Toby Cozens, our most able Treasurer for many years suffered a stroke while vacationing in Florida this past April. She was hospitalized, underwent surgery and then a course of physical therapy for three weeks before being allowed to return to Seattle. Unfortunately Toby felt that her energies needed to be spent in recovering from this set-back and tendered her resignation as Treasurer to President Jim Robinson. Toby did an outstanding job as Treasurer - watching over our investments, finding an accountant to handle the review of our accounts, filing of tax documents, keeping the Executive Board apprised of our financial standing, assisting with the preparation of budgets and of course paying federation bills as they came due - and all in her quiet, yet very efficient way.

We wish Toby well in her recovery and offer her thanks for a job well done!

The Executive Board has selected Pat LaRue as the new Treasurer. Pat will serve out the remaining months of Toby's term of office. Effective immediately, all invoices and questions about the finances of the Federation should be directed to Pat. She's more than ably qualified as you can see from her "resume" as posted on the CFMS website.

A native of New York State, Pat grew up in a small community near Rochester. After graduating from high school, she attended SUNY at Albany where she earned a B.A. in Latin. Marriage brought her to California. As a 20 and 30 something she enjoyed a varied professional life including teaching, real estate sales and an Amway distributorship. When the bottom fell out of the real estate industry in the early 80's she decided to return to college as a step toward a mid-life career change. She received a BS degree in Soil Science with a minor in geology from Cal Poly Pomona. Following graduation, she accepted a position as a chemistry lab technician at a community college. For some of us one job is never enough...she is also associated with H & R Block as a seasonal tax professional.

She joined Orange Belt Mineralogical Society in 1978. Her primary interest in those earlier years was lapidary, cabochon cutting in particular. A college mineralogy course opened up the world of minerals and that's what holds her interest now. Thumbnails are of particular interest and she makes a conscientious effort to add aesthetic specimens to the collection at every opportunity. Her other mineral interest is micromounting. Her non-mineral interest is metal detecting. She is also a total cat lover!

She edited newsletters for three different clubs...for many years she did the task for two clubs simultaneously. Now she edits only for River-side Treasure Hunters, her metal detecting club. To be truthful she'd rather do that than serve in an office at the club level.

Her CFMS involvement has been ongoing since 1985. She started out as slide librarian and resigned that position only when she served as an officer from 1992-1996. She served on the Rules Committee from 1997-1999. In 2000, she was pressed into service as president when the president-elect became gravely ill and had to step down. Following her second term, she assumed the responsibilities of the Executive Secretary/Treasurer. Little did she know that a course in accounting which Cal Poly required of all its soil and plant science majors would actually prove worthwhile.
From Jim
by Jim Robinson, AFMS President

I am sure all have heard by the time this message is published we have lost a key member of our team. Toby Cozens our Treasurer suffered a stroke in April while on vacation in Florida and had surgery on Tuesday of that week. My wife Awilda and I were able to visit with her two days later. We talked for about an hour and were amazed at how alert and upbeat she was for someone who had undergone such a traumatic experience. During our conversation, Toby indicated that it was in her best interest to let someone else take over for the remainder of her term so that she could concentrate her energies on her health.

Toby has done an outstanding job for many years for us. It is always difficult to lose someone of her caliber especially so when they are also a dear friend. Before her stroke, Toby had made it known that she did not want to do another term at treasurer, and I knew that Pat LaRue was going to be nominated for the position. With this in mind I asked Pat if she would assume the position now and when she agreed, I submitted her name to the Officers of the Executive board as a replacement for the remainder of Toby's term. They agreed with 100% approval and so Pat was appointed to assume the position immediately.

Pat is well known throughout the Federation and is well qualified for the position. I am sure she will make us all proud.

I had a phone call from Toby while writing this message. She was back in her home in Seattle and was getting around pretty well and was busy putting the records together for shipment to Pat. She sounded really happy to be back home.

This will be the last message until after the meeting in Nashville. I hope that everyone has a safe and happy summer. I look forward to seeing many of you in Nashville.

