

MWF News

JANUARY 2009 - ISSUE NO. 478

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Official Publication of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
Member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! January is the beginning of a great year ahead of us. I have been able to get a few committee chairs and State Directors to accept new three year terms and continue the great jobs they have been doing. Thanks to all of you for your continued service.

I have scheduled the Spring Meeting of the MWF for Saturday, March 7, 2009, at Richmond, IN. We will be hosted by the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Inc. at their annual show.. It will be a little before spring, but remember our convention is in May this year.

I am sorry Linda & Homer Eschbaugh have resigned as Editors of the *MWF Newsletter*. I am in the process of finding a new Editor. If you are willing to

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

JANUARY:

24: Lincoln, NE. Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Annual Indoor Swap. Bethany Park Shelter House, 6500 Vine Street (65th and Vine Streets), Sat. 1:00 - 5:00 PM. CONTACT: Pat Akins, Jr., 5017 NW 6th Street, Lincoln, NE 68521, (402) 477-1322.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY:

Mount Clemens, MI. Macomb County Gem and Lapidary Society. 3rd Annual Rock And Mineral Workshop. Classes held to assist students, grades 3-6, in Science Olympiad Competition. CONTACT: Richard Brzozowski, 40217 Spitz Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48313, (586) 264-5576.

FEBRUARY

9: Lincoln NE. Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Geology Day. Pioneer Park Prairie Bldg, W Van Dorn & Coddington, Sun, 1:00 - 4:00 PM. CONTACT: Terry Anderson, 1113 County Rd.

MARCH

7: Richmond, IN. MWF Spring Meeting, held in conjunction with the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Inc. Annual Show. Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, N. Salisbury Rd., Fri. 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sat, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sun. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. CONTACT: Lucille Mays, 158 SW 15th St., Richmond, IN 47374, (765) 935-5574.

14-15: Macomb, IL. Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc. Annual Show, W.I.U. Student Union Ballroom, Murray St., Sat. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. CONTACT: Dennis Bomke, dbomke@comcast.net

20-21: Cedar Rapids, IA. Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society. Annual Show, Teamsters Union Hall, 500 J St. SW, Sat. 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM, Sun. 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM. CONTACT: Marve Houg, 1820 30th St. Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 521403, (319) 364-2868, mhoug@yahoo.com

28-29: Lincoln, NE. Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Annual Show. Pershing Center, 226 Centennial Mall S, Sat. 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sun, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. CONTACT: Charles Woolbridge, P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505, (402) 610-7236

President's Message

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accept the job or know of someone willing to do the job, please contact me. A special thanks to our overworked Secretary, Donna Moore, for doing this month's newsletter. I'm certain she will be eager to turn the job over to a new editor.

Remember that the Federation is a combined effort of all the clubs that comprise the MWF, and it only runs smoothly with great people who volunteer their time and effort.

Keep sending me your club newsletters so I can keep up with what is happening out there.

Rose Blue.

WELL WISHES

Our Best Wishes go out to our MWF Treasurer, Norm Hanschu, as he begins a chemotherapy regimen for pancreatic cancer. Joyce, his wife, tells us he will have a shunt placed surgically to receive the drugs. We all keep Norm in our thoughts and prayers during this trying time.

I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from you - a note to boost his spirits. You can send a card to:

Norm Hanschu
6607 Sturbridge Lane
Canton, MI 48187

How about giving him a call? The number is:
(734) 455-8596



Condolences

Our deepest sympathy goes out to former Midwest Federation President, **Diane Dare** (1982-83), on the loss of her husband, Jack. Jack T. Dare, 76, of Holiday, FL, died on November 22nd. Jack had a massive heart attack in September and never completely recovered from it. Diane and Jack had four children, Laurie, Brian, Tim, and David; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Donations may be made to Gulfside Regional Hospice, 6230 Lafayette St., New Port Richey, FL 34652, or to the AFMS Scholarship Fund, c/o Marge Collins, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd., Buchanan, MI 49107, in Jack's name.

For those of you who knew Diane and Jack, we're sure she would like to hear from you. Her address is: 3331 Hampshire Drive, Holiday, FL 34690-1926.



A Program Review

by John Washburn, Illinois State Director

Currently, the MWF does not have a Program Review chairman. So that we don't miss

out on any good commercial programs that may come out in the near future, I suggest that we all be scouting for programs to share.

