Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a splendid holiday season. At this time of year, besides making a resolution to exercise and lose weight that we never quite accomplish, most of us look forward to learning new things. I recommend getting involved with displaying cases, for competition or not, and judging cases.

Leslie and I were involved in our local federation, but not involved at the American level until we took a Judging Class in Reno, NV. We had family living there, and it seemed like a good way to take a vacation and learn what competitive cases were all about. When we had asked before, all we were told was read the rules, but they seemed too complicated to understand. When we attended the class, we were the only students from east of the Mississippi River. Walking into the class we were treated as long lost relatives, not strangers. That began our many friendships with fellow rockhounds from all across the country. We have attended all the AFMS shows since that time, both to judge cases and more especially to see friends.

The judging classes are very beneficial to anyone wanting to display cases, whether you want to learn to judge or not. Over the last 20 years a great effort was made to remove any personal bias from the rules, so a case would be judged the same no matter which federation it is judged in. One thing I have noticed in traveling to the different regions is the variety of focus of the cases depending on the region. While mineral collecting is big is some federations, jewelry making is big in others. It is good to see the differences.

There is a judging class scheduled for the NFMS show in Ogden, Utah this April. We also hope to be able to schedule a second class at the AFMS show in Knoxville, Tennessee this October. Even if you have been a judge for a long time, it is good to renew your skills, especially if you are not familiar with the rules for our newest divisions, Beading and Meteorites.

The Federations Need You! by Beth Heesacker, NFMS 1st VP

We currently need AFMS-certified Judges to evaluate and critique the competitive display cases at our annual shows. This is an important function that enables us both to continue support for our members and to improve their skills as exhibitors. It also seems that most of the other regional Federations desperately need more certified judges.

Plans are in the works to hold AFMS-certified training classes in conjunction with the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society Show and NFMS meetings next year in Ogden, Utah. The training takes 3-4 days and would start before the Ogden show and continue throughout the show. The tentative dates are April 9-12, 2020.

There will probably be a small fee for attending the classes to cover the cost of the lunch during training, but the AFMS instructors will be free. Attendees’ room costs are not finalized yet and travel costs will, of course, vary. Those costs—or a portion of them for each attendee—should be paid by their respective federation.

We need to get some idea of how many people are interested, and which Federations are interested in supporting their members who are willing to attend.

If you are interested in being trained for this vital position, or if you are a Federation interested in participating, please email Beth Heesacker, NFMS 1st VP at heesacker@coho.net and let me know. If you have questions, please email also.

As details come together, I will keep you posted and forward the registration form to you. Thank you so much for considering serving in this very important capacity.
The AFMS
Proudly Serving
Seven Regional
Federations

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Endowment Fund: What’s It All About?  Cheryl Neary
AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies has established the AFMS Endowment Fund that I write to you about in this and past newsletters.

What is an endowment fund?

According to James Cheng, April 2019 in Investopedia (website):

“An endowment fund is an investment fund established by a foundation that makes consistent withdrawals from invested capital. The capital in endowment funds, often used by nonprofit organizations, is generally utilized for specific needs or to further a company’s operating process. Endowment funds are typically funded entirely by donations that are deductible for the donors.

Financial endowments are typically structured so the principal amount invested remains intact, while investment income is available or immediate funding for use to keep a nonprofit company operating efficiently.”

The AFMS Endowment Fund works as stated above. Monies from the interest generated is used to support special projects, such as, funds used to support the AFMS Junior Program.

Which leads me to the following thoughts.

Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Program Chair, has developed a wonderful program. As we all are aware, we are not getting any younger, so as a federation, we need to turn to the younger generations. The AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Manual, currently being updated to the Fifth Edition, is an excellent resource for any club interested in starting a pebble pups division or Junior program.

Every club should consider having such an organization. Why? Simply for the following reasons: 1) to perpetuate the hobby; 2) for both adults and children to learn something new; 3) for sharing enthusiasm about the hobby; 4) for viewing the hobby from the view of a newcomer.

Remember the saying out of the mouths of babes? Well, just maybe, a youngster in your organization will have something valuable to add to your club!

