It is AFMS policy that its name and logos may not be used for commercial purposes. Please notify the Central Office of any violations.

Seriously! It is Right around the Corner!!

by Cheryl Neary, AFMS Endowment Drawing Chair

Can you believe it? April 6th will be here before you and I know it- the start of the AMFS Convention. What that means to you is that you need to either purchase your tickets for the AMFS Endowment Fund soon or perhaps make a donation of either a gem, mineral, fossil or jewelry that has a value of at least $75.00 and a weight of no more than five pounds.

You can purchase tickets by sending your check made payable to AFMS Endowment to your regional representative listed below. All tickets should be purchased no later than March 25th – unless you plan on attending the convention – tickets will be available until Friday night.

Please email me if you will be making a donation. My email is ciervo.neary@gmail.com or call me on my cell at 516.449.5341 – and leave a message please.

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!

Your representative has tickets available for you to purchase. Please see the chart below for your Federation representative.

California - Heidi Hall, 233 Fairway Dr; Santa Rosa, CA 95409. <hdaffler@yahoo.com>
Eastern - Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302. <editor@amfed.org>
Midwest - J.C. & Donna Moore, 25235 N State Route 97; Cuba, IL 61427. <jcmoore3rd@gmail.com> and <mwfsecretary@gmail.com>
Northwest - Judi Allison, 1701 NW 11th St; Hermiston, OR 97838. <nfmssec@gmail.com>
Rocky Mountain - DeLane Cox, 8152 Spanker Ridge Dr; Bentonville, AR 72712 <delaneec3@earthlink.net> or Richard Jaeger, 3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137 <rjgrsci@aol.com>
South Central - Joyce Speed, 4680 Wisteria St; Dallas, TX 75211. <lislepeed2@gmail.com>
Southeast - Leslie & Dave Wayment, PO Box 780791; Sebastian, FL 32978. <aastainedglass@bellsouth.net>

Thanks for your support over the last years. 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.

continued on page 3
A Word from the President

by Sandy Fuller, President

Happy New Year! Once again, it is time to examine our successes and re-think those things that could be improved. Are we continuing to grow at a reasonable pace? Are a variety of people involved in leadership roles? Are we willing to try new ways of doing things, even if we “already tried that way back when.” Are we engaging families and children? Are we willing to try something different?

Not long ago, I received a communication from a club that had merged with another group just a few years ago. They expressed their disappointment in announcing the demise of their club. After fifty-three years, they could no longer find enough members to continue the group.

I wish they were alone in this unfortunate situation, but this story is repeated each and every year. Another club disbands, perhaps for lack of members or the inability to find someone to lead.

Are people no longer interested in minerals, fossils and lapidary arts? A recent Facebook search shows 37,912 members in the “Minerals and Gems for All” group, and 38,165 members participating in the “Rocks, Fossils & Minerals ID” group. Over 15,000 follow the Lapidary group and over 16,000 share their “Lake Superior Agate” finds. These are just a few of sites that do not allow sales or promote metaphysical properties and their membership numbers are growing rapidly. The interest is there, but how many of these enthusiasts are involved in local rockhound clubs.

One of the popular Facebook sites that I follow will often have requests for help from “newbies” to identify recent finds or strategies to prepare specimens for display. Based on the photographic evidence, numerous suggestions might be offered. Occasionally, readers might suggest places to contact for better information, perhaps including information on a local club meeting.

What would your club do if a few guests came to your next meeting, with specimens in hand, looking for information? Would you have time for their questions? Would you match them up to members who share their interests? Could you accommodate their children? Would they want to join your group?

Better yet, is your club on Facebook and other social media? Do members help direct potential new members to your activities and events? Are you extolling the virtues of joining a club as a way to learn and improve skills? Are you responding with positive information to counter misinformation or criticisms of local clubs? Are you supporting each other in these very public forums? Are you in the conversation and able to respond to comments about your local group?

