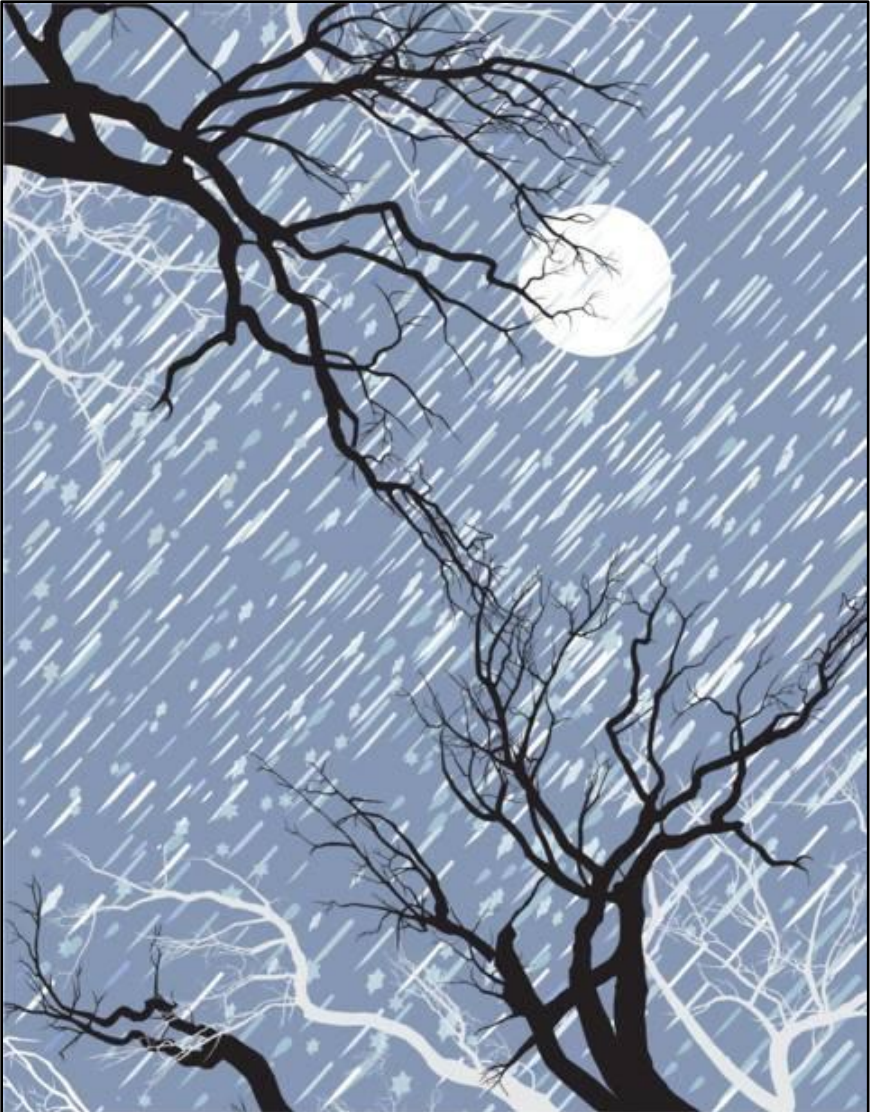


The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 28, No. 12, December 2022

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



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Cover Art

Winter Moon

by Ard1 on VectorGrove.com

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
December 2022

Friday, December 2, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

at Chili's, 253 Tunnel Road in Asheville

If you plan to attend, please contact Fae Armstrong:

one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

Monday, December 5, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

at Mr. Kabab, 801 Fairview Road, Unit 4, in Asheville

RSVP by December 4 to SharronArmel@gmail.com

Saturday, December 10, 5:30pm: Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

at the home of *Dawn Hardin*, 15 Dayflower Drive in the Biltmore Park area of Asheville

Bring your own beverage—Bring a dish to share—Bring a mystery gift to swap? (Optional) Check out the details in the Executive Committee report on page 13 of this issue.

