Rockhound Soapbox

by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

A committee is defined as a group of people chosen or appointed to perform a specified service or function, as to investigate or act upon a particular matter.

The United States of America is over 3.8 Million Square Miles in size and of that over 2.28 Million Square Miles (1,459.2 Million Acres) is “Public Lands” owned by the taxpayers of the United States and managed by various agencies of our Federal Government for and on behalf of the Citizens of the United States. Some of this land is not accessible to the American Public as in Military Installations and some parts of National Monuments, National Forests and National Parks.

The AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee is tasked to investigate and act upon matters concerning Recreational Rockhounding on your Public Lands. This is a monumental task when all of the Public Lands of the United States are considered. There are some public lands in all 50 states and some of this land is appropriate to support Recreational Rockhounding activities. This 1,459.2 Million Acres of public land in all fifty states is more area than can be assessed and investigated for potential restrictions, loss of access and closure to the Recreational Rockhound than one person can effectively cover. With tens of thousands of AFMS Members in the United States, statistically, there should be at least one AFMS member with the desire and passion in each state to help keep Recreational Rockhounding a viable recreational activity that all can enjoy.

With nearly a decade of being an active member and chair of the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee I know how involved and time consuming this activity can be. Nevertheless the work must continue if Recreational Rockhounding is to survive in this time of change and regulations. I also recognize and accept the fact that a committee of 50 is as non functional as a committee of one. I am now looking to find seven to ten pro-active Rockhounds within the AFMS who have the desire and passion to be part of a committee that will be trying to preserve Recreational Rockhounding as a functional activity on your public lands. If you are one of these AFMS Rockhounds please contact me and we will discuss your appointment to this important committee. I can be reached at either of the email address above.

I thank you for your time and consideration.
A Word from the President

by Sandy Fuller, AFMS President

As I make my way east in the first of many trips this year to visit our seven federations and almost 54,500 members, I just had to take a short detour to visit Flint Ridge OH and collect some of the colorful materials found there. I knew the young visitors to our annual show would love to add some of the flint and colorful chert to their rock boxes.

There were a few very serious diggers going at the hard rock with sledge hammers and pry bars while some of us were content to just check out the small “leavings” left by others. In a brief chat with one young woman, she said, “I just like pretty rocks.”

In our quest for pretty rocks and not so pretty ones, many of us will be visiting collecting sites across the nation, and even across the world. At each site we visit we are ambassadors for all the casual and serious collectors. It is up to us to model responsible collecting and care for the areas we visit. Our AFMS Code of Ethics provides a great foundation for our behavior in the field.

But our behavior in the small towns near collecting areas also reflects on all of us. When my large club visited a small town for the weekend, local merchants asked us to spread our business across the various “mom and pop” restaurants and break into smaller groups when traipsing across town. Because our group took these suggestions to heart, we are welcomed each year at a favorite collecting locale.

In some areas, clubs are doing trash clean up at roadside and collecting sites, especially in public areas, to help take care of collecting areas. Still others are getting involved in local planning initiatives to keep collecting sites open. Their actions benefit all of us.

On the other hand, there are always a few who brag about flouting the law and property boundaries to collect in off limits areas. It is their behavior that hurts all collectors and leads to the closing of collecting locales. As club members we need to vigilant in identifying those who flaunt our ethics and take appropriate actions to limit the damage they inflict on all of us.

Let’s give a round of applause to those hard working, yet quiet, folks who have gone out of their way to do something above and beyond for their club this year. It can be done so simply; just by submitting a short write-up of the person’s special contribution to your Regional Rockhound of the Year Chairperson.

Note that one of the key words here is “short”. This is not meant to be a life’s biography. It is a paragraph or so honoring the person(s) for a special contribution during the specific year. An example might be giving credit to “Joe” who attends every monthly meeting, shows up to quietly help with all aspects of the show, graciously passes on his door prize when he wins one (usually to a child or new attendee), brings ice cream as an extra treat for the potluck. With his quiet demeanor, Joe doesn’t want to be an officer, but without his contributions the club would be lacking something special.