To get the ball rolling, I am offering the first suggestion. I came across this item while reading an exchange bulletin from the West Suburban Lapidary Club of Elmhurst, IL. A club member, Barb Freeman, had written the following review:

"A colorful video was presented at our club meeting which depicted the mining and processing for the relatively new gemstone tanzanite. This beautiful stone has a characteristic deep blue color with violet. The video showed the Masai tribesmen, the countryside with large wild animals, and the mining, cutting, and polishing process.

There are several mines in the small area where stones are found; four miles in length and two miles in width, in Tanzania. Most mines are primitive and work is done by pick and shovel to locate the sausage-like, brown stones deep beneath the surface.

One mine is highly mechanized and covers a large block of land. The stones are rare and usually small. After heating the stones to 600 degrees, they turn to the rich beautiful colors.

The mines and market for selling the stones is the mainstay of the local economy. The video portrayed the history of this beautiful gem. It is expected that the mining will only last another decade or so, when the supply will be depleted.

To Order:

Go to the Jewelry Television Web site - at www.jewelrytelevision.com

Choose "gemstones," and a list of categories will come down. One of them is "DVDs." Select this, and you will find the DVD on Tanzanite. It is priced at \$14.95.

If you have a program to share, please e-mail me the information, along with a short review, if possible. I will see that the information gets passed along to the *MWF Newsletter* editor.

jrwashburn2@msn.com

Let's share with one another!

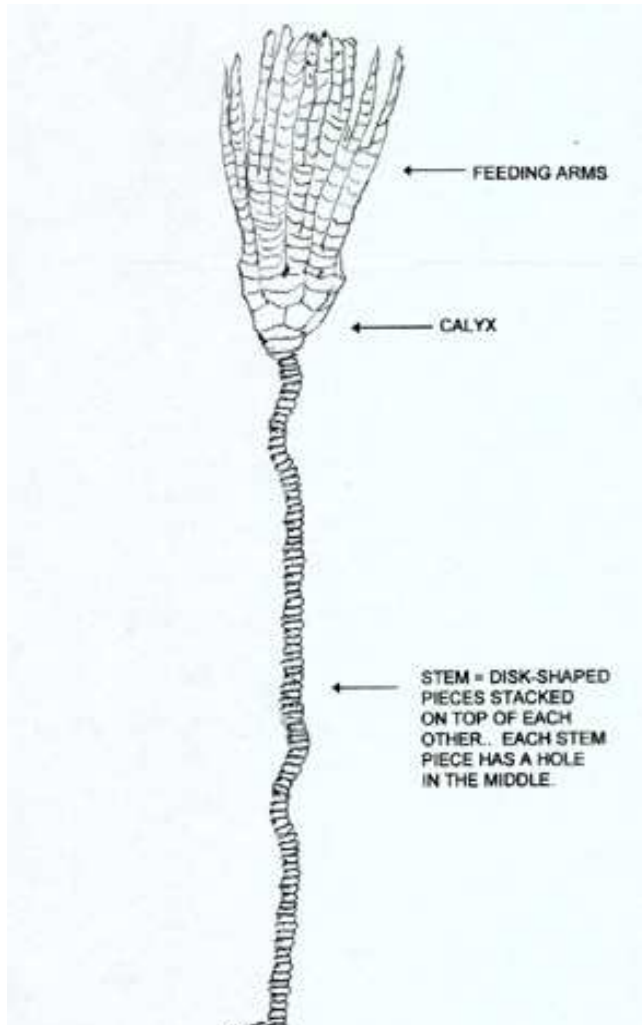
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Michele Yamanaka, MWF Junior Activities Chairman
[Here is a simple look at crinoids with a hands-on activity.]

CRINOIDS

What are Crinoids?

- Animal kingdom
 - Invertebrate (no backbone)
- Echinoderm phylum



References:

- "What is a Crinoid?", Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, 1992.
- Eyewitness Handbook: Fossils, Cyril Walker & David Ward, Dorling Kindersley Inc., NY, 1992.

What is an "Echinoderm?" It is a spiny-skinned, marine animal. Its body usually can be divided into 5 parts around a central point. Its endoskeleton (outside skeleton) is made of plates of calcium.

When did crinoids live? They appeared first about 530 million years ago in the Cambrian Period. Crinoids still exist today.

How many kinds are there? There are 2 main kinds: "sea lilies," which have a stem to attach to the ocean bottom, and "feather stars," which don't have stems.

Where did they live? They lived in the ocean or sea, on or near the bottom.