Years ago, I had asked several of my club members, “How did you get involved with the club?” Not so surprisingly, the answer was because of their children. One member’s child had a school project in the fourth grade. Each student had to learn about the geography of the area where one of their grandparents lived.

What is geography? According to National Geographic’s website:

“Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore both the physical properties of Earth’s surface and the human societies spread across it. They also examine how human culture interacts with the natural environment and the way that locations and places can have an impact on people. Geography seeks to understand where things are found, why they are there, and how they develop and change over time. Physical geography is the study of Earth’s seasons, climate, atmosphere, soil, streams, landforms, and oceans.”

This particular student picked Staten Island, where her dad’s parents lived. This is where her Dad grew up. Her dad had no idea of the turbulent geologic history of the area or of a metamorphic rock known as serpentinite. So, father and daughter together learned how the physical geography, which includes the geology of the area, affected the cultural development of the area. This is just one story that sticks in my mind. There are many more!

What can you do to support the AFMs Future Rockhounds of America? You can support the Endowment Fund. How can you support the Fund?

Two simple ways:

1. Buy tickets from your local federation representative listed on page X. Tickets are reasonably priced at $5.00 for one or 5 for $20.00.

2. Donate a piece related to the hobby which has a minimum value of $75.00 and weight of no greater than 5 pounds. What is a piece related to the hobby? Rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, jewelry, books or machinery. As we get older and decide we are no longer interested in clutter, perhaps you will think about donating a piece or two. Remember, one man’s clutter is another man’s treasure!

Through donations, the AFMS can help support the many pebble pup groups in this country. Think beyond the present to the future of our hobby—support the Endowment Fund. Visit the website to see pictures of donations to date.

Call (516-449-5341) or email me (ciervo.neary@gmail.com) if you have a donation, are interested in purchasing tickets, or have a question or comment.
**Having Fun: Junior Activities**

I started our AFMS/FRA Badge Program in 2003, unveiling our first set of 6 badges in 2004. We are now up to 20 badges, plus a Membership patch, a Rockhound badge, and a Rock Star pin—all provided to participating kids absolutely free! From the start, my goal was to make the program accessible to any of the 600 societies within AFMS and to any kids in an affiliated club. Thus, we have always provided enrollment and badges at absolutely no cost whatsoever. And, we recently reached a true landmark: over 15,000 activity badges awarded to kids, along with over 4,500 membership patches! All provided absolutely free!

But, as we all know, nothing in life truly comes at no cost. At first, all expenses for this program were covered by the normal AFMS budget, but it was soon rolled into the AFMS Endowment Fund thanks largely to the efforts of Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson. Thanks to this fund, for the past 16 years we’ve been able to provide free badges to all participating clubs even though it has cost AFMS nearly $20,000 over the 16 years that the badge program has existed.

Keeping this a free service has required carefully scrutinizing and minimizing costs. Thus, rather than provide printed copies of the Badge Manual, for instance, we provide the manual on the AFMS website and encourage participating clubs to access it online or to download and print it in whole themselves or to print just the sections they need. Rather than produce new badges each year, we’ve capped our badges at 20 while every 4 years updating and expanding the activities that go into earning each badge. By respecting AFMS budgets and keeping the program affordable, we’ve been able to continue to provide this as a free service.

Occasionally, I’ve received queries from junior program leaders of local clubs asking about how kids might display the badges they’ve earned. This has varied from club-to-club. Most have an official club vest for both adult and junior members, and most have their kids sew badges onto these. Others have produced sashes similar to those used by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. One club has purchased baseball caps with their insignia on the front, and kids sew badges onto the cap. Yet another club issues all incoming kids a canvas bag to which they sew badges as they earn them (and they then use the bags to hold supplies when engaging in club activities and earning new badges). In short, the ways to display earned badges are many, and they vary from club-to-club as an individualized local issue.

I’ve occasionally encountered leaders of local juniors programs who have been rather adamant that AFMS should provide vests or sashes for juniors to go along with the free badges. Either that or contract with and provide a source to prepare said vests or sashes. However, we are not in the garment business. Just as the regional and national federations do not provide vests for adult members of individual societies, I don’t believe it reasonable to expect us to provide such a service for our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, especially if we wish to continue to keep this program free. The alternative—should we wish to go “full service,” so to speak—is to start charging fees. And what would that mean?