I am sure every club has persons who have given a great deal to their club; both those who have been officers, chairpersons and heralded other activities and the “Joe’s” of the club. You get to decide who you honor. Just remember, like a round of applause, it is a “short” accolade for your member.
Safety Matters: The Price of Safety
by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

The price of safety is rarely discussed. Having read many manuals of OSHA safety, MSHA safety, corporate safety, Federation safety, workshop safety and club safety, rarely is there ever a mention of why. Why be safe? And, at what cost? One might think the answers are obvious Safety but if so, why are not more people striving toward being safe?

Curious as to the why and what of safety, I have asked many folks those questions about safety. Their answers include:
- It costs too much.
- It takes too much time.
- It is too distracting.
- My own safety ideas are better.
- No one was watching so I didn’t need to. and my own personal favorite -
- I’m a lucky kind of guy.

Well, let us evaluate those answers. Yes, I will freely admit that if one suffers a minor laceration and applies a 15 cent adhesive bandage (injury) compared with the cost of an eight dollar pair of gloves (prevention) it appears that the prevention could be more expensive than the cost of the injury. But what about a $900 dollar emergency room visit to remove a foreign body from the eye (injury) compared with the cost a pair of three dollar goggles (prevention). In that case prevention is far cheaper.

Taking too much time? Too much time (three seconds) to lower and secure the hood of slab saw. Too much time to buckle ones automobile seat belt (two seconds)? Too much time to put on and adjust eye safety goggles (four seconds)? Too much time to walk over and turn on the ventilation fan for the soldering torch fume exhaust hood (nine seconds)? Really? Too much time?

Distraction does indeed occur with some safety gear. Gloves might not fit well. Goggles may indeed restrict some vision. Hearing protection sometimes muffles quiet voices. I would however submit that undamaged hands, injury free eyes and slightly muffled voices may be preferred, in most cases, over a slight amount of inconvenience.

While ones own safety ideas may, at times, be advantageous in certain unique circumstances, tool, equipment, and hobby supply instructions have been well thought by experts in the area. Please give considerable weight to the collected wisdom of manufacturers, suppliers and various safety organization’s offerings.

“No one was watching so I didn’t need to.” Do I really need to talk about this one? To the individual who offered this response - if you are reading this please remember it is not just about you.

You no doubt have brothers or sisters, husband or wife or significant other, parents, neighbors, friends, or a four footed friend who cares about you. If you don’t want to be safe for yourself, please consider being a bit altruistic and be safe for the special people in your life.

I’m a lucky kind of guy. Hmmmm, are there any mathematics majors out there? Answer me this if you will - after performing a heads or tails coin toss game 10 times in a row and obtaining heads each time - what are the odds that, on the 10th time, it will be heads? The odds are again, still 50/50. Each toss of a coin, each strike of a chisel by a hammer, each lighting of a torch is a new game. In each instance of a possible unsafe act please consider doing the right thing and be safe.

Safety is more than any rule book, sometimes it even defies “common sense” (shouldn’t that 11th toss of the coin also come up heads?). Safety is an attitude, an attention to detail, and a certain modicum of creativity.

Your safety matters, no why’s or what’s about it.
Programs

As I read more about the early history of our hobby, I am impressed by the similar comparisons with today’s focus in making one’s home society stand out and shine as best we can, just like that cab we work so hard on. Our societies have always looked towards innovative ideas as a way to attract new members, and to become well known within their communities.

In the early days between the 30’s and 40’s, some societies but not a lot then, began creating activity programs for youth and family engagement. Look where we are today, and how expansive our junior programs have become across the nation with the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. Our outreach programs to the schools has been a lasting winner! Think about how many children have gone through these programs our societies provide.

Now imagine a world without computers in which to gain information about the various earth sciences. In the early days, societies began accumulating mineralogical and geological books, along with periodicals to create an up to date and interesting library for their membership. These libraries were very important to them then. Members were encouraged to give book reports for the bulletins, and others excited about what they learned, created programs to share with their fellow members.