In preparation for one recent event, several club members shared their club posted event on some popular rockhound focused Facebook groups and stayed involved to answer questions and provide information. As a result, over 16,000 Facebook users indicated interest in the event and over 1800 reported that they actually attended. Show attendance actually more than doubled in size and club members scrambled to make quick adjustment to better handle the crowd. What a good problem to have!

So, I hope your NewYear resolutions include some actions to reach out to new potential members and find ways to make “newbies” welcome. With the surging interest in rockhounding, our clubs could be overflowing with new members.

Sandy
Purpose of the AFMS:
To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Address corrections and changes
Subscription Information, Distribution Questions:
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Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
central_office@amfed.org
410-833-7926

Content – Letters
Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor: Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
editor@amfed.org
410-833-7926

Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)

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AFMS Endowment Drawing
continued from page 1

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

To date, I have received the following donations: (and I need more!)

#1 - Kyanite pendant and earring set wrapped in gold-filled wire donated by Doris Kean. Estimated value $25.00 (MWF)

#2 - Two bolas: Silver lace onyx, Calico, CA and Bown Biggs jasper from the border of Idaho and Oregon. Estimated value $75.00 (CFMS)

#3 - Manufactured metal burro and miner bucle and Ocean jasper bolo - green Madagascar material. Donated by Jean & Bob Stultz. Estimated value $95.00 (CFMS)

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

#5 - Amethyst crystal slice on wooden base donated by the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value $187.00 (EFMLS).

#6 - Wire-wrapped Jasper in sterling silver with chain madeand donated by Pamm Bryant. Estimated value $75.00 (EFMLS)

#7 - Petoskey stone wire-wrapped in sterling silver made and donated by Pamm Bryant. Estimated value $75.00 (EFMLS).

#8 - Framed fossil fish donated by Richard Jaeger. Estimated value $75.00 (RMFMS)

#9 - Pair of Agatized Coral from Tampa Bay, FL donated by Jean & Matt Charsky. Estimated value $125.00. (EFMLS)

#10 - Freshwater pearl necklace with silver clasp donated by Jean & Matt Charsky. Estimated value $80. (EFMLS)

#11 - Spinel from Vietnam donated by Jean & Matt Charsky. Estimated value $125.00 (EFMLS).

You can see color photographs of all the donated prizes on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org/2018_AFMS_Endowment_Fund_Drawing.pdf).

Also, please check the website every few weeks for updates. As I receive the donations, 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.

If you have any questions or comments – please email me at <ciervo.neary@gmail.com>.
AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

from Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS Coordinator

Rocky Mountain Federation

The Flatirons Mineral Club of Boulder, Colorado has selected Trick (Patrick) Reunions as its 2017 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Trick was honored for the fact the he has a new crab fossil species named after himself (circa Jan 2017). The specimen was collected in 2003 by Trick on a field trip to Baculite Mesa in Pueblo County, Colorado. Because Trick found the crab and donated it to science, it is named Zygastrocarcinus tricki in his honor.

Bill Hollingsworth from the Natrona County Rockhounds is our AFMS Club Rockhound for 2017. Bill is always taking people on field trips. Just ask him and he’ll take you!

Every year the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild selects a member as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year who exemplifies rockhounding and the comradeship in the hobby. This year the group selected Dave Sanchez, the member who always sports a smile! He joined the club in 2003 and is an accomplished metalsmith as well as cabochon cutter. Dave is known as the “go to” guy to buy, sell or trade stones. You would never see a bigger smile on a guy’s face than Dave at a rock show; he is the happiest guy there. He is very active in the club and has held three board positions since he has been a member, and is currently in charge of Ways & Means. Dave has brought in many new members and is always promoting the Guild.

The Littleton Gem and Mineral Club of Colorado announced that Jim Hooten is their AFMS Club Rockhound if the Year. Jim has been a member since 1988, that’s 29 years! Jim is the Field Trip chairman for our club, and he has been organizing and leading all the field trips all over Colorado for our club. Jim has the experience and contacts to keep our club busy all Spring, Summer, and Fall. He is an expert on Colorado mineral identification. Jim has earned the prestigious Odiorne award from the LGMSC that recognizes the best field collected specimen every year. From high on Pikes Peak at Glen Cove, to out on the plains digging for Barite, you can find Jim leading the club on day trips or overnight camping in search of Colorado’s minerals.