RSVP by December 5 to *Dawn* at 318-325-0971 or

DawnHardin88@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/>

Letter to the Editor

I would like to address the rule that only those people who are fully vaccinated for COVID are welcome to in-person events. I think it is very important that we as Mensans are not only brilliant but informed.

FACT: Those vaccinated for COVID are not immune to the disease. They just will probably not get symptoms.

What that means, essentially, is that the person sitting next to you at the table breathing on your food, could very easily have COVID and have no symptoms. And having COVID, symptom-free or not, means that they can infect other people.

You have probably noticed that you have not heard the term “herd immunity” for the past year. That’s because FACT: the vaccine does not offer you immunity. You cannot achieve herd immunity when no one—vaccinated or not—is immune.

If I had my “druthers,” I would prefer sitting next to someone who was not vaccinated. Then I would know if they were infected or not! But if that person has been vaccinated, there is no way for me to know.

If you want to be safe from catching COVID—whether you’re vaccinated or not—wear a mask around other people and be cautious.

Jerri Kay Lincoln

Multi-genre author

<http://www.ralstonstorepublishing.com>

Executive Committee’s Response

Thank you for your concern and comments.

While trying to accommodate the varied preferences of all members, we have chosen in this case to proceed cautiously. Your Executive Committee does review our position on this issue frequently; you may have noticed that we have adapted the statement several times. We will continue to alter it whenever circumstances warrant change.

Regional Vice Chairman's Message

In case you haven't heard, the Chair of American Mensa, Timmy King, resigned last month, for personal reasons. He wanted to spend more time supporting his wife Laura in her health challenges. Please join me in thanking him for his willingness to serve as Chair, and wish him and his family the best. First Vice Chair Lori Norris has moved up to Chair, and Second Vice Chair Angela Christie has moved up to First Vice Chair. That leaves the Second Vice Chair position open. If you are willing to serve on the American Mensa Committee, the position is listed in the Volunteer Workplace. Please consider applying for it!



Last month, I mentioned the Volunteerism report from the Communications Committee, entitled “Volunteerism in Mensa: Problems, Research, and More than 100 Recommended Solutions.” This month, I’m going to borrow Jon Grubele’s summary of the report. Jon is the RVC for Region 4. The Report is 47 pages long, and recommended adding Volunteerism to the Five Year Strategic Plan. The AMC did that at our July meeting. You can read the entire report at <https://www.us.mensa.org/system-tools/publications-locator/?type=mrep&name=2022-07-07/2022-07-07VolunteerismTF.pdf>

Here's Jon's summary, which I hope inspires you to read the whole report:

- Streamlining and expanding the inclusivity of how we select volunteers
- Identifying and engaging more volunteers
- Protecting volunteers from harassment and unreasonable critique
- Realigning roles and expectations with potential volunteers' skills and limitations
- Using generational differences wisely
- Streamlining a face-saving process for shifting volunteers out of positions for which they aren't well suited
- Improving volunteers' satisfaction and sense of appreciation

Nancy Campbell, RVC5
704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

Local Secretary's Message



Holiday Party! Elections! Coming Events!
Lots to celebrate as we close out another calendar year.

Planning events to interest members of various ages, schedules, interests, and residences is a fun-filled challenge. I've been with this group for 15 years and still haven't met even half of the members. A greater variety of events might bring more of us together. What kinds of activities would entice you to join the fun?

Please think back over some of the things we've done over the past few years. Which ones would you like to see repeated?

