Greetings to everyone in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies!

I’ve been elected President for this coming year, and I’m excited to serve all of my fellow rockhounds! I thought I’d tell you just a little about myself, for those of you who don’t know me. I’m a Registered Nurse by profession and I currently teach part time in the Practical Nursing Program at Salina Technical College. I’ve been married to my wonderful husband, Larry, for the past 28 years. We have made Salina, Kansas our home for the past 22 years. We have 2 boys, a bonus daughter, and 2 bonus grand girls. Our oldest, Ken, is in the US Air Force and last November married a beautiful young woman. They both love rocks and were just joining the club in their new home of Abilene, TX when COVID hit. Our grand girls are little junior rockhounds and I hope you will get to meet them as we visit the various shows in the coming year.

Larry is a 3rd generation rockhound and we belong to the McPherson Gem & Mineral Club in McPherson, Kansas. Early in our marriage we lived in Yakima, WA and then in Durango, CO. He “volunteered” me to work with the RMFMS/AFMS show in Durango, Colorado in 1997. Ruby Lingelbach was President and she said, “We need to get you involved.” Shortly thereafter I was secretary of the Rocky Mountain Federation, and kind of worked my way up into the President’s job from 2003-2005. I have served in each of the American Federation Vice-President’s positions, and am really thankful to now serve you as President this coming year!

It’s been a strange year to say the least, and I was really saddened to see that so many of our federation shows had to be cancelled. Many thanks to David Wayment for finding alternative ways for us to connect and for his service to the AFMS during this past year! I’m really hoping that as we move into 2021 shows will be able to return, and we will be able to attend each federation’s convention. My husband and I bought a new truck camper that was supposed to go to Alaska this year, but didn’t because of COVID. We’re hoping that we’ll be able to drive it all around the U.S. to visit with a lot of you!

Wishing all of you the best of health!
Safety Matters: Leading by Example Matters

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safe-

It’s real. It’s here. It’s now. It Matters

COVID - 19 is here. How we deal with it matters. There is a de-
bate about mask wearing, but few debate the question as to
whether masks help or not. They help, significantly so, in reduc-
ning transmission to others and protection of oneself. While a per-
son may show no outward and commonly recognized symptoms
of COVID-19, they may have it and unknowingly be spreading it.

Have you been close by someone who has it? If they do have it, they might not
know it. So, since it is not always possible to be sure, the old advice is still sound.
An ounce of prevention (a mask and hand washing) is usually worth the pound of
cure (the consequences of having COVID-19).

There are and will continue to be health reasons, pulmonary function and so on is-
issues, for not wearing a mask. The reasons should be minded.

Rockhounds are leaders. They write articles, deliver speeches, and zoom all they
want, but the best example of leadership, is leading by example. Often words are
not really needed for that style of leadership. Go on a field trip and wear goggles
while hammering or chipping rocks. Wear ear plugs if the noise is high and one is
using an air compressor or battery–powered tools for hammering on rocks. Have
gloves on while needing to protect your hands. Mind the chips flying when using
rock splitters. Use protective guards when operating machinery. Those exemplify
leading by example. Leading by example works--rockhounds are smart people.

With children around, well, they are little sponges. They may not show it, but they
watch everything, especially what parents and any adults do. Children want to be
adults, and often, the sooner the better. Children observe adults and learn in that ob-
ervation. Setting a good example for kids, for anyone, will give the hobby, our
health, and our ideals a good size boost.

Sources of additional information include:

- WHO - World Health Organization
- CDC - Centers for Disease Control
- NIH - National Institute of Health
- NIAD - National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases
- NIOSH - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

Checking with the above sources, as well as your own personal and trusted sources,
plus your state and local sources, would be wise in order have the most current
mask advice.

Your safety matters. Please be extra cautious in this current Covid-19 virus day and
age.

The disclaimer—understand that this article does not profess to offer medical advice
but merely compiles data from several sources about masks and the Covid-19 virus.
For current information please check with trusted sources.

Rockhound of the Year

Judith Allison, AFMS ROY Chair

Eastern Federation

The Delaware Mineralogical Soci-
y is honored to name Teddi Sil-
ver as our Rockhound of the Year.
She is a member who constantly
gives of her time and energy to
make our organization a huge suc-
cess in the Diamond State. Teddi
served as club President for six
years (2014 – 2019). Instead of riding off into the
sunset, she volunteered to be the 2020 editor of ,
our newsletter, The Geogram. In addition to that,
she’s been the Dealer Coordinator for our annual
show for many years. It is constantly rated by
dealers and the general public as one of the best
they attend. But more than that, she is our “GO-
TO” person when it comes to sage advice. Teddi has a story for every situa-
tion. She’s been to so many places, met so many people, and has such a positive
outlook on life, it’s been a joy and a blessing, especially this year, to have someone
like her in our club. Christine Verdi, President

Page 2

AFMS Newsletter December 2020
Let Me Introduce Myself by Mary Boesdorfer, All American Club Award Chair

Hello everyone! My name is Mary Boesdorfer and I will be taking over from Regina Kapta as she steps down from her position as the Chair for the All-American Club Awards (AACA). I’m thrilled to be filling this position and thought I should introduce myself!