Jim

Be Safe - Be Well
What's in the Bottle?

by Sue MacKay, AFMS Safety Chair

In your shop, studio, garage or barn have you ever asked yourself this question? Well, I have and one situation sticks in my mind. I was putting the finishing touches on a home-built trailer that I needed to transport our basic household necessities to my first duty station when I entered the Army. A close friend came by to bid us farewell and brought with him his two-year-old son and his wife. While we admired the trailer, the little boy spotted a coke bottle sitting on one of lower beams in the garage and walked over and took a swig. The little kid choked and sputtered and cried because he wanted coke.

The father then asked the question 'what is in the bottle'. I really wasn't sure other than I thought it was a mixture of penetrating oil of some sort. My first thought was 'stupid kid' and my second thought was 'a fool-proof solution except for attention to detail'. What ideas do you have?

Well, what can we do to avoid the type of problems we have been discussing? I really do not have a fool-proof solution except for attention to detail and constant alertness. What ideas do you have?
I'M IN A DEVILISH MOOD
by Robert Carlson, AFMS President-elect

Sorry folks, this won't be a long message. Why you ask? Because my computer died; the funeral was last Tuesday. I'm also in a devilish mood today.

Since my handwriting is so bad that I have a hard time reading it myself, I got out my typewriter. You remember typewriters? They're the things we used before computers. I've had mine since college. The ink ribbon was dry and unusable, so I went to the stationary store for a new one. They told me that they haven't carried typewriter ribbons for over 20 years! They suggested that I contact the Smithsonian.

I tried the Smithsonian, giving them the make and model of my typewriter. They told me that they don't sell things and that they generally don't have any success with ribbons that old either!

I then asked Fran if she could take dictation: you know, using shorthand. She is still laughing.

So, how is this message getting to you? I took pencil in hand and carefully lettered it out. I don't know whether Carolyn will type this or give it to you like this, warts and all, but the message is: Where there is a will, there is a way!

Bob

P.S. Contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in memory of the loss of my computer would be greatly appreciated.

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HAVING FUN - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES
DISPLAY, DISPLAY, DISPLAY!
by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

The last issue of the AFMS Newsletter contained copies of both competitive and non-competitive entry forms for displaying in the upcoming SFMS/AFMS Show and Convention taking place this August at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds in Nashville. An entire convention show packet is also available on-line via the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org), which has links that will take you to the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society show page. The deadline to submit applications for exhibit entries is July 15.

The past couple of years, we've had a real scarcity of junior exhibitors. In fact, two years ago we were unable to award the Lillian Turner Award and last year, we had just one eligible junior display. This award is thanks to the generosity of Lillian Turner of Bethesda, Maryland, who generously donated funds to support an annual $100 bond, certificate, and mineral specimen to go to the Outstanding Junior who exhibits at the annual AFMS Show.

This year, let's do better! I encourage everyone, especially those in the SFMS who are within reasonable driving distance of this year's show, to make a concerted effort to work with kids and youth in your local clubs to encourage them to enter displays, whether competitive or noncompetitive. In addition to the Lillian Turner Award for the best display, kids entering any sort of display can earn the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America merit badge for Showmanship. But awards and merit badges aside, planning, preparing, and setting up a display and then attending a show and seeing all the other displays and meeting those who prepared them is a great way to expand a child's horizons and to meet new and interesting people who are actively engaged with our hobby while—as always—having fun.

Annual Reports Due

Just a reminder to all AFMS Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs...

Annual reports are due in the Central Office no later than June 30. This will give enough time for them to be duplicated and mailed a month prior to the Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN on August 16.

Reports may either be sent via e-mail (either in the body of the e-mail or as a pdf or “Word” attachment (central_office@amfed.org). If you do not have e-mail or prefer to use the post office, please use the mailing address in the box at the left.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important part of our annual meeting process.
As of this writing, our faithful readers have seen thirteen wonderful Endowment Fund 2006 prizes listed in the AFMS Newsletter - and it is my great pleasure to tell you that we have just received prize #14, a Waving Flag Bracelet, hand-beaded and graciously donated by Anna Christiansen, CFMS artist and regular beading instructor at ZYZXX. All fourteen prizes are posted in color on the AFMS website, too. Check it out. You might even find a couple more late-arriving prizes on the site, too - according to what we hear.