What does a crinoid look like? It may have a holdfast (fastens it to the ocean floor) and stem. It must have a calyx (contains its internal organs) and feeding arms (5 to 200).

What do they eat? Most use their feeding arms to filter the water for tiny living things (organisms).

How big are crinoids? The base of the calyx is less than 2 inches, usually under 1 inch. The feeding arms can be up to 50 inches but usually are much shorter. The stem length varies.

Interesting facts:

- 1) Crinoids live with another species for support or advantage (commensal). Example: A gastropod may live on the crinoid to eat its waste.
- 2) Living relatives are starfish, brittle stars, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers.
- 3) Some extinct relatives are blastoids, edrioasteroids, and cystoids .

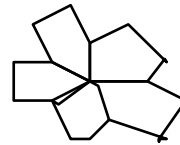
Junior Activity

Continued from Pg. 4 -

How to build a simple crinoid model , , ,

Materials needed for each model: golf-ball sized rock, 1" square modeling clay, pipe cleaner, ½ of a 1" styrofoam ball, Cheerios or other cereal with a hole in a circle, scissors, pen.

1. Mold the clay on the rock to look like roots (holdfast section). Leave a little extra thickness on top.
2. Cut the pipe cleaner to about 6 inches. Stick it into the clay on top.
3. Thread Cheerios onto the pipe cleaner to about ¼ to ½' from the top. (stem)
4. Hold the half of the styrofoam ball so that the flat side is away from you. Find the middle of the half ball. Usually there is a mark on the ball from molding. Take the pen and draw 5-sided shapes (pentagons) around the center point on the round side.
5. The styrofoam half ball represents the calyx. Using the pen again, poke a small hole in the center of the round side of the ball.
6. Insert the end of the pipe cleaner into the hole and press gently.
7. Cut the remaining pipe cleaner piece into 5 sections and insert each section into the flat side of the half styrofoam ball so that the 5 pieces are about equal distance from each other. These represent the feeder arms.
8. If the stem is too long, the calyx and feeder arms may not stay on the stem. If so, cut the stem shorter.
9. This is a very simple example of a crinoid (with a very short stem). It can be built in less than 15 minutes.



By Michele Yamanaka, 11/08
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society

Future Rockhounds of America Youth Poster Contest 2008-9

**Sponsored by the Summit Lapidary Club
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio**

Theme: "Gemstones of the World" A poster illustrating one or more gemstones or minerals that interest you, from anywhere in the world.

ELIGIBILITY:

1st through 8th grade: Each grade will have a winner. Ribbons awarded for 1st through 4th place; the 1st place winner will also receive a prize.

CONTEST RULES:

- *All entries must be presented on paper 12"by 18"
- *Include name, address, age, and school grade of participant on back of Entry.
- *No three-dimensional posters accepted.
- *The title may be on the front or the back.
- *List names of the gems and/or minerals and why you chose them.
- *All entries become the property of the Summit Lapidary Club.

SCALE OF POINTS

Originality and Art Work—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of gems and/or minerals and reason—20 points.

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Poster Contest

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Artwork on posters can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artists' medium.

DEADLINES

*Entries must be **postmarked by April 1, 2009.**

Send to: **David Rich**

1166 Broadview Rd.

Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Winners will be displayed and prizes and ribbons awarded at the Spring Gemboree on April 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

**Merit Awards**

J.C. Moore

The AFMS All American Club Award Contest is for clubs who put together a notebook of the club's activities according to requirements set up by the AFMS All American Club Award Committee.

Participating in this contest is an excellent means of recording and documenting the activities of your club for the year. Ideally, each club participating will have a committee working on this project throughout the year. It can be an overwhelming job for one person, or if left to do at the end of the year.

It is very important that each section have the documentation to show what was done by the club or members to warrant the points. Examples of letters, flyers, newspaper articles, or pictures are some things that make excellent documentation. If you do not want to include originals, copies will suffice. Only documentation from 2008 should be included in the book.

There were changes made this year from suggestions of participants, committee members, and judges. So those planning to participate, please make sure you have the proper set of requirements. These requirements are available on the AFMS Web site for clubs to download.

That Web site is: www.amfed.org

Clubs participating must have their notebooks/scrapbooks to me by **March 15, 2009.**

MWF Merit Awards

J.C. Moore, MWF Chair

25235 N IL 97

Cuba, IL 61427

**A Light in the Sky**

by Judith Washburn, Geology Chair

Residents in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada, witnessed a huge fireball that lit up the night sky over the three provinces on November 20th. Many reported hearing sonic boom rumblings and said the fiery flash was as bright as the sun.