In search of concrete examples, I visited the home page of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). BSA does indeed provide sashes, but at a cost to kids and parents of $10.99. They also provide shirts to which badges can be sewn at prices ranging $24.99 to $39.99. Want a cap? Be prepared to spend $14.99 to $17.00. Want a “BSA patch vest”? Shell out $14.99. And as for badges themselves, to get a BSA merit badge you need to pay $2.79 each.

By comparison, and to reiterate, each and every AFMS/FRA badge is provided entirely free!

My personal preference is to follow the dictates of the KISS maxim—keep it simple and basic to minimize expenses and efforts. This is especially important for a fairly modest program funded by AFMS (which has limited funds) and run entirely by volunteers, who freely give of their own time.

If there is anyone out there who might be interested in providing a service to local clubs by starting up an independent business to sew vests and sashes in all the varied colors of the 600 AFMS-affiliated clubs, I welcome hearing from you. I would gladly recommend your services to clubs who use the badge program. Otherwise, again, let us pursue KISS in order to keep this program accessible to any and all clubs and to any and all parents and kids, regardless of incomes and means, in order to encourage kids by freely rewarding them for learning while having fun!
California Federation

The Anaheim Searchers nominate Adrian Callard this year for this prestigious award. Adrian, originally from Namibia, has been in the club for 15 years. During that time he has run the workshop twice a week for 7 years and the kitchen at the annual show for the same amount of time. He loves geology and field trips! And he has a large collection of stones and polished specimens. He and his wife, Cynthia, are very involved in a mostly organic community garden in Orange where they grow all types of unusual crops such as parsnips, rhubarb, acaia beans, and kabocha along with papaya, peas, tomatoes, and spinach. We are lucky to have him as a member. Submitted by Nancy Bird, Federation Director

Karol Stull can be relied upon to produce the Rockhound Ramblings Newsletter and guide the Pasadena Lapidary Society on field trips. He is pleasant, welcoming, and encouraging to both new and old members to approach him with ideas and questions. He serves on the Board as Bulletin Editor, Historian, Field Trips Coordinator, Parliamentarian, and Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. He volunteered to assist Sylvia Cliffe in teaching her carving class at the workshop. He takes pictures of members' lapidary creations. He makes sure that the bulletin/newsletter reflects the members of the society (past and present), their activities and contributions, encourages members to write articles and send in pictures for the bulletin, and is creative in his approach. His tactful, honest, principled and fair manner is very helpful in board meetings. He is dedicated and dynamically involved in many facets of our group activities. Submitted by Joe Goetz

Whittier Gem and Mineral Society proudly select Danielle Sanchez as our Jr. Rockhound of the Year. Danielle is motivated and caring about people, education, health and welfare. She is active in the society, and she is the getting society involved in helping a school in the Philippines for her Girl Scout Gold Project. Submitted by Joe Goetz

Joe and Marcia Goetz have held just about every office in the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society over the years. They have been hard workers at all of these offices organizing and getting rock shows and as working the show itself. They have helped out the society by storing a lot of the society owned rock and equipment at their home. Marcia has organized for the society to meet and greet the public at events at our local libraries. Submitted by Sandie Fender

Eastern Federation

On behalf of the Lapidary and Mineral Society Central Connecticut, we would like to honor two of our longstanding members for the 2019 Club Rockhound of the Year. Jim Smigel and Tony Pilla help with many of our activities especially our collecting sites. In addition to prepping our Societies Fonda Herkimer Claim, they have also hosted over 10 EMFLS Societies in the region to collect at the Hewitt Quarry in Connecticut. Tony and Jim gave countless hours and significant effort to arrange these visits. The LMSCC hopes the EMFLS will recognize Jim Smigel and Tony Pilla for our own Society but also their efforts in promoting the good will of field collecting among other member societies throughout the Eastern Federation. Submitted by Mike Zaglielski, LMSCC VP

Midwest Federation

The Indiana Society of Paleontology would like to recognize Katherine Armstrong as the 2019 Rockhound of the Year. Throughout Katherine’s membership in the club, she has held the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer. She built the Club Website and has maintained it since it was activated. This has allowed the public to access members with expertise in identifying specimens and has encouraged students to pursue the study of Paleontology. Katherine’s involvement and leadership in educational outreach programs and initiatives to increase club membership has been exceptional and motivational for club members.