Anna chose tiny colorful Delicas to create this beautiful piece of patriotic jewelry especially for the 2006 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. Her design contains ten waving flags, each made up of a golden Delica-beaded mast on the left followed by 68 red, white and blue Delicas, arranged in stylized United States flag configurations. The ends of the bracelet are bounded by four rows of shining gold Delicas, demarking the two parts of the easy-to-use magnetic closure. The bracelet is 1/2" wide and 7" long. A real treasure for some lucky lady, the bracelet is valued at $100. (CFMS)

Although this is the last newsletter article from us before the 2006 AFMS/SFMS convention, we will still have tickets available from your regional Fund Representative until mid-July, and after that, we will continue to honor direct mail requests until it is time to hit the road for Nashville. If you happen to be among the lucky spring registrants at EFMLS Wildacres Workshops, be advised that Carolyn Weinberger will have tickets available there, too. For you last-minute shoppers, we will be set up at the Nashville Show all day Friday and on Saturday until 4:00 p.m.

In addition to giving you one last chance to pick up some more tickets for the drawing, we will be offering a variety of AFMS-related items for you to purchase. Here is your chance to pick up your V.I.P. pin (for a donation of $100 or more) or, how about becoming a "Fellow of the AFMS"? Your contribution to the Endowment Fund of $300 will be rewarded by a frame-able golden certificate and a distinctively beautiful white-enameled on 14k gold pin.

We also have an assortment of logo pins available for each of the individual federations; some commemorative stamps and some things we don’t even know we have yet. (You rock-hounds are so good to bring in geodes and slabs, etc., to add to the totals raised for the Fund, and we do welcome these surprise gifts!) Drawing for prizewinners will be held at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening, and as usual, winners do not need to be present to receive their prizes: we have your numbers, and we deliver- no tip necessary, either!

Hope to meet and greet you in Nashville.

Joy

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**LAST, BUT NOT LEAST - NOT BY A LONG SHOT!**

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Chair

**Take One Last Look at the Rest of the Prizes....**

descriptions are on the web at <www.amfed.org>
**Think Competitive Exhibits**

by Betty James, AFMS Uniform Rules Chair

It is time to begin preparing our exhibits for competition at the American Federation Show in Nashville August 18.

Remember the Uniform Rules Committee meets annually to consider needed clarifications and changes in the rules. The Rules Committee meeting is open to the general membership and you are urged to attend. By being there and listening to the discussions, you will begin to think like a judge when you set up your own case. If you know why certain rules are made, they will make sense to you enabling you to more easily produce a winning exhibit.

Those of you who qualified to enter direct more than a year ago, remember to check the website (www.amfed.org/rules) for the latest edition of the rules. Study the rules applying to the Division and Classification you will be entering as well as the general rules to be sure that your exhibit complies with the current rules applying to your exhibit. Next check your previous judges sheet, correct any errors noted and upgrade where possible to improve your score in American.

If you are entering through the Southeast Federation to earn qualification and move up to American, then you will want to be just as scrupulous in following the rules. Be sure the Division and Classification chosen correctly describes your exhibit, that all labels are spelled correctly, all information is correct; and that your case is neat, clean, and pleasantly arranged. Where specific numbers of specimens are required, be sure there is no overage or shortage. Do not overcrowd your case and light it adequately.

In competitive exhibiting, we are not competing case against case; each case is competing against the rules. Judges only consider whether the particular case they are judging complies with the rules and make no comparison between cases.

Although the rule book is large, don’t be discouraged. It is not necessary to know everything in it. Those who know and understand the general rules and the rules pertaining to the Division in which they are exhibiting are the ones who are more likely to be winners.

Here’s hoping to see you in the winner’s circle in Nashville. Remember, it’s the Rules that Rule.

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**Who’s Getting the AFMS Newsletter?**

by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office Administrator

You have just received the June newsletter and it is quite possible that you “retired” from your office six or more months ago.

As of the date of this writing, the Central Office has received directories from only 4 of the 7 regional federations. Until the remainder arrive, please send me the names, addresses and titles of your club’s president, editor, federation director (liaison) or secretary if your club does not have a federation director (liaison) if these people are not currently receiving the AFMS Newsletter.

Also, as officers change, please send the updates to me. In this way our lines of communication can remain open.

Please send all changes to:
Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<central_office@amfed.org>

Thanks in advance.