The 2017 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona is Don Boushelle. Don’s numerous hours of service as Board Governor, Field Trip Co-Coordinator helping coordinate and lead field trips and his superb graphic design work with Historic Wulfenite Exhibition signage at 2017 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show® and Special Commemorative Poster honoring Dr. Raymond Grant’s many miles of work. Don’s participation at Flagg Gem & Mineral and Pinal Gem and Mineral Shows promoting the hobby and society is truly inspiring. Congratulations on your selection as 2017 Rockhound of the Year as voted by general membership!

Mary Beth Paladino has been the guiding force behind the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society Kid’s Club / Rockstars. She holds monthly meetings with the kids and always has interesting projects for them to work on. She arranges presentations and field trips for them to expand their appreciation of rock collecting. Beyond the club, she provides interesting presentations for local schools and helps scout troops earn their merit badges in rock related areas. Mary Beth gives freely of her time and money to prepare projects, handouts and samples needed to make each event a success. Her efforts have a positive impact on the youth groups with which she interacts. Mary Beth is our 2017 AFMS Club Rockhound for 2017.

The 2017 AFMS Junior Junior Rockhound of the Year for the Topeka Mineral Society is Isaac Hartman. Isaac joined the club at age 14 and now at age 16 he has earned the title of TGMS Star Student. He has shown so much growth since joining the Junior Rockhound program and Topeka Gem & Mineral Society. Isaac started this program with some knowledge of rocks, fossils, minerals, and especially a desire to become a Paleontologist. Isaac worked very hard to complete all 20 badges to earn the Rock Star pin. He will start January 1, 2018 becoming one of the first Junior Reporters for the RMFMCS. Isaac takes every opportunity to visit other clubs to learn more about this field and has been offered an internship at KU in Lawrence, KS once he enters college.

The Mineralogical Society of Arizona recognizes Maggie Lyons as their AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year. Her helpful presence volunteering at MSA and Micro-Mineral booths at the 2017 Flagg Gem and Mineral Show for three days was greatly appreciated. She worked organizing booths to run more efficiently. Maggie also fills in as club secretary taking minutes on occasion and helping at general meetings with raffles and Future Rockhounds of America Junior activities. Her volunteerism at earth science and recent member benefit events promoting the hobby and society is truly inspiring.

Jayda Sumner has been selected as our AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year. She is a freshman in High School and has been an active member of the Kid’s Club / Rockstars since her family first joined the club. Jayda’s knowledge of rocks and geology is quite impressive. She is always friendly and willing to help, and the younger children look up to her as a leader. One of her interests is in the uses of rocks by indigenous people. Also, she is proficient at polishing stones and making jewelry out of the cabochons she has polished. Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society is proud to have Jayda as a member.

Shoshone Rock Club, Powell, WY, is proud to present Linda Thomas as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Linda joined the club in 1997 and has been a participating member through this year. Immediately after signing up as a new member, she accepted the position of Secretary and then went on to hold positions of Scholarship Chairman, Field Trip Leader, Treasurer, Vice President, and then President in 2004 and 2005. She has presented many programs about crystals and minerals, and has invited club members to her crystal shop and home for club business meetings. As a dealer at WSMGS rock & gems shows, she has enticed many to love crystals & rocks in general. It is a delight to have her in the Shoshone Rock Club.