This year’s Spring River Gem and Mineral Club Rockhound of the Year award is being given to someone who is always ready to step in and help with anything our club needs. It gives us great pleasure to present the award to Barbra Knight! Barbra has held a few offices in the club with the most recent being Librarian and currently our silent auction chairman. If you have enjoyed our June picnic and our Christmas party, you have Barbra to thank for that. Barbra and her late husband, Al, created the Museum of Imagination in Brockwell where they feature gems and minerals. Barbra still runs the museum, so if you haven't visited it, please contact her and go see it.

The 500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis would like to recognize Tom Odom as the 2019 Rockhound of the Year. Throughout Tom’s association with the club, he has held the positions of President and Secretary. He has also held positions relating to the Annual Club sponsored Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show. His involvement and leadership in educational outreach programs and instructional displays has been exceptional and motivational for club members. Tom's interest in the Earth Sciences enables him to relate to future and serious Geology and Paleontology enthusiasts alike.

Bill and Lois Zima, long-time members of the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, have served this club for numerous years. Lois passed away in November of 2018. She and Bill had been the Liaisons to the Chicagoland organization, comprised of several clubs in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. Lois was also the Show Chair for several years of the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Bill and Lois would often travel to Tucson and return with innumerable contributions that they would donate to the Children's Activity Room. They were also dealers at several area shows. Lois would teach gem-tree making and Bill would teach wire wrapping at the Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst, Illinois. We are extremely grateful for everything that Bill and Lois have done for the Des Plaines Valley Geological Society.

The Dayton Gem and Mineral Society (DGMS) would like to take this opportunity to nominate Ms. Pat Westby for the American and Midwest Federation 2019 Rockhound of the Year award. Pat grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana and graduated from Purdue University. She has been a continuous member of the Dayton Gem and Mineral Society since 1990 and has held many positions from president to treasurer to field trip chairman. She has also been responsible for setting up DGMS mineral displays at various shows, including the annual regional event, the Cincinnati GeoFair. Along with the time spent collecting, Pat has spent hundreds of hours teaching classes in lapidary, intarsia, and glass bead making for the Riverbend Art Center in Dayton, Ohio and the Rosewood Art Center in Kettering, Ohio. She is an award-winning jewelry designer and creator, where she combines her talents in silver-smithing, metal molding, glass bead making, enameling and wire-wrapping with her love of lapidary.

Northwest Federation

The Everett Rock & Gem Club selects John Haven as our 2019 Rockhound of the Year! As a longtime Rockhound, John regularly participates in our monthly meeting “Show & Tell”, and annual Show, with his creative talents in stone sculpting and sphere making. He is a very knowledgeable collector as well as a promoter and participant in club Field Trips. John willingly shares his knowledge of lapidary rock with other Rockhounds. He is the coordinator for the Club Sales Table at our annual Show. John faithfully serves on the club Board of Directors as our Vice President. He also is a valuable volunteer, and graciously contributes his time and personal resources for the betterment of the club and our public events. Jon Elmgren, President. Mel Buhr, Federation Director

Dorothy Arnold is the honored Sunshine Member and 2019 AFMS Rockhound of the Year of the Chu-gach Gem & Mineral Society in Anchorage, Alaska. Electronic records indicate that Dorothy’s lifetime membership goes back to 2001, but her real involvement with the club started in the late 1950’s before we all got obsessed with computers and digital records. We celebrated her birthday at our October potluck meeting. She has been the Sunshine Chairperson for many years, taking care of members who needed encouragement, some flowers and cards and to wish them speedy recovery from an illness or a broken bone. Over the years, not a few club members were in that category, sometimes needing a cheerful word after a misstep out on the trails. Dorothy, it comes from the heart when all club members wish you a wonderful 97th birthday and a BIG THANK YOU for your faithfulness in contributing to the success of the Anchorage Rock Club.
Rockhound of the Year, Continued