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**COMBINED SFMS & AFMS CONVENTION**

Nashville, Tennessee
August 18 - 20, 2006

Competitive Exhibit Entry Form

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete all information and mail to: Betty J. James, 167 Florence Circle, Florence, MS 39073, (601) 914-6747, to be received no later than July 15, no exceptions.

**NAME: ___________________ PHONE: ___________________ E-mail: ___________________**

**ADDRESS: Street: ___________________ City: ___________________ State: ___________________ Zip: ___________________

**EXHIBITOR GROUP: Master ______ Advanced ______ Novice ______ Jr Soc. ______ Jr Soc. ______**

**DIVISION: ___________ EXHIBIT CLASS: ___________ SFMS ______ AFMS Direct ______**

For Direct Entry: Date & Location of Regional Show where Eligibility was achieved: ___________________

**CASE AND SPACE INFORMATION:**

I will use my own case: Yes ______ No ______ Dimensions: W ______ H ______ D ______ Lighting is limited to 150 watts per 4’ of exhibit space. Do you need to borrow a case? ______

**Signature:** ___________________ **Print Name:** ___________________

**Society name: ___________________ City & State: ___________________**

**Club Officer’s Signature & Title: ___________________**

**Birth Date if Junior: ___________________ Date of form: ___________________**

MT&GMS WILL FURNISH SECURITY AND TAKE REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT PROPERTY AND PERSON OF EXHIBITOR BUT WILL TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LOSSES OR CLAIMS.

See AFMS Uniform Rules, 8th Edition, updated, to correctly fill out this application.

Use separate sheet for each exhibit. Copy of form will be returned to you when exhibit is accepted.

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**MTG&GMS WILL FURNISH SECURITY AND TAKE REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT PROPERTY AND PERSON OF EXHIBITOR BUT WILL TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LOSSES OR CLAIMS.**

See AFMS Uniform Rules, 8th Edition, updated, to correctly fill out this application.

Use separate sheet for each exhibit. Copy of form will be returned to you when exhibit is accepted.
AFMS Newsletter: June-July, 2006

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

We are nominating for AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year - Donna Krause. Donna has been a very active member of the Brunker Center Gem & Mineral Club and continues to offer great suggestions to keep interest high with the club and keep the club's show on an upward direction.

submitted by Thomas J. Dilworth

I would like to nominate Marilyn Dilloway of the Chicago Rock and Minerals Society for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Award. Marilyn has been a member of our club for many years. Whenever there is a need for a volunteer Marilyn has volunteered, never expecting any reward other than that she knew it would help our club. She has been the club's Recording Secretary and has been the mainstay of our Hospitality Committee for years. At our silent auction she runs a refreshment table year after year. When our club faced the necessity of finding a new location she volunteered her time and helped find one that we still occupy today. She has been on the nominating committee and was instrumental in convincing many new members that they would make good candidates for club offices or volunteers for club activities. But there is another reason that she should get this award. She has been willing to give of herself 150%. It is that little bit of extra effort that exudes warmth to all who encounter her. Marilyn is Marilyn, and isn't that what a club needs to make it a familiar place away from home yet still very much pleasurable to attend, fraternize, and interact in our hobby?

submitted by David Dick, Historian for CRMS

Northwest Federation

It is my pleasure to nominate William (Bill) and his wife Charlotte Smelcer of the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, Walla Walla, WA for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Bill and Charlotte have been active members of the Club for over ten years. Bill served as Club President in 2001 and Show Chairman for several years. He and Charlotte are currently Juniors Co-Chairman for the Club's Junior (20) members. Charlotte has been responsible for coordinating the Club meeting refreshments and welcoming guests who visit the Club. Bill and Charlotte have manned the Annual Show kids Spin-A-Wheel activity, supported an on going effort to provide tumbled rocks, critters and other craft items for Show, and Junior Club activities. Aside from fully supporting the Club they are active volunteers in support of Walla Walla Schools and Hospitals. They are both an asset to the Club and to the community.

submitted by Jack L. Edwards 2004-2005 AFMS Past President

Do You Have a New Camera?

by Marge Collins, AFMS Program Competition

Why not use it to make images to share your enthusiasm and knowledge and to tell the story of some aspect of our Earth Science hobby that you are especially interested in? With a digital camera, it's never been easier!