First Friday Lunch (monthly)
Thu.D! (Thursday night dinner,
4th Thursday of each month)
Train trip through the Nantahala
Gorge
Urban Orchard Cider Company
Wehrloom Honey and Meadery
tour & sampling
Pi Day Games
Picnic on the Parkway
Greek Festival
Sierra Nevada Brewery Tour
Earth Day Hike
Fat Tuesday Party
Cookout
LaZoom Bus Tour of historic
Asheville
Trivia competitions
Community Service: Amboy
Road Park cleanup
MERF Scholarship Judging

Southern Appalachian Radio
Museum guided tour
Lake Lure Boat Tour
River Arts District walking tour
of studios
Moogseum interactive tour
An Evening with The Answer
Man (John Boyle)
Jeff Catanese (fellow FBM
member) spoke to us about
his experience as a Jeopardy
contestant
White Labs Kitchen & Tap,
guided tour of yeast-making
Asheville Tourists game
Movie & book discussion group
Bent Creek walk & lunch
Annual Picnic
Annual Holiday Party
25th Anniversary Celebration

And also consider some that have been suggested for future events:

French Broad Chocolate Factory
tour & tasting

Estes-Winn Antique Car
Museum in Asheville

Carl Sandburg home tour in Flat
Rock, NC

Haunted Bus Tour

Horse Sense Farm

Western NC Nature Center

Swannanoa Valley Museum &
History Center

Saturday afternoon picnic at a
playground

Chautauqua

Old Movies Revue

Model Train Museum

Kingmaker's Draft (games
venue)

Your Executive Committee is always happy to hear your ideas.

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

Cynthia Eayre

Carlos Holsonback

Tommy Hooker

Stephen Irish

David Kulick

Kristen Olberz

Diego Rivera

Wayne Stanko

Kirk Wooten

Happy December Birthdays to:

Tommy Hooker

Stephen Irish

James Lesko

Kristen Olberz

Douglas Prater

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

“I Ignore the Ads”

Oh really? Can you match the products with their once-famous slogans?

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Hexa, hexa, hexachlorophene | A. Alka-Seltzer |
| 2. Think small. | B. Avis |
| 3. Mama Mia, that’s some speecy spicy meatball! | C. Brylcreem |
| 4. Fun for a girl and a boy | D. Clairol |
| 5. Madge knows best. | E. Crest |
| 6. Mikey likes it! | F. Ipana |
| 7. Our repairmen are the loneliest guys in town. | G. Life |
| 8. Does she or doesn’t she? | H. L’Oreal |
| 9. We try harder. | I. M&Ms |
| 10. Ring around the collar | J. Maytag |
| 11. A little dab’ll do ya. | K. Oscar Mayer |
| 12. The San Francisco treat | L. Palmolive |
| 13. Takes a lickin and keeps on ticking | M. Rice-a-roni |
| 14. Where’s the beef? | N. Sara Lee |
| 15. Look Ma, no cavities! | O. Slinky |
| 16. Because I’m worth it. | P. Timex |
| 17. Nobody does it better. | Q. Volkswagen |
| 18. My bologna has a first name... | R. Wendy's |
| 19. Melts in your mouth, not in your hands. | S. Winston |
| 20. Everybody doesn't like something. | T. Wisk |

Answers: 1-F; 2-Q; 3-A; 4-O; 5-L; 6-G; 7-J; 8-D; 9-B; 10-T; 11-C; 12-M; 13-P; 14-R; 15-E; 16-H; 17-S; 18-K; 19-I; 20-N



Stamp
Here

French Broad Mensa Elections
c/o Brian Johnson
128 Woodhaven Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739-9344

↑ Fold hereabouts. ↑

French Broad Mensa
Official Election Ballot
for January 2023–December 2024 terms of office

Only this original ballot will be accepted.

Instructions:

1. Print your membership number here _____ (Hint: check your label.)
2. Vote for any four candidates.
3. Refold, tape, and add a first-class postage stamp to your ballot. Return it to Mensa Elections, c/o Brian Johnaon, 128 Woodhaven Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739-9344. Mailed ballots must be received by December 20, 2022.
4. The four candidates with the most votes will form the new Executive Committee, and will distribute the various offices among themselves as their first official act. The results will be published in the m.,January issue of *BROADCAST*.

**French Broad Mensa
Candidates for Executive Committee 2023-24**

(Please vote for four.)