University of Calgary scientist Alan Hildebrand, who also coordinates meteor sightings with the Canadian Space Agency, estimated the flash, a meteor, could have been seen from as far as 434 miles away, into the northern United States.

Widely broadcast video images of the meteor showed what appeared to be a speeding fireball that became larger and brighter before disappearing as it neared the ground. The meteor contained about one-tenth of a kiloton of energy when it entered the earth's atmosphere, roughly the equivalent of 100 tons of the chemical explosive TNT.

"It would be something like a billion-watt light bulb," said Hildebrand. The meteor has captured the imagination of sky watchers around the world. People telephoned the CBC newsrooms in Edmonton and Calgary to talk about what they saw.

"It was a really big flash, lit up the sky, and there was this huge, flaming fireball falling from the sky," said Rowyn Windsor, 12, who lives on the Canadian Forces base in Cold Lake, Alberta, about 350 kilometers northeast of Edmonton.

"This huge light in our kitchen window lit up our whole kitchen," said Sabrina Schneider, who lives just outside Lloydminster on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border. "It kinda flashed a

Meteor

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couple of times. It was really bright. It was a different light than lightning. We weren't really sure what happened ... got up to look out the window, and all of a sudden, we heard this rumbling.”

Schneider said her sister saw the meteor while she was driving past North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Hildebrand and a graduate student, Ellen Milley, have recently found several meteor fragments near the Battle River along the rural Alberta-Saskatchewan border, near the city of Lloydminster. They said there could be thousands of meteorite pieces strewn over a 7-square-mile area of mostly flat,



barren land, with few inhabitants.

- Adapted from various newspaper articles and Internet sites.

**MWF Executive Committee Meeting**

October 28, 2008
Cottage Grove, MN

President Pam Hecht called the meeting to order. She said that Norm Hanschu was in the hospital and unable to attend.

Marve Starbuck gave the invocation. Second vice-president, Judith Washburn, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve Olson, president of the Minnesota Mineral Club, welcomed the MWF executive committee members

Pam recognized those MWF Past Presidents who were in attendance – John Washburn, Kitty Starbuck, Marve Starbuck, and Sandy Fuller. She welcomed everyone else for making the effort to attend.

Names were announced of those rock hounds who had passed away since the convention. These included: Lin Rawlings, St. Croix Rockhounds; Dee Gott, member of the Cincinnati Mineral Society and The Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Faceting Society; Charlie Markham, Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club; Charles Ables, Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society; Alice Gillis, Glacial Drifters; Cecil Leonard, Des Moines Lapidary Society; Raymond Cruse, Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society; and Rose Marikos, Show Me Gems & Minerals Club. Pam noted that these were some of the people who made the hobby what it is today so that we can enjoy it.

Donna Moore announced the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting in Lincoln, NE, had been e-mailed. Printed copies were available on the report table. John Washburn moved to accept the minutes. Marve Starbuck seconded the motion, which carried.

Judith Washburn reported on the preceding state directors' meeting. She noted there was a written report from Tom Whitlatch in Iowa; John Washburn had brought a written report for Illinois; Susan Brown had sent a written report from Indiana; and Michigan Director, Alan Hukill, had sent a written report. Minnesota assistant, Sandy Fuller, introduced Phil Gotsch, who had agreed to become Minnesota State Director starting November 1. He had reported how the Minnesota rock clubs, Minnesota's DNR, and state parks had a cooperative effort to produce a brochure, *Rockhounding Minnesota*. These brochures were placed in state parks and visitors centers.

Missouri/Arkansas – No report. A report from Nebraska was sent by Charles Wooldridge. Ohio Director, Jim Budnik, had sent an e-mail that he had nothing to report since the convention. North and South Dakota had no report. Allison Conrad had brought a report covering Wisconsin. We had also heard from Bernice McCloskey, assistant from Wisconsin.

Due to the absence of Rose Blue, first vice-president, Pam Hecht asked for reports from the permanent committees.

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Minutes

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Archaeology – No report

Boundaries – Bob Miller had sent word that there were no issues.

Bulletin Editors – Celia Tiffany had a written report.

Canceled Stamps – The Kuglers had a written report and had sent \$135 to Alan Hukill from sales of bookmarks and pins.