Before you head out on field trips, visiting museums, going to shows or workshops, think of how you can tell a story to share with your fellow club members and other rockhounds across the country. After you have the images, (which can easily be lightened darkened, cropped and moved forward or back within a presentation) you can develop the narration "to tell the story".

Think of programs you have seen at Club meetings. Was there a topic on which you could elaborate or present in a better way? Look at your Regional Program Library's list to see what topics are missing. Surely you can find a "story to tell", a skill or technique to demonstrate or the work of another to show off.

Need help with the details of putting a presentation together? Contact the AFMS Program Competition Committee for tips or advice and after showing the program to your fellow club members, submit your presentation for Program Competition*. The "rules & guidelines" will be published in the September AFMS Newsletter or request them in advance (see below)

* (some Regions have their own Competition in advance of the AFMS deadline)

Contact AFMS Program Competition Committee c/o Marge Collins, Coordinator 269-695-4313 or email: margaret@qtm.net (If you don't receive reply in a reasonable amount of time, send to <margaret@qtm.net>)

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

Here is the schedule of upcoming Regional Federation Conventions that I have to this date. Please remember to contact me prior to finalizing any dates if your federation has plans for any shows other than those shown here so that we can avoid conflicts. You can reach me at <trammell@our-town.com>.

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<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
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<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
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<td>June 9-11 Angel’s Camp, CA</td>
<td>Nov. 17-19 W Palm Beach, FL</td>
<td>May 19-21 Southgate, MI</td>
<td>July 14-16 Kelso, WA</td>
<td>June 9-11 Stillwater, OK</td>
<td>Aug. 18-20 Bossier City, LA</td>
<td>AFMS August 16-20 Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>AFMS June 7 - 10 Roswell, NM</td>
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<td>AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX</td>
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AFMS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Chairs for 2005-06. Please feel free to contact these people (or the person in your regional federation who serves on the as well) if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Cathy Gaber
<bg@his.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
(410) 833-7926
<editor@amfed.org>

AFMS Boundaries
George Browne
<brownegj@aol.com>

AFMS Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson@msn.com> and
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

ByLaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

AFMS Central Office
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

AFMS Club Publications
Kitty Starbuck
<minedump@iserv.net>

AFMS Commemorative Stamp
Wendell Mohr - Chair
<wmohr@erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
Jon Spurnagle
<jonsp@juno.com>

Education-All American
John Washburn
<jrwashburn02@msn.com>

Endowment Fund
Joy Bourne
<csprings@epix.net>

Financial Investment
Dee Holland - Chair
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com> and
<shirleyleeson@msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
See Editor’s Hall of Fame

International Relations
Janet Smith
<beetlebill@silverlink.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Tompson
<jbrace@adelpia.net>

Long Range Planning
Bill Smith
<beetlebill@silverlink.net>

Name Badge
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

Nominating
Bill Smith
See Long Range Planning

Parliamentionar
Ruth Bailey
<rbad825@aol.com>

Past President’s Advisory
Bill Smith
See Long Range Planning

Photography
Barbara Sky
(636) 207-8766

Program Competition
Marge Collins - Chair
<margaret@qtm.net>

Safety
Don Monroe
<acmonroe@att.net>

Show Consultant
Mary Trammell
<trammell@our-town.com>

Supply and Publications
B. Joy Bowman
<bjb@ponca-city.net>

Ways and Means
Isabella Burns - Chair
<isbill@aol.com>

Uniform Rules
Betty James - Chair
<mineralid@jam.rr.com>

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
see AFMS Secretary, page 2

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart - Chair
<webmaster@amfed.org>

Ad Hoc AFMS 60th Anniversary Planning
Shirley Leeson, Chair
see Historian
AFMS Convention Deadlines

JULY 15....

RESERVATIONS AT HOTEL PRESTON

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT REGISTRATION

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT REGISTRATION

ALL FUNCTION REGISTRATIONS

(SHOW PASS, ED. BREAKFAST, ALL-OFFICERS LUNCHEON, AWARDS BANQUET, FIELD TRIPS)

SEE DETAILS IN THE MAY AFMS NEWSLETTER

OR ON THE WEB AT <WWW.AMFED.ORG>

SEE YOU IN NASHVILLE - AUG 16-20