Let’s Go Endowment Fund!

by Cheryl Neary, Endowment Fund Chair

I know you can hardly wait to see if you win one of the many endowment prizes! To paraphrase the quote – Yes, you need to buy tickets to win it! Your representative has tickets available for you to purchase. Please see the chart at the end of this article for your Federation representative.

Why support the Endowment Fund? The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs; just to name a few.

The AFMS Convention will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Endowment Fund winners will be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening. You do not need to be present to win your prize – although it would be nice to have your company. However – you do need to purchase your tickets to be a possible winner!

If for some reason you do not want to support the Fund by purchasing tickets, then please think about donating an item. This year we are hoping to receive at least 30 items – each with a monetary value of $75.00 or more and no more than five (5) pounds in weight.

To date we have received the following donations:

#1 - Kyanite pendant and earring set wrapped in gold-filled wire donated by Doris Kean. Estimated value is $125. (MWF)

#2 - 2 bolos: Silver lace onyx, Calico, CA and Brown Biggs Jasper donated by Jean & Bob Stultz. Estimated value is $75. (CFMS)

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A Word from the President
by Sandy Fuller, President

As a child I grew up often hearing the “Good, Better, Best” adage to encourage me to pursue excellence. As a rockhound, this adage holds special meaning when I look at the AFMS awards programs.

Across the nation, groups of people have come together to study, learn, collect, exchange and support each other around our common love of geology, with a special emphasis on rocks, minerals and fossils. As a group we are able to help each other and grow together into a club that others want to join and enjoy. This is good!

Our club quickly learns the local resources and identifies opportunities to reach out beyond the local community. A successful club starts working with similar clubs from nearby communities, across the state and eventually across the region. Our regional federations provide a forum to help local clubs access resources and strengthen their services. This is even better than the lone club struggling to meet the varied interests of its members.

Within the American Federation, we have established a variety of programs that are administered at both the regional and national level to help clubs and individual members achieve excellence. Using nationwide criteria, local clubs earn scores at the regional level. The best entries from each region are re-evaluated by a panel of national judges. The winners are then recognized as the best of the best from across the nation.

The purpose of the national awards programs, including the All American, Bulletin Editors, Website and Competitive Exhibits, is to help clubs strive toward excellence. There is enough flexibility within these programs to allow and recognize creativity while also rewarding the tried and true methods for making good the BEST.

In 2018, our National Convention will be in April, which means that our regional and national judges hopefully have a lot of entries to evaluate in a relatively short period of time. I encourage all clubs to begin now to prepare your entries and get them submitted at the earliest possible time to your regional chairperson. We are counting on you to pursue excellence for your club!

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest Until the good is better And the better best.” -- St. Jerome

Here’s wishing everyone a very happy holiday season.

Sandy

There will be no AFMS Newsletter in January.
Next issue is February 2018
(deadline is January 1)
Endowment Fund

#3 - Manufactured metal burro and miner buckle and Ocean jasper (green, old collection), Madagascar bolo donated by Jean and Bob Stultz (past CFMS Presidents). Estimated value $95. (CFMS)

#4 - Silver miner bolo donated by Jean and Bob Stultz (past CFMS Presidents). Estimated value $75.00 (CFMS)

#5 - Amethyst crystal slice on wooden base donated by the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value $187. (EFMLS)

#6 - Sterling silver wirewrapped jasper cabochon with sterling silver chain crafted and donated by Pamm Bryant. Estimated value $75. (EFMLS)

#7 - Petosky stone cabochon wirewrapped in Sterling Silver crafted and donated by Pamm Bryant. Estimated value $75. (EFMLS)

#8 - Framed Fossil Fish donated by Richard Jaeger, former AFMS President. Estimated value $75. (RMFMS) (Photo forthcoming)

Please check the website every few weeks for updates. As donations are received, they will be updated to the website.

Again, for those of you who have in the past supported the Endowment Fund- thank you! Please continue to support our efforts. For everyone else – please consider supporting the Endowment Fund and the activities generated by the Fund.