Conventions and Shows – Neil Snepp had reported to Pam, by phone, that he was working on hosts for 2010 and 2011. 2012 would be hosted in Minnesota. Right now he was looking for a club to host in 2013.

Credentials – Tony Kapta had a written report and nothing to add.

Director of Supplies – Dennis Westman had a written report and said he had supplies at the meeting. Pam asked him to make sure all executive committee members present had Operating Procedure Manuals.

Endowment – Pam announced she would be heading up this committee again. She said that in looking at the OP, there is actually a committee of six people on the endowment committee. Presently, the chairman, the silent auction chairman, and the canceled stamps chairmen are appointed or reappointed every three years. She suggested that the secretary, treasurer, and financial advisor be added to this committee rotation also. Appointments would be staggered so the whole committee is not up for reappointment at the same time. A new secretary is needed. John Washburn reported he had money to send to Alan from the sale of t-shirts.

Environment and Legislation – Dean Stone had a short written report. There was a question as to where the process for registration of the MWF trademark stood. Dean would need to be consulted.

Geology – Judith Washburn had a written report. Brian Poelker had sent an addition about the Ben E. Clement Fluorite Museum in Marion, Kentucky. Judith reported she had also written a couple of articles for the newsletter. Brian had given her a specimen from Columbia, Missouri, which had calcite that fluoresced red and around the edges and aragonite that fluoresced white. John Washburn,

assistant, reported that the Illinois State Geological Survey was working on a DVD of a program about the fossil coal forest discovered near Danville, Illinois. Also, Judith reported about a new book for kids, *Julie the Rockhound* by Gail Langer Karwoski.

Historian – Donna Moore reported that she would be assisting Gordana Rezab in scanning the MWF records onto CD for archival purposes.

Insurance – June Young was present and talked to John Washburn about some of the concerns about insurance. He was concerned that lapidary workshops were not now covered by the policy. He had done a survey for the insurance company in 2005. The results were sent to the insurance carrier. More clarification on the survey was needed. June reported that she has access to marketing the insurance companies.

Junior Activities – Michele Yamanaka sent a written report.

Lapidary – Pam reported that Roger Pabian is the new chairman of this committee.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Membership – No report. John Washburn reported that there was interest in forming two new clubs in Illinois.

Merit Awards – J.C. Moore had a written report. He added that only two MWF clubs had submitted entries in the All American Club Award Contest this year. He encouraged clubs to participate this year. John Washburn, AFMS Chairman for All American Club Awards, had been writing a series of articles in the AFMS Newsletter concerning entries. He announced that this year the clubs could submit a DVD instead of a paper entry. Pam suggested to John that his articles be compiled into a booklet.

Mineralogy – Scott Thieben was at the show, but not the meeting. He had asked Kevin Ponzio to replace him as chairman, but agreed to stay on as an assistant. Kevin had questions about the budget, publishing articles in the newsletter, assistants, and direct mailing to clubs and state directors. Sandy Fuller reminded members that all assistants should be members of a MWF club.

Newsletter – Homer Eshbaugh reported that he had been contacting clubs for more information on their shows. He had been forwarding this information to John Blue and Cindy Root. He reported that one

Minutes

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club had questions about doing a show. Where could they get help? It was suggested that they should start with their state director. He said Cindy Root is going to be posting more forms on the Web site. There was discussion about a report he had prepared concerning e-mailing the newsletter, and other forms and MWF communication. June Young asked if clubs could fill out the forms on the internet, how would we get the checks for dues and insurance?

Paleontology – No report.

Program Competition – Needs chairman.

Program Requests – John Blue had sent a written report.

Program Review – Needs chairman.

Public Image – No report.

Publications - Sandy Fuller presented a final draft of the club leadership manual. She termed it a survival manual for basics of officers' jobs for clubs. There is no show information included. Neil Snapp is working on something for that. It will be a separate publication.

Rockhound of the Year – Written report.

Pam reminded people of her challenge in Lincoln to have one from each club. Only two had been added since the convention. She said it is quite a simple process to nominate someone. People think no one is worthy. Actually it could just be someone who has offered a new idea or volunteered to do something. It can be a current honoree, or also can be done as a memorial. Allison Conrad asked if we need permission to nominate someone. It was felt that it was not necessary. Sandy Fuller said she even nominated some people as state director.

Safety and Field Trips – No report.