As some societies began acquiring equipment for their meeting programs, they also realized they could gather more community awareness about the earth sciences, by offering programs to local organizations and museums who didn’t charge visitors for these events. Back then modern technology was motion pictures and lantern slides. Society equipment was even loaned to museums for their own programs.

It was a way of fellowship to visit each other’s societies near and far whenever one could. Societies embraced meeting long distance travelers from other clubs, who offered show and tell programs about their stories, collected material and collections not familiar to their audience.

Saving History – The E-Yearbook

I watched a rock and mineral club die this past year. It was hard to watch, as this grand lady of clubs was well known in the region – having been in existence for more than half a century. The veterans of the club were wonderful and talented people and their meetings, field trips and shows attracted a lot of interest! As time went by the ability of the club executives began to diminish and some activities were dropped. Display cases at their own shows were fewer each year and no one displayed at other club shows. The bulletins began to skip months and the web site was not updated. Membership dropped to record lows. When new blood came aboard there was no one to tell them of how the club operated when it was in its prime or what standards the club should meet!

AFMS recognizes that it is important that a club keep active and do those things that keep it interesting and viable for its members and in the community. They do this through the All American Club Award Program. This annual program encourages clubs to do those things that make clubs successful. It sets a series of standard activities that an active club should be doing. Among these are being a good neighbor, supporting other clubs and government initiatives, and providing an avenue of learning and growth for its members. It also serves to provide an organized approach to an historical record of a club’s activities, and provide a means for national recognition of these exceptional clubs.

The club leadership works together in planning activities during the year that will enable it to meet the standards set by the All American Program for the goal of creating a “Yearbook” summarizing these activities. The All American Club Award is given to the individual club Yearbook, highlighting a club’s activities for the past year, including group activities, individual member participation, workshops and shows. Credit is given for attendance at regional and national shows, participation in competitive displays and at meetings, holding officer positions on various committees, Junior activities, for club members volunteering as Judges for AFMS contests, writing to state representatives and involvement in ALAA. All these activities reflect an active club that makes membership worthwhile for everyone! At the end of the year the chair of the Yearbook Committee, usually the Bulletin Editor, compiles the activities, documentation, letters, flyers, materials, details, names and photos into this record.

At year end the club Yearbook report is submitted to their federation’s Yearbook Committee Chair. Each report is read and judged for completeness and quality, as well as inclusion of those activities thought to make a well-rounded club. This is not a competition between clubs, but rather a competition of each club against a ‘national standard’, established by a committee of judges and regional chairmen. Those clubs that have met the standards are recognized with an All American Club Award. The Award is broken into two categories: large clubs (100 members or more) and small clubs (less than 100 members). Junior clubs with five or more members can also submit entries. Gold, Silver, Bronze awards and an overall 1st place gold award are given, based on a point-count system. This award is one that is a source of pride in the club – letting its members and the community know that it has been recognized for meeting international standards.

Take a look at what your club has accomplished this past year, and give credit where credit is due! The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more completely it can serve as an historical document for the club, as well as an excellent tool to encourage prospective members. Once this Yearbook report took the form of a paper scrapbook. Now it is becoming digital and submitted in PDF format. The AFMS Web Site has detailed applications and examples of previous years award winners.

I encourage each club to help save your club’s future! This month is a perfect time to gather the material from the year to now and to plan on assembling the Yearbook for submission at year’s end!

Convention Packets

Anyone wishing to receive the full report packet from the AFMS meeting should contact Secretary Donna Moore no later then June 15.

AFMS Newsletter – June-July, 2018
President Sandy Fuller called the meeting to order. J.C. Moore gave the invocation. President Elect Doug True led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Sandy asked for the federation representatives to read their lists of those members who had passed away since the last convention. A minute of silence was held in their memory.

Sandy then greeted everyone, and noted that we are a nationwide fellowship with our collecting passion.

Eastern Federation President Barbara Ringhiser welcomed everyone to the Eastern part of the convention. She said she hoped everyone had a great time while in Raleigh. It is great to make new friends and greet old ones. No one was present from the Tar Heel club at this time.