You can purchase your tickets from:
CFMS: Heidi Hall, 233 Fairway Dr; Santa Rosa, CA 95409. <hdafler@yahoo.com>
EFMLS: Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302. <editor@amfed.org>
MWF: J.C. & Donna Moore, 25235 N State Route 97; Cuba, IL <jcmoore3rd@gmail.com>
< mwfsecretary@gmail.com> 
NFMS: Judi Allison, 1701 NW 11th St; Hermiston, OR 97838. <nfmssec@gmail.com>
RMFMS: Delane Cos, 8152 Spanker Ridge Dr., Bentonville, AR 72712 <delanec3@earthlink.net>
Richard Jaeger, 3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602. <rjgrsci@aol.com>
SCFMS: Walter Beneze, 4204 45th St. Lubbock, TX 79413 <wmbenlbk@gmail.com>
SFMS: Leslie & Dave Wayment, PO Box 780791; Sebastian, FL 32978. <aastainedglass@bellsouth.net>

If you have any questions or comments – please email me at ciervo.neary@gmail.com
The 2017 AFMS Convention will be here before you know it!

Plans are still being finalized for the 2017 EFMLS/AFMS Convention and Show to be held in Raleigh, NC the weekend of April 4 – 8. This is an exciting venue to hold a show since North Carolina is home to numerous ruby, sapphire and emerald mines to name just a few of the gemstones found there.

Hosted by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, a dual Federation club (EFMLS and SFMS), the club show has always been an excellent one and the members are excited to share their annual event with us. Field trips, both during and after the show are in the planning stage.

Although a firm group rate is still being negotiated, we can tell you that the host hotel will be the Embassy Suites - Raleigh, Crabtree. A large mall with many restaurants and hotels are in the area.

Embassy Suites offers a range of amenities and services including a shuttle to and from the airport, fitness room and pool. Every room contains two rooms - a separate bedroom and separate living room. A complimentary hot breakfast is included.

The tentative schedule is for the URC meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 4 and the AFMS Annual meeting on Thursday, April 5. The EFMLS meeting will probably be held on Friday, April 6.

More information will be available on the AFMS website as contracts and schedules are finalized. Do check there often.

In the world of Rockhounding and Public Lands, not much has happened this year. There have not been any Federal Land Closures for Rockhounds. The National Monuments are still being reviewed and no formal decision affecting any monument has been made. With the wildfires and flooding across America, some Rockhounding areas may have been compromised on a temporary basis. Keep checking with the local land managers when it will be safe to re-enter the collecting areas.

California has a new State Symbol to go along with the State Rock, Serpentinite; the State Fossil, Saber-toothed Cat (Smilodon), the State Gem; Benitoite; the State Mineral, Gold; the State Prehistoric Artifact, the Chipped Bear and joining this list is now the State Dinosaur, Augustynolophus morrisi. The State Dinosaur became a reality on September 23, 2017 when Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 1540 into law.

Grassroots effort by Rockhounds are still needed, in a proactive manner, on issues where Recreational Rockhounding may be in jeopardy through Federal or state legislation, Land Management Rules and Regulations and special interest groups with strong lobby activities. If we, as Rockhounds do not get involved and speak up to make our voices heard, we could lose the ability to enjoy our Recreational Hobby of Rockhounding, now and for future generations. Get involved, attend BLM and USFS meetings in or near your areas and make the voice of the Rockhounds be heard. As United, Rockhounds can preserve the Rockhounding Hobby and keep collecting sites accessible.

A bulletin editor must be a master of resourcefulness. His or her bulletin must contain interesting articles, safety and bench tips, humor, a calendar of upcoming events and local shows – and more! In October I had the fortune to attend the Eastern Federation's show and convention, hosted by the Bristol Gem and Mineral Club, in Bristol, Connecticut.

I congratulate the club and the federation on an excellent show and convention! I was particularly impressed by their Cracker Barrel. It was an informal group of people, with Dave Korzendorfer seated on a stool at the head of the room to act as a moderator for the discussions of those clubs represented. It was noted that, among those present, were an interesting group of people! There were club officers, editors, AFMS newsletter and website chairs, the EFMLS and AFMS safety committee chairs, the EFLMS and AFMS bulletin advisors and the current and past presidents of the EFLMS and AFMS. Dave Korzendorfer noted that this convention was a great opportunity for members of clubs to tap the knowledge and experience of those human resources!

Let's take advantage of our combined resources and use our regional conventions as places where we can get together to exchange ideas and ways to improve!