- Sharron Armel
- Dawn Hardin
- Will McGuffin
- Wayne Stanko

↵Fold hereabouts. ↵

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met Monday, November 7 at The Village Porch in Woodfin. Members and advisors present were ***Sharron Armel, Grace Lehto, Michael Havelin, Will McGuffin,*** and ***Wayne Stanko.*** ***Dawn Hardin*** was welcomed as a guest.

Executive Committee Elections:

The Committee reviewed the ballot and timetable for the election of 2023-24 Executive Committee members, and expressed thanks to ***Brian Johnson*** for serving as Nominating/Election Chair.

Vaccination Policy:

The Committee reviewed the current policy (as stated in each month's Schedule of Events) and considered a recent letter to the editor on this topic. The Committee instructed the Editor to include in her reply their regular review of the policy; no change will be made at this time.

Holiday Party:

Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 5:30 at the home of Dawn Hardin, 15 Dayflower Drive in the Biltmore Park area of Asheville

The menu so far includes: cheese & sausage balls (Wayne), meat and vegetarian lasagnes (Michael), garlic bread (Will), and cheesecake (Grace). ***Dawn*** will accept RSVPs for the pot-luck dinner party and will let confirmed attendees know what food items are needed to complete the meal. You may contact her via email (DawnHardin88@gmail.com) or by phone (318)325-0971.

The party will include the group's traditional mystery gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped non-gag gift valued at about \$15.

Events:

The Asheville Storytelling Circle's annual storytelling event will be held at the Folk Art Center on November 20; Sharron will email members with information about this non-Mensa event.

Trivia night, French Broad Chocolate Factory tour, and other possible adventures will be scheduled in 2023. Locations for other future events were established.

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

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,

Commercials are so clever, don't you think? They've got some really creative people making them, don't you think? And the products are so clever too... just exactly what we need these days, don't you think? But I wonder... who thinks all this stuff up anyways. There's that pillow guy, and the talking gecko... that's real cool. And all the other animated animals. I wish I could get a job like that, don't you?

*Your greatest fan,
Miscellaneous Capitalist*

Dear Hoodwinked,

*It's pretty obvious that you don't think, doncha think?
I was watching the tube the other day and was struck, hard, by the superficiality and venality of the vapid commercials I was continually subjected to. Nay, not 'subjected to.' Rather read: bombarded with, attacked by, lied to by, disrespected by, diminished by. It's an incessant barrage that's getting harder and harder to see the truth through. But I'll tell ya, they're not going to sell a refrigerator to this Inuit. (Wait a minute—that might become a necessity because the permafrost is no longer so perma...if you catch my drift.)*

Capitalist, eh? What makes you think those “clever” folks are out to help you live your life better? They’re scamming you, and me, and everyone else who catches the comms. Think about it. Do you really need to plug into the national electrical grid so that little plastic gadget will make your house smell like Andrew Wyeth’s famous painting of the girl in the field? For crying out loud! Just open your window! Oops, I forgot all about the auto emissions and fracking gases. Oh, well.

But honestly (or dishonestly... at least disingenuously), all they want is your hard-earned money, the dinero, the shekels. And not for themselves either. The clever folks doing all the great creative work are just wage slaves. They don’t get the money. They never even see it. It gets passed on up the line to their bosses. That’s how trickle up economics works. Ask your friendly neighborhood economists. They’ve got nothing to hide. They’ll tell you, using all their technical lingo that you won’t understand anyway.

The next time the commercials start telling you about the latest wonder drug (no, not fentanyl), and all the side effects that’ll kill you if you have any underlying condition, just think about how society might improve without you. Less crime, less homelessness, less of everything, and bigger bank balances for the Sackler family. (They need the extra money to pay their lawyers, doncha know.)

It’s a wonderful world, ain’t it? So much potential for abuse.

So what else you gots? Ask me anything. I dare you.

Your fountain of clarity,

Gabbie

By the way, the talking gecko tastes like chicken.



Strange Questions (& Stranger Answers)

by Grace Lehto

What puzzles you?

Last month's question: What makes curly hair curly?