Sandy introduced the AFMS Officers including President-Elect Doug True, 1st Regional Vice President David Wayment, 2nd Regional Vice President Delane Cox, 3rd Regional Vice President Margaret Kolaczyk, 4th Regional Vice President’s representative Matt Charsky sitting in for Carolyn Weinberger, 5th Regional Vice President Roger Burford, and Secretary Donna Moore. Sandy explained that Treasurer Pat LaRue was not present because it was tax season.

Sandy recognized the Past Presidents of the AFMS who were present including Ron Carman, Matt Charsky, Richard Jaeger, Lauren Williams, and Bob Carlson.

**Business Meeting**

Donna Moore announced there was a quorum with all officers or their representative, except Pat LaRue, present and all directors or their representatives present. Representatives included J.C. Moore and Barbara Sky representing MWF President and Vice President David Root and Kevin Ponzio; and Liz Burford and Josie Middleton representing South Central Federation President and Vice President Roger Burford and Jerrold Simpson.

Barbara Sky moved to adopt the printed Rules of the Meeting. Doug True seconded the motion, which passed.

J.C. Moore moved to adopt the Agenda. Delane Cox seconded the motion, which passed.

Parliamentarian Ron Carmen welcomed everyone, and explained the meeting would be run by Roberts Rules of Order as well as adhering to the AFMS By Laws and Constitution.

Secretary Donna Moore explained the minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting in 2017 had been printed in the AFMS Newsletter and were in the packet. Roger Burford moved to approve the minutes as presented. J.C. Moore seconded the motion, which carried.

President Fuller then asked for Officer's Reports. She noted that the president's report was in the packet. She added that it was still early in her term. She is writing a column for each newsletter and planning to visit the various regional federation conventions. She noted that we are not a top-down organization. We work together to support the regions and make our organization strong.

President Elect Doug True had a printed report on the table.

1st Vice President David Wayment had a report in the packet.

2nd Vice President Delane Cox had a report in the packet.

3rd Vice President Margaret Kolaczyk had a report in the packet.

4th Vice President Representative noted there was a report in the packet.

5th Vice President Roger Burford had a report in the packet. He noted that his correct e-mail address is la.navy2307@gmail.com not hotmail.

Secretary Donna Moore's report was in the packet.

Treasurer Pat LaRue had a report in the packet with additional information that was handed out at the meeting in her absence.

President Fuller then called for Director's Reports.

California Federation President Jennifer Haley had a report in the packet as well as an addendum handed out at the meeting. California Vice President Tony Fender had no report.

Eastern Federation President Barbara Ringhiser had a report in the packet. Eastern Vice President David Nock had no report.

Midwest Federation President David Root had a report in the packet. His representative to the meeting J.C. Moore noted that the dates for the 2019 AFMS/MWF Convention should be March 23-14, 2019. Barbara Sky representing MWF Vice President Kevin Ponzio had no report.

Northwest Federation President Keith Fackrell had a report in the packet. Vice President Ronna Watkins had no report.

Rocky Mountain Federation President Liz Thomas had a report in the packet. Rocky Mountain Federation Vice President Bob Regner had no report.

South Central Federation President's representative was Liz Burford. Roger had a report in the packet. South Central Federation Vice President Representative Josie Middleton was sitting in for Jerrold Simpson.

Southeast Federation President Craig Hamilton had a report in the packet. Southeast Federation Vice President Reggie Bolton had no report.

President Fuller asked for Committee Reports.

AFMS All American Club – Regina Kapta had no report. Roger Burford would present the awards at the banquet.

AFMS Boundaries – Robert Carlson had a report in the packet that there were no issues. AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year – Evelyn Cataldo had no report. This position needs to be filled.