At the Northwest Federation’s convention in 2016, in Albany, Oregon, the BEAC, Ronna Watkins, held an “Editor’s Cracker Barrel” where editors could come, bring samples of their bulletins to exchange and just talk. What they were doing was to use their combined resources for their common benefit! I plan to encourage that this idea be repeated at other regional and national conventions! Please join in making it successful!

Judges Wanted

Several of our regional federations are looking for people to serve as judges for their Bulletin Contests. If you can be non-partisan and help them judge their talented editors, writers, poets or artists, please let me know which area you are comfortable judging!

Mark Nelson <mnelsonair@aol.com>
AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year
from Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS Chair

California Federation
Tamela Germano of The Reno Gem and Mineral Society has held Board Member/Director positions and is an instructor specializing in Mineral ID and Ancient Jewelry. She exhibits her various collections at our meetings and show. Tamela has been guest speaker at our monthly general meeting. She is our Social Director, successfully coordinating picnics and potlucks. Tamela is treasured by many in our Society for her indomitable spirit. It is our great pleasure to proclaim Tamela Germano our 2017 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. She is dedicated to the bone!

submitted by Jennifer Rhodes

The Conojo Gem & Mineral Club is honored to recognize Mike Miller as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2017. Mike joined the Club in 1984. He was Membership chairman for one year and then Field Trip Co-Chairman for several years. Mike was Club Librarian for several years. Many times Mike has enjoyed participating in the Conojo Club Annual Shows by helping out with the show security and setting up a display exhibit case reflecting his rockhound treasures from field trips. Mike has for many years been the Lapidary Shop Chairman helping members work with what they have collected. He helps members cut cabochons, cut and polish geodes, and finish other rocks.

submitted by Robert Sankovich, President

The Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society is happy to announce that they have selected Raul Melendez as their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year 2017. Raul first joined our Club years ago but later moved to Las Vegas for his work with handicapped children. He returned to the Long Beach Club less than two years ago where he has been very active. Raul is our Vice President and in charge of our educational programs for our Club night. He is also involved with teaching people of all ages outside of our Club. He will teach everything from minerals to rocks and gemstones. Raul also enjoys field trips, lapidary arts (he has his own combo machine) and studies the metaphysical aspect of minerals.

submitted by Bruce C. Kelley, President

The San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society has selected Scott Bunn as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Since joining our club about four years ago, he has become knowledgeable and skilled in identifying various types of rock and has learned to take those from their raw state to beautiful cabs in settings. Scott has a knack for teaching; he orients new workshop members on how to use our shop equipment properly. He has helped us open up our new workshop site, repairing, restoring and maintaining some of the old donated machines. Scott is a natural at being a Director on our Executive Board, greeting and befriending all new club members and guests. He is available at club functions, meetings and fundraisers, donating his time and contributing raw rock, slabs and cabs.

submitted by Barbara Louden, Secretary

Bob Rush of the Mother Lode Mineral Society is their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Bob has been a member since 2011 and was President in 2012 and 2013. He has served on our annual Rock and Gem Show Committee as Rock Sale Chairman for six years. He started the monthly Silent Auction in 2012 for which he has provided most of the material from his personal collection. Bob is a major factor in the success of our partnership with Modesto Junior College and our agreement to utilize their facilities. He teaches several lapidary classes at MJC each year. Bob has provided numerous educational programs at the MLMS monthly membership meetings. At the CFMS level, Bob has been The MLMS Federation Director for five years, and is currently CFMS Membership Director. For two years Bob donated his time to teach lapidary arts at the CFMS Earth Science Studies program at Camp Paradise. For many years Bob and his wife Pat have entered CFMS competition at master level where they won blue ribbons for all three cases entered this year.

submitted by Candace Wiegard, President

Eastern Federation
The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse is pleased to honor Charlie and Cheryl Brown as our 2017 Rockhounds of the Year. After years of trying to relocate our club to a new facility, these two made it their mission to make it happen before winter. They doggedly pursued the matter and, after our July show, got a lease signed.

After years of the club accumulating several large collections, the Browns were key in organizing and selling a “ton” of rocks. The couple was also instrumental with organizing the cleaning out, transport and set-up in our new location, a massive amount of material and lapidary equipment during a hot summer of hard work.