Southeast Federation

At our annual banquet Dennis Buchanan of the Georgia Mineral Society was recognized as the 2019 Member of the Year. For the last three years he has represented GMS as the SFMS representative and during his tenure has attended all SFMS meetings. He volunteered to help get the SFMS rockhound swap at Live Oak, FL in March 2020 established. One of Dennis’s passions is fluorescent minerals and he has given lectures at the general meeting, as well as hosting the Junior section and the Mineral section at his house. During these meetings he educated the members on various types of UV lights and the effects of different wave lengths on the appearance of the minerals, followed by a demonstration and tour of his extensive collection. This year Dennis has been appointed Equipment manager and in this capacity has spent many hours repairing, rebuilding and painting a variety of laptop equipment such as saws and cabling units. While doing so, he is training other members. These repairs encourage extended use of the shop by GMS members. Congratulations to Dennis Buchanan

The Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society is proud to nominate Ray Borders as our 2019 Rockhound of the Year. Ray is concluding his 3rd and final year as our club’s President. During that time, he has provided leadership with a “down home” feel. Ray has been a rock collector all of his life. He constantly helps members, including our juniors with mineral identification. He semiannually hosts a field trip in conjunction with a friend who has property rich in jasper and agate. Ray works to ensure that the ground is “plowed” to bring up new material so the trip is successful for all. Not only does Ray host the trip, but he provides a barbecue lunch for attendees. Although 2019 has been an extremely difficult year for Ray and his family, he continued to provide club leadership throughout the difficult period. The CCGMS has been fortunate that we have had Ray Borders as our president and glad that he will continue to bring value to the club in the future. We are honored to name him as our 2019 Rockhound of the year. Respectfully submitted, Wayne Dodd, Treasurer CCGMS

Past President True Honored

NFMS President, Ronna Watkins had the honor of presenting Doug True, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies President, with his “Outstanding Leadership” Award, during the NFMS Awards Banquet at the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston, Idaho, Saturday Night, October 19, 2019. Ed: Congratulations Doug! An honor well deserved.

Robert Peters

From the Editor—HELP!

Since I began the task of editing the AFMS newsletter, there have been a number of errors in each issue, some of which I have introduced, others that have survived the hand-over from our well-loved former editor. I ask each of you to please check your information to be sure it is correct, and if you notice errors, there or elsewhere in the issue, please let me know as soon as possible. You can reach me at AFMSeditor@gmail.com, or by phone at 775-624-8446 (We’ve taken to screening calls, please speak to the machine and I’ll either answer or call you back.)

N.B. Images of officers and chairs in this newsletter are taken from the individual’s federation website, submitted by a person of their club or society or taken from former issues of this newsletter. Other images are “free” or reproduced from sites with unrestricted copyright as far as is possible to ascertain.

Jack Johnston

RMFMS PLAC - AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee

- 1. Over 7000 roads have been closed in Utah therefore no more should be closed unless a Class 1 survey has been made by the BLM. We do not need whimsical decisions made by judges, Federal, and State agencies like was done on the road to Angles Arch, Paria Canyon, and Can-nan Mountain roads.
- 2. There are no Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the State of Utah if you follow the law. There are too many roads, mines, claims, mineral collecting areas, fences, construction sites, two-track traces etc. to qualify.
- 3. Since Public Law 166-9 was passed in an omnibus bill, there are too many jurisdictions that overlap like Public, Private, City, County, State, and different Federal agencies so that it is impossible to close roads by closing large areas of land. Each road needs to be considered separately as noted above in number 1.
- 4. Native Americans will be forced to walk or ride horseback to complete their ceremonies on public land and some of their own reservations. This is another agency that needs to be considered in 3 above.

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.
**AFMS Website Contest**

**AFMS Website Contest Chair**

All of the Regional Federations have established their contest dates for their 2020 contests. Here is a list of the Regional Chairs, an email for the Chair, and the entry date for their contests. Note that some of the deadlines are now history — you will have to wait until next year to enter in those Regions.