Scholarships – Marge Collins said she had a box of nomination forms, etc., to pass along to the first vice-president, so Judith Washburn would receive those. She asked just how much of the hard copy of records she needed to keep from the things passed on by Nellie Claxton. She said the material needed to be digested. She gave some papers to Donna Moore for the archival process. She reported she had not received the check from this year's MICA awards. It was noted that Alan Hukill needs to know the information so he can write the check. Judith Washburn agreed to take care sending the

information to Alan. The checks should be written by Alan Hukill as MWF Endowment Treasurer and forwarded to the AFMS Scholarship Fund through Marge Collins, MWF Scholarship Chairman.

Pam noted that she would like to see the contact information for the Endowment and AFMS Scholarship Funds printed on the front page of each newsletter.

Silent Auction – Steve Hecht said he welcomes any donations. The auction in Lincoln, Nebraska, went well. John Washburn told Steve he had a few large pieces that he hoped were the last of the Hazel Kuntz estate.

Uniform Rules – No report.

Web site – Cindy Root had a written report.
Special Committee Reports

The nominating committee is to be chaired by Kitty Starbuck in place of Eric Peterson until November 1. The first thing they need to handle is the designated person for the scholarship honoree review committee.

Convention – 2008 Roger Pabian had reported a loss with their convention due to flooding and rumors of flooding. He had asked about a fund to help cover part of the loss from the MWF. Pam said we needed to check with Norm to see if the Lincoln Club had received the \$750 loan as a start up fee. {The MWF By-Laws Article VI, Section 7 b. states that "The Board of Directors may authorize a loan, if requested, of up to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) without interest, to any member Society for its use in producing an authorized convention. The Federation shall be responsible for fifty percent (50%) or seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) of any loss, whichever is the smaller amount. The host Society shall receive seventy-five percent (75%) of any net profit and the Federation shall receive twenty-five percent (25%) of any net profit."}

2009 Berea, Ohio. Pam assured members there would be more information in upcoming newsletters and on the Web site.

2010 and 2011 – Neil Snapp had reported he was 90% sure he had obtained host clubs for these conventions.

2012 – Sandy Fuller reported they are seeing if they can cooperate with another club to host this convention. They would like to tie it in with Moose

Minutes

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Lake, but hotels are a major consideration. They were also looking at late August in a facility other than the armory.

Old Business

Apparel - John Washburn had ordered 63 t-shirts, and only had 7 left. He was planning to place another order. He said the Federation had approved the Endowment Fund paying for the t-shirts with the extra money going to the fund. He took the cost out of his sales, and was writing a check to the MWF Endowment Fund for the rest of the funds. He also had \$50 from sale of bookmarks and pins for the fund. He would be sending a total check of \$347.88 to the Endowment Fund. John said he would pay the upfront money again for the next order. When asked about polo shirts, he said he needed to order 30 and had only had 10 requested. They would be \$25 each.

OP Committee – Pam reported that she, Sandy Fuller, Anne Cook, and Donna Moore were working on revising the OP descriptions. They were hoping to have each one with the same format. Some chairmen were updating their information. The goal is to try to stress the responsibilities of each committee or chairman.

Lawsuit – The hearing was postponed twice. It is hoped the end is near. The last hearing was postponed because they wanted a deposition from a doctor. We had secured a lawyer with a \$500 retainer. Dean Stone was in touch with the lawyer as well as with Pam. Only \$67 remained of the retainer, so Pam suggested we allocate another \$1,000 as needed. J.C. Moore moved to allocate \$1,000 if needed for lawyer fees out of the endowment fund interest. Sandy Fuller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

John Washburn said he had talked to Dean Stone as well as Mike Luke, an attorney for the Illinois Attorney General's office. Both felt we (MWF) should not be included in the suit. John also had them look at the contract for the LOESS (his club) Show The Agriculture Department had a list of janitorial services the club should use. It was felt the club would not be held liable for workmen's compensation. A clause should be added to clarify this. John said, as soon as the wording was worked out, he would share it with the MWF. Pam will

continue with the process until it is settled and a final report is written.

Club Listings in *Rock and Gem* – Judith Washburn had communicated with the state directors asking them to contact the clubs. Two states had already given her a list of clubs agreeing to have their information on *Rock and Gem's* Web site.