While surely not seeking this well-deserved honor, we thank their well orchestrated effort - which ended on such a high note. The G&MSS is truly fortunate to have the Browns as hard working club member.

submitted by Richard Jaeger

South Central
Jan Oziass has been a member of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society for the past four years. She’s been a collector for many years and enjoys selling and trading with other Rockhounds. She’s attends rock hunts to further her collection and then she wire wraps her favorites. Since joining the club, she’s been a member of the Board and supports the club during the auctions, swap meets, and also provides refreshments for meetings. This year, during our annual show, she volunteered at the touch table and the Club booth. Both of these activities take people that are good advocates for our club. We nominated Jan for her hours of dedication to help AGMS further its goals.

Rocky Mountain Federation
The Canon City Geology Club congratulates Cathey Young as our 2017 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. She currently serves as the Board President and is the Field Trip Chairperson. She does the monthly radio program, arranges our classes and spearheaded our scholarship program. With the influx of members, and implementation of monthly auctions, we began to accrue enough money to realistically consider a scholarship program for our young people who are willing to pursue the earth sciences. We now have a program in place to give $500 to $1,000 scholarships to students who meet the criteria.

submitted by Jennifer Gerring, Vice President

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society designate Paulino and Julia Allande as our AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Julia has served as our club’s President, Program Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director. She has been our Show Chairman and is chair of the Fluorescent Display room at our shows; she has entered competitive and non-competitive exhibits at our show. She arranges for monthly exhibits in our club display case. She also is in charge or coordinating our club’s participation in the annual Gem Faire Show. Perhaps most important, Julia is the sponsor of our club’s very active and successful Junior Rockhound Program. Paulino and Julia have also served as the hospitality chairs for our club. Paulino has served our club as a Director and for several years as one of our Workshop Foreman. He is in charge of our club storage and arranges for transportation of materials to and from our Club; he puts in exhibits at both of the shows. Both Paulino and Julia both participate in our working demonstration area at both shows. Paulino is also in charge of the door prize drawings at our club meetings.

submitted by Jennifer Gerring, Vice President
AFMS Web Site Competition

by Dan Imel, AFMS Chair

It’s time to once again plan to enter the AFMS Web Site Competition!!!

Competition is at two levels, as is done with the bulletin editor’s competition. There are regional competitions in all seven regional federations and the top entries in each region are forwarded to the AFMS level for judging at the American Federation level.

The purpose of the judges at the regional level is to serve as mentors for these various clubs by giving the webmasters encouragement and friendly constructive criticism on what they are doing right and where they need to improve. If the web site is sent to the AFMS level, our AFMS judge, Wes Lingerfelt, will give a more in-depth appraisal of the website.

Please encourage your webmaster to enter the competition. While it’s always nice to win first place, the real purpose it to give feedback to encourage improvements in your club web site that will benefit your club.

How does your webmaster enter? The web-master needs to download a copy of the following three documents from the AFMS website (www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm) the 2018 Entry Form, the 2018 Score Sheet, and the 2018 Score Sheet Guidelines.

Two forms are fillable PDF files, and can be filled out on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Please fill out BOTH the one-page Entry Form completely, and top part of the Score Sheet on both pages. Please don’t fill in the scores as one person did in the past—that’s the judges’ job. When finished, e-mail both forms to your regional federation contest committee chair no later than your federation’s due date.

The Score Sheet Guidelines document goes through every item on the score sheet and explains what it is and why it’s important. EVERY club webmaster (and every contest judge!) should read the Guidelines document closely. These guidelines can help all webmasters tune up their web site, even if they decide not to enter the contest.

The first place regional federation winners will receive a certificate, and, in addition, will receive something that is far better than a certificate. They will have their entries forwarded to Wes Lingerfelt, the man who is judging at the AFMS level. Wes will give the regional first and second place winners the benefit of his wisdom, his extensive Web experience, and his knowledge of what works and what doesn’t. He will analyze each of the sites forwarded to him, and he will give useful feedback on what is being done well and how each site can be improved. Wes has an extensive background. His father was a jeweler for over 50 years so he grew up in that environment. He was in the US Navy for four years, was an aerospace engineer with ITT Corp for 30 years working on ballistic missile systems and multiple telemetry-associated projects—the most recent being as a monitor for the U.S. Air Force during new systems development. He is a member of the Orcutt Mineral Society (OMS) of Santa Maria, California and currently is the Treasurer for both the OMS and the CFMS. He is a dealer of handcrafted lapidary products and is a specialist in silver and goldsmith and jewelry repairs. In 2002 he was inducted for metal craft into the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame. He developed and maintains his company Web site and the OMS Web site.