CFMS: Merryan O’Neill, mронeill@comcast.net, 1/20/2020
EFMSLS: Alison Pacut, pacutgarnet@gmail.com, 1/8/2020
MWF: David Fanger, rockfanger@gmail.com, 5/1/2020
NFMS: Cheri George, cherij94@yahoo.com, 1/15/2020
SCFMS: Don Shurtz, don.shurtz@gmail.com, 2/16/2020
SFMS: Lori Heinemann, SFMS-Publications@gmail.com, 5/1/2020

The winner and runner-up in each Regional Federation contest will be entered into the AFMS contest by the Regional Chairs. I hope that if a club belongs to two Regions, they may only enter one of the Regional Federation Contests.

**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 or 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.

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**From the Desk of Central Office**

By Cheryl Neary, Central Office Administrator

I have been busy reviewing my duties as the Central Office Administrator as stated in the AFMS Operating Procedures. I am still trying to tie in all the current committee chairs. If you are new to a chair position, please email me at centraloffice.AFMS@gmail.com so that I can update my file and the website.

I will be sending each board and committee member an email copy of the AFMS By-laws and Operating Procedures. If by chance you did not receive a copy of either one, please email me at centraloffice.AFMS@gmail.com

One of the biggest responsibilities of the Central Office is to maintain the post office address, email address and telephone number for the AFMS membership. Our newsletter editor, Sue Webb, has done a great job fulfilling both her position and maintaining the database—not a small task! Usually when the newsletter is returned, we find out that the member has moved. It would be much appreciated if you would notify the Central Office prior—if you remember!

Another responsibility is to receive from the Publication Chairperson, B. Jay Bowman, any changes that were made for Uniform Rules. The only change to the rules for the year 2020 is the name of the committee members.

There are three members for the committee:

SFMS, David Waymant—aastainedglass@bellsouth.net
RMFMS, Lee Whitebay—lwhitebay@poncacity.net
SCFMS - waiting for name

Do you know what the Uniform Rule is comprised of? Below is directly from the Rule book:

**PREFACE**

One of the pleasures of our hobby is sharing what we have and what we know. Displaying our collections and craftsmanship has been one of the ways we do this. Competitive exhibiting at Gem and Mineral Shows is a natural result of these displays. As we have attempted to improve our shows, we have seen competitive exhibiting grow into a major contribution.

The first shows had mineral exhibits displayed according to the whim of the exhibitor. The difficulty of judging such exhibits soon proved a need for uniformity. Rules were adopted by each of the Federations based on their own experiences. Since 1961 the Uniform Rules of the American Federation have been in effect. The rules are now on a nationwide basis and as they must cover all aspects of the hobby for the thousands of interested hobbyists; they are comprehensive.

This current revision of the Uniform Rules is the result of the continuing effort on the part of the Regional Federation Uniform Rules Committees and the AFMS Rules Committee to provide uniform conditions under which exhibitors from all Regional Federations may compete.

Each year some pages are changed in the Rulebook. The most important one is the Table of Contents which lists all the current pages. It is important to check your Rulebook to make sure yours is current before entering into competition.

The AFMS and Regional Federation Uniform Rules Committees welcome suggestions that may lead to additional improvements in the rules and implementation of these rules. Please submit your suggestions and proposals to your Regional Federation Uniform Rules Committee.

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if you are interested in perhaps displaying your talent at your local shows or at the annual AFMS convention, the complete 2020 Rule book will be posted on the website. Presently, the 2018 Rule book is posted.

The 2020 convention will be held October 15-18 in Knoxville, Tennessee. There is plenty of time to decide to share your collection, talent and love for this hobby!

Till the next time Rock on!
AFMS Committees: 2018 – 19

Here is the listing of Committee Chairs for 2018-19. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club
Regina Kapa
1483 E Wood St; Decatur, IL 62521
217-233-1164 <ckmckey at comcast.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
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for
Granite

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 related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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

Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Federation Director and Editor.

Subscription Information, Distribution Questions and address changes should be sent to the Editor.

AFMS Newsletter    February 2019

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