I have always loved collecting rocks and it was an annual tradition for my family to attend our local mineral show in Springfield, Illinois. When I was thirteen, my Mom and I decided to join the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS). Since I was homeschooled, we were always looking for new learning opportunities and figured we’d get some fun field trips in too. A month later, we jumped right into the action by attending a multi-day collecting trip to Black Rock, Arkansas. I think that was the moment our future friends in the club realized we were as crazy as them, so they welcomed us with open arms!

Over the past fourteen years, I have become more involved in the club and our annual mineral and fossil show. Presently, I hold multiple chairs including Dealer/Demonstrator Chair, Show Advertising, Webmistress, and General Club Public Relations. Unofficial titles include “You’re the youngest, so you do it,” club photographer (which usually involves me catching people during naps or with goofy expressions), and all-around “no one else is going to do it, so it’s up to you.” Overall, I have made so many wonderful friends and fond memories being part of this community.

Some other quick tidbits about myself: I work as a chocolatier at a local chocolate shop; I love to cook; I make and sell wood turned pens at local art fairs; I enjoy cross stitching and knitting; I frequent the local chocolate shop; I love to cook; I make and sell wood pens; I enjoy cross stitching and knitting; I attend the local mineral show in Springfield, Illinois. I have held this Chair since 2012, and am stepping down as the Chair of the AACA. Congratulations to all the winners. The scoring of the contest was close, but that should be expected as the entrants were the “Best of the Best.” I hope that all the winners will review the comments of the judge and take the appropriate steps to improve their club’s website. I would love to have all the entrants tie for first place next year. Speaking of next year, the next AFMS Convention is scheduled for April 21-25, 2021. Expect early closing dates for the Regional Federation Website Contest So that all the Regional and AFMS judging may be completed in time. Do not be surprised to see December 2020 closing dates.

The winners of the 2020 Website Contest were announced at the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies 73rd Annual Board of Directors Meeting on October 17, 2020 as part of the Website Contest Report. Normally the winners of the Website Contest are announced at the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters, but without a convention, the Breakfast could not happen. I am sure that most of those who entered their Regional Federation Website did not receive the Meeting Packet for the October 17 meeting, so without further delay, here are the winners:

Place Webmaster Club / Society
First Place Denise Harrison Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club (NFMS)
Second Place Margaret Kilanski East Texas Gem and Mineral Society (SCFMS)
Third Place Mark Hohn Cascade Mineralogical Society (NFMS)
Honorable Mention Ken Belzer Des Moines Lapidary Society (MWF)
Honorable Mention Gordon Gallagher Paleontological Society of Austin (SCFMS)
Honorable Mention Alyssa Meiszinger Sacramento Mineral Society (CFMS)
Honorable Mention Michael J Royer Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society (EFMSL)
Honorable Mention Jason Schulz Topeka Gem and Mineral Society (RMFMS)
Honorable Mention Heather Shields Orange County Mineral Society of New York, Inc. (EFMSLS)
Honorable Mention Llorilee Stackhouse Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society (RFMFS)

Note: Honorable Mention winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

Congratulations to all the winners. The scoring of the contest was close, but that should be expected as the entrants were the “Best of the Best.” I hope that all the winners will review the comments of the judge and take the appropriate steps to improve their club’s website. I would love to have all the entrants tie for first place next year. Speaking of next year, the next AFMS Convention is scheduled for April 21-25, 2021. Expect early closing dates for the Regional Federation Website Contest So that all the Regional and AFMS judging may be completed in time. Do not be surprised to see December 2020 closing dates.

Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society - Oklahoma - 93.6 points - Gold Award
This is an exceptionally active club with many FRA Badges awarded to their juniors and a regular schedule of workshops, programs and activities planned thru the year. They have their own workshop, and award their own scholarship, while still supporting the AFMS endowment and scholarship funds. An outstanding club.

Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Paso Robles, CA—with 97.6 points—Gold Award
This is also a first time entry for this club, and is outstanding with their juniors having their own meetings! They were very involved with the community after an earthquake presented many challenges to local clubs.

I would like to thank judges Renee Hildebrandt and Mary Boesdorfer—for turning around the entries very quickly. It takes time to evaluate a book, and include beneficial comments. I am very appreciative of these volunteers willing to make the effort for careful consideration in judging. I also want to thank the regional chairs that promoted the program and coordinated the regional judging. Without the interest and efforts of the regional chairmen, there would not be an AFMS award program. I am grateful for their time and efforts.

I have held this Chair since 2012, and am stepping down—passing the duties on to Mary Boesdorfer, one of my judges. Mary has been very active in the Springfield IL LOESS club, a board member and in the show committee for Continued on p. 4
The COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage and, in fact, it is in up-tick mode as I write this column. I, personally, now know just how dangerous and devastating it is as my 89-year-old mother continues her struggle against it from a bed in a Nebraska rehabilitation center after a touch-and-go hospitalization. My hope is to be allowed to be at her side in just a couple of weeks, but that is by no means certain given the devious, ever-changing nature of the virus.