New Business

The AFMS Convention was canceled due to uncertainty of motel room availability following Hurricane Ike. Shirley Leeson was doing the necessary business by mail. An increase in membership dues was to be voted on. It was noted that the MWF had voted in Lincoln, in June, to cover any raise in dues from the interest of the endowment fund. The AFMS raffle prizes would be drawn at a show in Pennsylvania. Prizes would be mailed.

E-mailing the Newsletter – Pam appointed a committee of Judith Washburn, Donna Moore, Linda and Homer Eshbaugh to work on the new OP guidelines for the newsletter. She then said there needed to be a committee of the president and the proofreaders to look over the newsletter before it was sent to the publisher for printing. Homer would need to send the corrections to the president before sending it to the publisher. Homer submitted a proposal of an e-mail system for the newsletter. The same committee will look over this and propose a system.

We are hoping to put more of Dennis Westman's information on the Web site so it is more readily available to the clubs.

Tony Kapta said it would be convenient if the newsletter could be on the Web site in a form that could be e-mailed. This needs to be coordinated with Cindy.

The board proposed that 300 copies of Sandy's publication for officers be printed. The 21 page publication be covered with card stock, 3 hole punched, and stapled (so it could be put in a binder). The bid she had gotten was \$168.62. Marve Starbuck moved to have the publication printed. Homer Eshbaugh seconded the motion, which passed.

Kitty Starbuck proposed the federation help

Minutes

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pay for Diamond Dan's newsletter for juniors for the clubs with active juniors. The 12 page Mini Miners' Monthly is \$19.95 for a yearly subscription. Her suggestion was that the federation pay for the subscription for all clubs with over 10 juniors reported on the dues form, and the federation could pay half for clubs with less than 10 juniors. This would be a reimbursement after clubs paid the subscription. A pdf file is e-mailed as well as a printed copy sent in the mail. The suggestion was to pay from the endowment interest based on 2009 dues paid on time. Then the program can be reviewed at the end of the 2009. Kitty offered to be coordinator to keep track of the details. John Washburn moved that the MWF Endowment Fund reimburse any club with 10 or more juniors for a full subscription to Mini Miners Monthly. Any club with less than 10 juniors could be reimbursed for half the subscription rate. Numbers to qualify would be determined by the number of juniors reported on the dues form of clubs who paid dues on time. Sandy Fuller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. A newsletter article would be needed to inform the clubs.

A question was asked about a list of possible speakers or live programs. Kitty had done a publication, "Have Program, Will Travel," that included a list of people who were willing to do programs for other clubs. It was suggested that such lists are outdated as soon as they are printed. Another suggestion was that possible lists of programs could be updated yearly. It was concluded that this was an idea for state directors to work on. Formerly there had been forms for this.

John Washburn moved to allow Tony Kapta to destroy the ballots of the officer election. Marve Starbuck seconded the motion, which carried.

John Washburn announced that for a \$20 donation to the MWF Endowment Fund, the contributor could have a copy of the CD of rocky tunes.

Allison Conrad offered to re-type and send out the form to state directors concerning speakers. Each state director will compile a list for his or her state.

Pins were available from the 1988 Convention hosted by Geodeland Earth Science.

Clubs, Inc. in Macomb, Illinois.

Pam expressed that it had been a pleasure and fun to move the Federation in a way to getting communications improved. She then adjourned the meeting.

(Note: Written reports mentioned were included in the packet sent to clubs with the actual minutes.)

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A Holiday Gift to the MWF

by John Washburn, Illinois State Director

As you may recall, the AFMS has voted on a dues increase of 25¢ per member for this year. Rather than pass this cost on to our clubs, the MWF voted to cover the dues increase from the interest gained on the MWF Endowment Fund. This is, of course, one of the reasons that the Endowment Fund was created. The last time the AFMS dues were raised, many clubs felt that they could not afford the increase.

Since that time, money from the interest on the Endowment Fund has been used for many worthwhile projects.

Therefore, to ensure that this Fund will continue to grow and offer support in the future as projects arise, I am suggesting that those clubs that can afford to do so, make an in-kind donation (25¢ per member) to the MWF Endowment Fund.

I know that right now the idea of "bail-out" is in vogue, but what I am suggesting is an "insurance investment" to "pay our own way," so to speak.

I am going to propose to my home club, that has the funds, to make a donation to the Endowment Fund equal to the AFMS raise in dues.

If you feel the same way, you can send your donation to:

**MWF Endowment Fund
Alan Hukill, Treasurer
15785 Park Lane Road
East Lansing, MI 48823**

Happy Holidays!