AFMS Newsletter – Carolyn Weinberger had a report in the packet.
AFMS Meeting Minutes (continued)

Auditing/Review – Pat LaRue had a report in the packet update.
Bulletin Editors’ Hall of Fame – Carolyn Weinberger had a report in the packet.
Bylaws Revisory – Steve Weinberger had a report in the packet.
Central Office – Steve Weinberger had a report in the packet.
Commemorative Stamps – Wendell Mohr had no report.
Conservation and Legislation – John Martin had report in the packet. Assistant Susan Martin issued an impassioned plea to get the public lands person in each federation to send a paragraph or two a couple times a year to John Martin so he can add to articles. She stressed that something positive is good.
Doug True added that if anyone is saying an area is closed, to check on it. Some areas reported closed have been found to actually still be open. They may be doing updates at the facility or area. Check before sending out information.
Endowment Fund – Cheryl Neary had a written report. She noted she was still selling tickets for the drawing on Saturday.
Financial Investment Committee – Wayne Cox reported he is still trying to get the papers from Merrill Lynch so the committee can review the information.
Historian – Jennifer Haley had a report in the packet.
Inter-Regional Field Trips – Doug True had a report on the table. He noted that there is nothing planned for 2018 or 2019, but he is working on something possibly in early fall in South Dakota in 2020. He is watching the weather patterns and is working with a rancher as well as checking out the grasslands, where different kinds of agates can be found. Fossils would be available on private land.
Junior Programs – Jim Brace-Thompson had a report in the packet.
Judges Training – Marion Roberts had no report.
Long Range Planning – Ron Carman reported no activity.
Name Badge Committee – Frank Mullaney had no report.
Nominating Committee – Ron Carman reported the proposed slate of officers for next year in his written report in the packet.
Past President’s Advisory – Ron Carman reported no activity.
Photography – Steve Weinberger had a written report.
Program Competition – Doug Moore had a report in the packet. This position is now vacant.
Public & International Relations – Bob Jones had a report in the packet.
Safety – Ellery Borow had a report in the packet.
Scholarship Foundation – Lauren Williams had a report in the packet. He noted that donations are the only source of funding for these scholarships. The foundation meeting would take place right after this AFMS Meeting.
Show Consultant – Emerson Tucker had a report in the packet.
Uniform Rules – B. Jay Bowman had a report in the packet. Barbara Sky had sat in for Jay at the Uniform Rules meeting. She reported only one item of business, a change in a beading rule.
Uniform Rules Eligibility Files – Josie Middleton had a report in the packet. She asked federation chairs to fill out a sheet passed out or e-mail it to her.
She needs information from 2015 to present. She has no written records of exhibitors. She has not received the files from Anne Cook yet.
Ways and Means – Richard Jaeger had a report in the packet.
Website/Webmaster – Marty Hart had a report in the packet. She needs information from 2015 to present. She has no written records of exhibitors. She has not received the files from Anne Cook yet.
Web Site Contest – Dan Imel had no report.
DeLane Cox moved to accept the reports. David Wayment seconded the motion, which carried.

Unfinished Business
None brought up.

New Business
Doug True presented the proposed 2018-19 Budget. He handed out copies while explaining there was an increase of $550-600 over last year. Last year Sandy had a good breakdown. He had proposed an increase in Program Services of about $100.
Ron Carman noted membership was okay. He made a clarification that the correct number was 28,030. Roger Burford moved to approve the budget as presented. J.C. Moore seconded the motion, which passed. Sandy noted the budget was adopted for next year.

Doug True brought up that all federation events used to be four day events. He wondered about the AFMS meetings moving to Friday to save some AFMS people an extra day of expenses in attending. DeLane Cox suggested having morning and afternoon meetings instead of one evening and one day set aside for AFMS. Josie Middleton noted the rules meeting needed to get things lined up. J.C. Moore said the rules meeting might be on Thursday evening instead of Wednesday as before. Barbara Sky suggested even the afternoon before could be used for the rules meeting, then the evening would be left to work out judging details. Lauren Williams noted that some people had to have meetings, get cases set up, marked and judged. Matt Charsky said it depends on the federation. The Eastern starts on Friday afternoon. Bob Carlton noted that he is the dinosaur in the group. Back in the day, the rules committee meetings were often two to three days long. He said they have to do the local judging first. Last year there were seventy exhibits. Sandy Fuller added that there were times when the AFMS could be later if there were not as many days for the show or as many competitive exhibits. The planning committee would have to consult with the Uniform Rules chairman. The AFMS could meet on Friday if it could be done. The need is to communicate. Roger Burford said in their area, the clubs have two-day shows.