According to an article published by Northwestern University, two elements of a hair's structure determine its shape that it grows into. These elements are the shaft and the follicle. The shaft is the part of the hair that we can see – the strands that flow down from our heads. The follicle, on the other hand, is the part of hair which is still within the skin of our scalp. The hair follicle acts as an anchor, holding the hair in place.

It is the shape of the follicle which contributes to determining whether your hair is straight or curly. If the follicle is round, hair will tend to grow straight, while an oval follicle will give wavy hair and a hooked or elliptical-shaped follicle will give you curly hair.

The angle at which the hair grows out of your skin also affects your hairs' curliness. Straight hairs tunnel vertically down into your scalp, while curly hairs tunnel in at an angle. This can also affect how oily your hair is, as hair growing at an angle can make it difficult for your natural oils to spread through your hair. That is why curly-haired people may find they don't have to wash their hair as often as straight-haired counterparts. While this is a great benefit of having natural ringlets, curly haired-people also may encounter scalp irritation and dandruff more.

The shaft of your hair affects how curly it is because of the way protein molecules build up. Proteins such as keratins tend to build up unevenly in curly hair, collecting in the curve of your hair, make it curl even more. This affects your hair less than the shape of the follicle, however.

And now we'd like to know:

Nearly 5 years ago, FBM member **Bill Smith** of Cherokee asked this question, and we STILL don't have an answer!

When I made a cup of instant coffee recently, I used a cheap 12-oz china mug that was cold. After I poured in the hot water and stirred the mix, I tapped the edge of the mug twice to knock the coffee off the spoon. I noticed two different tones or notes. (I'm not sure what term to use as I'm not musical.) I kept tapping the edge of the mug and the sound kept changing. It started off high I think and went right down the scale. I first thought the change was caused by the swirling coffee slowing down but now think it was from the cup warming up. Does anyone know?



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.



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Treasurer's Report

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

Receipts:

 Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa \$105.40

 Train Tickets 160.00

Total Receipts \$265.40

Disbursements:

 Picnic Expense \$8.26

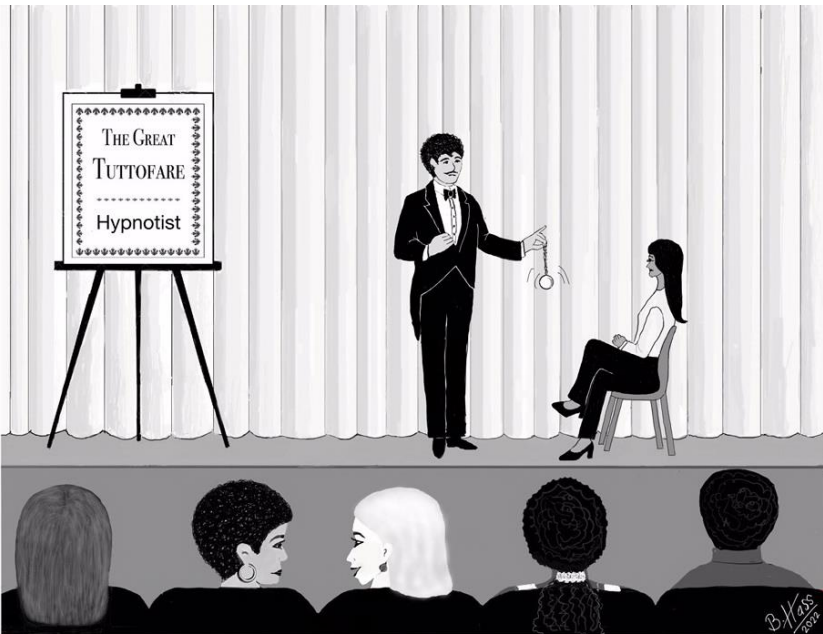
 Bulk Mail Deposit 50.00

 Meeting Expense 25.00

Total Disbursements \$83.26

Closing Balance at October 31, 2022 \$3,788.45

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer



"He helped me quit smoking. Now when I crave a cigarette, I just eat spaghetti."

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

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Publisher

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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



BROADCAST

Periodical Postage
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