South Central Federation

Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society’s 2017 Rockhound of the Year is Bryan Fritch. He has been a Club member for eight years. Bryan has been a rockhound since 1974, when he was stationed at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. He learned how to cut cabochons and has worked with silver. He said during his travels for his job, he would take his Genie along and cut cabochons. During his time with our club, he has learned wire wrapping and has become a premier wire-wraper. He has been Treasurer of the group for several years and has done an excellent job. He served one year as Society President. Bryan has worked with new members at our shop he has demonstrated wire-wrapping to our guests at many of our Annual Shows.

submitted by Chip Burnette

Northwest Federation

The Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club of Kennewick, Washington is proud to honor Bert Kae-Je as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Bert has been club treasurer for four years and helped the club in other roles too. She has attended and promoted the annual Northwest Rockhound retreat at Hancock. Bert has also coordinated silversmithing classes for our club. She willingly shares information from jewelry classes she has taken. Bert is always enthusiastic and willing to share what she knows with others. We are delighted to have Bert as a member of our Club.

submitted by Chris Sorensen, President

Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral has selected our worthy members Olan and Norma Long as AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. The Longs have been our NFMS Federation Director and Delegates and also active leading Club Field Trips. Olan provided electrical, plumbing, and construction support for new meeting hall, lapidary shop, kitchenette, and bathroom - a two-year job. Norma supports continued on page 5
many activities such our annual Gem & Mineral Show, 4th of July in the Park, collecting stamps for NFMS, etc. We are fortunate to have such dedicated, hard working members as Olan and Norma. Thank you for your service.

submitted by Vern and Suzanne Young

California Federation

Melanie DeMont has been selected as the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers’ AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2017. Usually individuals that receive this honor are “old-timers” that have demonstrated their efforts over multiple years. It was special to select a “newbie” for the honor. Melanie has been a member for about three years. This past year has to be counted as a rough one for her. Melanie is a member of the Aliso Canyon Group and as a result has had some health impacts. Despite the challenge, she volunteered to be our newsletter editor and has done an excellent job.

submitted by Gary Levitt, Federation Director

Southeast Federation

We at the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society wish to honor Travis Paris as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Travis has spent the last two years serving as the KGMS President. Over the years Travis has been instrumental in orchestrating our annual gem and mineral show. Travis has made it his mission this year to arrange a clubhouse for KGMS. He negotiated a location with USA Aggregates and organized the necessary repairs and maintenance to get the clubhouse ready for meetings. Travis has been a driving force for the Knoxville club and we would like to show our appreciation for his many years of hard work.

submitted by Gary Levitt, Federation Director

Safety Matters – Time Travel

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Time travel is a hot topic in my household. Time: lack thereof, slow passage thereof, quick passage thereof -- always fodder for a great conversation. The topic this time is about the beginning of another trip around the sun.

As new officers begin their administration of their clubs for the year ahead there is the usually a swearing in, pledging, passing of the ceremonial gavel and otherwise commencing the new term. As part of the process the outgoing editor passes to the new editor all of the salient documents related to the position. New treasurer gains check signing responsibilities and copies of all financial documents. New show chair receives all the show history files and so on. Now, what about your new safety chair?

Safety chairpersons should also receive all pertinent files from the outgoing chair. Your club does have a safety chairperson does it not? In this litigious and safety conscious society sure would suggest having one in your club. Anyway, safety files maintained by a safety person might include a club’s safety history, general and specific safety guide books, an area’s specific mine, quarry, pit, or dig safety information and requirements. There are numerous general safety guides in print. Specific rockhounding safety guides are often available through your regional rock and mineral federation. The club’s own safety history is often a vital part of the overall safety picture.

Local safety information might include information about specific local weather conditions (anomalies), local mine and quarry rules and regulations, specific safety guides for your show and meeting hall or venue. Other local items to consider are regional poisonous plants, critters, and insects. Safety concerns might also include local area flooding concerns.

Lastly, a club’s safety or first aid kit should be passed on to the new chair or the designated medical safety person, who may or may not be the safety chair. The “Kit” should then be checked for outdated meds and supplies... but that will be the topic of another Safety Matters Articles.

Seriously, keeping track of a club’s own safety files is a very important task. One might even say safety files are the more important of the time travel items... as in time to travel on to the next chair.