After a question as to whether there was anything in the bylaws that said the AFMS Meeting had to be on Thursday, Secretary Donna Moore read Article V 1. of the AFMS ByLaws referring to Meetings. It was determined there was nothing dictating which day the meeting needed to take place.
AFMS Meeting Minutes (continued)

J.C. Moore moved that a club or region may schedule the AFMS meeting on Friday provided it is announced a year in advance and if cleared with the rules committee. Doug True seconded the motion. Liz Thomas said they had 33 displays and didn't know a year prior. So, it can't take effect for a year in advance. Josie Middleton said if we tabled this discussion there could be more discussion at the next meeting. J.C. Moore pointed out that next year the convention is in the center of the country, we might have more displays. However, it was noted that the last time the AFMS came to the MWF, there were only three competitive exhibits. It was noted that the question had to be, “Can the judging all be done?” Cheryl Neary asked if we could limit the number of exhibits. She was told we could not do that. Ron Carman said we don't want to put too many restrictions on the host clubs.

Sandy called for the vote. There were 10 yes votes, 6 no votes and 3 abstentions. The motion passed. It was noted the officers will clarify the legality. Sandy thought the AFMS for next year would not apply.

There was no other new business.

Ron Carman presented the proposed list of officers to be elected: President – Doug True, President-Elect – David Wayment, First Regional Vice President – Judy Beck, Second Regional Vice President – Margaret Kolaczyk, Third Regional Vice President – Cheryl Neary, Fourth Regional Vice President – Roger Burford, Fifth Regional Vice President – J.C. Moore, Treasurer – Pat LaRue for another 2-year term. Secretary Donna Moore has one year to go on her 2-year term. There were no additional nominations. Barbara Sky moved to elect all by acclamation. Keith Fackrell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Sandy thanked everyone for agreeing to serve. The installation will take place at the banquet.

Approval of the AFMS Central Office Administrator contract was needed. Sandy said it would be the same contract with the same duties. Roger Burford moved to approve the contract. J.C. Moore seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

It was announced the 2019 AFMS Convention will be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 23-24, 2019. Sandy noted this will be another year with early deadlines for competitions. The 2020 Convention has no date or place. The AFMS will be in the Southeast Federation. They are talking to a couple of places, possibly Knoxville.

Sandy had asked Pat LaRue for updated numbers for members. The report will be in the newsletter. We are healthy, but we need more members.

Mary Bateman announced that the Editors Breakfast is being held Sunday morning at the hotel. There will be door prizes, etc. The meeting is at 8:30. You can attend the awards portion, but do not need to be at breakfast.

Ronna Watkins invited everyone to the NWFS Show on April 27-29 in Yakima, Washington. Information is available at yakimarockclub.com. There will be a field trip.

President Fuller thanked everyone for coming and participating.

DeLane Cox moved to adjourn the meeting. Margaret Kolaczyk seconded the motion. President Fuller declared the meeting adjourned.

Lauren Williams announced the Scholarship Meeting would begin in 15 minutes.

Submitted by Donna Moore, AFMS Secretary

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Emerson Tucker, Show Coordinator

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<th>Year</th>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>AFMS April 6 - 8 Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL</td>
<td>April 27-29 Yakima, WA</td>
<td>July 20-22 Rapid City, SD</td>
<td>May 5-6 Lubbock, TX</td>
<td>Sept. 21 - 23 Jacksonville, FL.</td>
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<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
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<td>matt2430 at comcast.net</td>
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<td>steinhund at gmail.com</td>
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<td>B. Jay Bowman</td>
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<td>Josie Middleton</td>
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<td>Lauren Williams, President</td>
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<td>Sandy Fuller, Vice President</td>
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