Havelin photo*



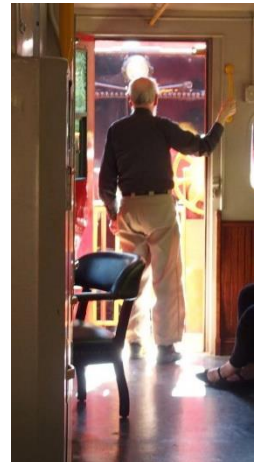
*Our train
Will McGuffin photo*



*Wayne Stanko
in the Crow's Nest
Michael Havelin photo*



*Knuckle Coupler
Michael Havelin
photo*



*Will McGuffin
watching our progress
Michael Havelin photo*



*Nantahala Gorge
Michael Havelin photo*



*Fontana Lake
Michael Havelin photo*

Candidate Statements for Executive Committee 2023-2024.

The Nominating and Election Committee, chaired by **Brian Johnson**, announces these candidates for the next two-year terms of office. In accordance with French Broad Mensa's By-Laws (available for your review on the FBM website), printed ballots must be returned by US Mail by December 20. The successful candidates will determine which elected office will be held by each member of the new Executive Committee (Local Secretary, Deputy Local Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large).



Sharron Armel: After a few years of observing FBM activities quietly from the sidelines (not my forte) I was ready for Wayne's invitation to run for office on the Executive Committee. I look forward to continuing to help the group with whatever needs to be done (newsletter, scholarships, events planning, etc.) Most of all I look forward to meeting more members from all over our region



Dawn Hardin: After years in an area without an active Mensa group, I've been delighted to be a part of French Broad Mensa! I'm a published author of 38 articles, a retired professor of graduate research and statistics, and am currently in the restaurant business. I would be honored to serve our group as a member of the Executive Committee.



Will McGuffin: I joined Mensa in 1980 and became a life member in 2008. I have held most of the elected offices in French Broad Mensa since its inception. The organization and its members have become a very important part of my life and I've enjoyed our meetings, dinners and train trips very much. I'd like to do what I can to keep things going, hence I'm again running for office.



Wayne Stanko: I have been a member of Mensa for 54 years. I have held every office for French Broad Mensa. I am currently the Treasurer. Our treasury is in great shape. I want to keep it that way.

Watch your mailbox next month for the **printed** version of your December BROADCAST. It will contain a fold-and-return ballot for the 2023-24 Executive Committee election.

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.



"They say he plays by ear, but tonight he's using his fingers."



Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met Monday, October 3 at **Grace Lehto's** home. Members and advisors present were: **Sharron Armel, Johanna Dokter, Grace Lehto, Michael Havelin, Will McGuffin,** and **Wayne Stanko**. **Dawn Hardin** was welcomed as a guest.

Picnic Report:

Our Annual Picnic, held September 22 in Carrier Park, was a success! A few members who haven't been able to attend recent events were welcomed, to get acquainted or reacquainted with other colleagues. The Picnic Shelter served us well, as it did last year, and Panera Bread catered boxed lunches enjoyed by all.

Election Update:

The slate of candidates for January 2023-December 2024 Executive Committee positions are: **Sharron Armel, Dawn Hardin, Will McGuffin,** and **Wayne Stanko**. Their candidate statements will be published in the November newsletter. The mail-in ballots will appear in the December newsletter to be returned by December 20 to **Brian Johnson**, Chair of the Nominating and Election Committee. Brian will report the results to the current Executive Committee as soon as possible after that deadline.

Scholarships Update:

Scholarship applications have started arriving at our national offices, and will be forwarded to appropriate groups. FBM's work in judging the essays will begin January 16, 2023, and we'll have a few weeks to complete the task. **Wayne** is taking care of the advertising, and **Sharron** will handle receiving the essays and distributing them to judges **Grace Lehto, Dawn Hardin,** and **Michael Havelin**.

Great Smoky Mountain Railroad Ride Update::

October 15: **Sharron** will help arrange carpools as RSVPs come in. All other arrangements are in order.

Trivia

Having had very little luck in finding a local trivia venue that matches our abilities, we considered having our own Trivia Night, using a Trivial Pursuit game and competing with each other in two teams. Several

possible locations were mentioned; **Dawn** will check on the availability of the Biltmore Park Community Center. More info will follow as available.

Holiday Party:

Dawn has offered to make her home available for a pot-luck dinner party on Saturday, December 10. Details will be worked out by the Ex.Comm. and publicized in November and December newsletters.

Locations for other future events were established.

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

Treasurer's Report

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

Receipts:

 Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa \$109.40
Total Receipts..... \$109.40

Disbursements:

 Picnic Expense \$377.34
Total Disbursements..... \$377.34

Closing Balance at September 30, 2022 \$3,606.31

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer



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French Broad Mensa Contacts

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

Region 5 Vice-Chairman

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

French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:

Executive Committee (January 2021- December 2022)

Local Secretary

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

Deputy Local Secretary

Grace Lehto gracelehto@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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

Member-at-Large

Johanna Dokter johannadillo@gmail.com

French Broad Mensa Appointed Officers:

Editor

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

Publisher

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

Webmaster

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

Testing Coordinator

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

Ombudsman

Will McGuffin 828-274-5050 wmcguffin@gmail.com

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

Scholarship Chair

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

Scholarship Assistant Chair

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

Membership Coordinator..... Position Open

Advisors

Michael Havelin..... havelin@yahoo.com

Will McGuffin 828-274-5050 wmcguffin@gmail.com



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