We wish you all a good and safe collecting season with this trip around the sun. Please remember that your Safety Matters at all times!

ACROY
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Upcoming Regional Federation Shows

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AFMS Newsletter – February, 2018
Identifying & Mentoring Members for Club Leadership Positions
by Bob Rush, CFMS Membership Committee Chair

As a result of recent surveys of the various member societies of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies one of the most pressing problems facing most societies is identifying and mentoring candidates for positions in guidance and leadership in their society. One means of achieving the goal of having enough suitable trained and willing candidates for these leadership positions is to have an ongoing dialog and nominating activities with the society’s members about the positions. This includes the position’s primary responsibilities, incidental responsibilities, the time commitment to fulfill these responsibilities and the personal rewards gained by serving in these positions.

A monthly agenda item for all the general meetings should be adhered to so that the information about the positions will always be presented and the importance of having these discussions is emphasized. The information presentation at the meeting should not exceed 5 to 7 minutes so that the general flow of the meeting isn’t disrupted or prolonged. The presentation should preferably be done by a current member in that position. It is recommended that the priority for selecting the monthly presentation be based on the most likely open leadership positions for the next year’s elections.

With these continuous presentations the importance of these positions gets elevated within the minds of the general members and there will be more interest among the members in maintaining the continuity of the society. These discussions will help educate the members and will hopefully reduce their fears and anxiety when it comes time to asking them to step up to volunteer for the positions.

Shown below is a sample guideline document that will assist in preparing and presenting the information at the general meeting.

Guidelines for a Monthly Discussion on Leadership Positions
(To be filled out for each society leadership position and used in the monthly discussion).

Position: ____________________________________________________________________

1. Primary Responsibilities:
   (These can be copied from the Bylaws or other society documents as necessary.)

2. Incidental Responsibilities:
   (These can also come from the above listed documents or discussions with members that have served in these positions)

3. Typical time commitments per week/month:

4. Special skills or training required or desired for the position (if any).

5. The personal rewards that you have experienced by serving in this position:

6. Open discussion – include asking if anyone is interested in the position that was just described.

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.
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
<cgmc 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

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
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<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
Qualities of an Editor – ‘Able to leap tall buildings in a...’

by Mark Nelson, Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair

I had the pleasure, last year, of meeting editors at the Northwest, California and Eastern federation conventions. It had the result of reinforcing my belief that our bulletin editors are key to the success of a rock and mineral club! A well-written bulletin can both attract and retain members. I'm not good at coming up with the words to describe the characteristics of a good editor, so I offer those of another more eloquent than I .......

Harold Evans, in “Newsman's English,” sums up the qualities of a good editor this way:
• Human qualities of sympathy, insight, breadth of view, sense of humor and imagination.
• A well-balanced and orderly mind, one suggesting judgment, perspective, and a sense of proportion.
• A cool head. The ability to work in an atmosphere of excitement and hurry without becoming flustered or incapable of accuracy.
• Quickness of thought — coupled with accuracy.
• Keenness, conscientiousness and ruthlessness — rightly used.
• Well-informed common sense that translates into sound judgment.
• The ability to set aside your own feelings and see things from the point of view of the reader — whose representative you are.
• A familiarity with the major laws concerning libel, copyright, invasion of privacy, and contempt.
• Dedication to physical fitness in a trying, sedentary job that takes a toll on the stomach, eyes and nerves.
• Team spirit. Publications, in order to be published regularly, require a dedication to cooperation and collaboration.

Our bulletin editors work, as they say in show business, "behind the curtain". They gather scraps torn from newspapers and magazines. They perk up in discussions and pull out a pad to make a note of something interesting. They can be seen with a camera or smart phone at club activities – taking photos of various club members. They cajole board members to get reports submitted on time. As the end of the month nears, it’s not unusual for an editor to lock him or herself away from distractions in front of a keyboard for two or three days to get a bulletin ready for proof-reading!

To all of these ‘unsung heroes’ I wish you a Happy New Year — filled with sharp pencils and fresh ideas!

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.