Thank you, Wes, for agreeing to participate in our contest, for giving our regional winners the benefit of your hard-won wisdom, and for helping us achieve our goal of having rock and gem club web sites that are as good as they can be. All the contestants participating at the AFMS level will receive a certificate signifying their rank.

The results of the various regional Webmaster Contests will be announced at the annual meetings of the regional federations during their Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. The results of the AFMS and EFMLS Web Site Contest will be announced during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters during the AFMS Convention this April 8th in Raleigh, NC.

The scores of the AFMS Web Site Contest will be based on the 2018 score sheets. The 2018 score sheets can be downloaded from the AFMS Web Site. The scores of the regional Webmaster Contests will be based on the 2018 score sheets that are available on the AFMS Web Site and the OMS Web Site.

Regional Federation Chairs and contacts:
- CFMS - Merrynn O’Neill
  <mvoneill@comcast.net>
- EFMLS: Dan Imel
  <lapidry@aol.com>
- MWF - to be announced
- NFMS - Cheri George
  <cherig1946@yahoo.com>
- RMFMS - Robert Johnson
  <rmfms.web.contest@gmail.com>
- SCFMS - Don Shurtz
  <don.shurtz@gmail.com>
- SFMS - Jeff Ursillo
  <bnmjeff@aol.com>

Note: The score sheets have been updated to reflect changes in the internet over the last several years. Make sure to use the updated 2018 score sheets!!!

Why I enter the AFMS Website Contest
by Stephanie Hagiwara - 1st place 2013 & 2011 AFMS Website Contest

The short answer is impartial feedback. I have received valuable suggestions from the Judges. Participation in the contest has not only made the Website stronger, it has given the Board an opportunity to discuss what we value as a club. For example, I asked the Board’s advice on what we consider to be the “Benefits of Membership.”

Participation in the Contest has resulted in my visiting some of the winning websites. Seeing other sites generated ideas on what would add value to the end user. It is the reason we have the “Rockhound Code of Ethics” on our Field Trip page.

At the local level, it is easy to forget that our Regional and National Federations are a resource we can be using. My advice for anyone building a Club Website or Facebook page is to use the AFMS Website Contest Score Sheet as a base checklist of information to include. The reality is, it never would have crossed my mind to enter the Website Contest, if it wasn't at the suggestion of the Club’s Federation Director. It is not necessary to enter the Contest to use the information. However, the Judges feedback has been worthwhile for me.

AFMS Committees: 2017 – 18

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2017 -18. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas.

All American Club
Regina Kapta
<cigmc at comcast.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Evelyn Cataldo
<cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
<illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com>

Bulletin Editor’s Hall of Fame
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
Mark Nelson
<MNelsonair at aol.com>

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr at erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<smartin@antelecom.net>

Convention Advisory
Emerson Tucker
<emertuck at gmail.com>

Endowment Fund
Cheryl Neary
<ciervo.neary at gmail.com>

Financial Investment
Wayne Cox
<waynec3 at earthlink.net>

Historian
Jennifer Haley
<ladyuglane at napablogger.com>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts1 at comcast.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Matt Charsky
<matt2430 at comcast.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
Matt Charsky (see Long Range Planning)

Parliamentarian
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Past President’s Advisory
Matt Charsky (see Long Range Planning)

Photography
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Program Competition
Doug Moore
<steinhund at gmail.com>

Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bjb at wildblue.net>

Public Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Safety
Ellery Borow
207-547-3154

Show Consultant
Emerson Tucker
<emertuck at gmail.com>

Uniform Rules
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts1 at comcast.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Josie Middleton
<jcjems55 at yahoo.com>

Ways and Means
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci at aol.com>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart
<webmaster at amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
Dan Imel
<lapidry at aol.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Lauren Williams, President
957 E Elva St; Idaho Falls, ID 83401
<slhariur at msn.com>

Sandy Fuller, Vice President
Cheri George, Secretary
Gene Maggard, Treasurer
AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “image” of rockhounds everywhere.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions
from Emerson Tucker, Show Coordinator

It is very important for each regional federation to notify me as soon as a decision about an upcoming convention has been made so we can add the dates and location to the calendar. Our goal is to avoid regional conflicts. My contact information is on page 7.

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