Shows across the U.S. continue to be canceled due to the pandemic. The most recent surprise was cancellation of the 2021 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show®, which has been around since 1955 and which brings in some $130 million to the Tucson economy! Facing local and international restrictions on travel, attendance, and other protocols, most importantly the show committee courageously announced, “TGMS does not want to be responsible for a single COVID-19 fatality or serious illness.” Here in the California Federation, we continue to hear of more show cancellations for this fall, winter, and well into 2021, including my own Ventura club show for March 2021 given continuing restrictions by our fairgrounds on large-group gatherings and lack of coverage by our Federation insurance provider for any COVID-related incidents.

What to do?

My Ventura club is looking into other venues for fund-raising. For instance, some local swap meets and farmers’ markets are still being run with free booth space for nonprofit groups—and without the need for us as a club to assume responsibility for testing, checking people in, temperature checks, maintaining restrooms, insurance issues, etc. We’ve also managed to keep our monthly club meetings going via Zoom with some great online PowerPoint presentations by guest speakers and even a couple of very successful online rock auctions that helped put money in our bank account.

As another thought, in lieu of exhibits at a Show, consider picking up on something run by such clubs as the Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado: a so-called “Towel Show.” The Flatirons club sponsors this as an annual November event wherein members each bring in a towel and lay out displays of things collected and/or constructed in the past year. Towel displays are entered into such categories as: Personal Field Trip, Club Field Trip, Lapidary/Jewelry, Best Mineral, Best Fossil, Best UgLy Rock, and Best Overall Towel. First and second place awards are given in each category both for adults and for juniors based on ballots cast by club members.

If you can’t host a show any time soon, this could be a great way to bring your club members together in a virtual environment to share what they’ve been doing during the pandemic. Have everyone lay out a towel display at home to share via Zoom. It’s also a great way to introduce Pebble Pups and Juniors to competitive exhibiting in a way that’s really easy, nonthreatening, and fun.

**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.
Thanks to the great editing and writing of our bulletin editors and club members we had a good showing at the virtual AFMS Convention this year! I hope that many of our editors continued to produce a bulletin during the "shelter at home" and wide shut-downs of meeting places. The upcoming year, 2021, will see an AFMS convention in April. The requirements for the 2021 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest are unchanged from what is posted on the AFMS web site.

New Editors
- Original Adult Articles
- Original Adult Articles Advanced
- Original Adult Poetry
- Original Junior Poetry
- Features (Written and Drawn All Ages)
- Special Publications

Please remember to provide a pdf of your entries to your regional BEAC when you submit your entries for judging. Here is schedule information for the 2021 AFMS Bulletin Editor’s Contest.

Schedule:
March 1, 2021 – Federation BEACs submissions due to the AFMS judges. [NB: This is after entries have been judged by the regional judges.]
April 1, 2021 – Judged entries due back to Mark Nelson.
April 21, 2021 – AFMS Show & Convention.

Please contact me if you have any questions! If you are a new BEAC or Judge, I’m here to help you through the process. Don’t guess – let’s talk! If you email me and you don’t receive an answer from me in a day or two, call or text me at (909) 996-1784!

I hope to attend as many federation shows as I can this year. If invited, I would be happy to speak to editors (without cost to the Federation) on a subject related to submitting winning bulletins or other contest-related articles!

During the time of the COVID-19 closures and restrictions a number of our editors have not received the level of input for their bulletins that they would in a normal year. Many clubs have discontinued meetings and even suspended publishing a bulletin! To help us get the most involvement possible, there will be no restriction on entries by editors and authors who won first place in 2020 for the 2021 contest!

The results of the Original Adult Article contest are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Club</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Fake Fossils: Every Rock-hound's Headache</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Paul Combs</td>
<td>Lake George Gem &amp; Mineral Club - Lake George, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Fun with Fossil and Mineral Investigations</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Andrew Ek</td>
<td>Chicago Rock &amp; Mineral Society - Woodstock, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>The Green of Things</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Michelle Yanamaka</td>
<td>Three Rivers Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Fort Wayne, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Researching a Specimen with a Historical Label</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Jeff Guerber</td>
<td>The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Learning to Work with Sterling Silver</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Nancy Roberts</td>
<td>North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Tupelo, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Tips for Threaded a Beading Needle</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Nikki Kenney</td>
<td>North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Tupelo, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Mineral of the Month: Cassiterite</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Sue Marcus</td>
<td>Northern Virginia Mineral Club - Arlington, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>I Love Fireworks</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Lisha Collins</td>
<td>McPherson Gem &amp; Mineral Club - McPherson, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Tracing the Footsteps of Mary Anning</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>David Springer</td>
<td>Ventura Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Ventura, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Araucaria Fossil Cones</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Judy Beck</td>
<td>McPherson Gem &amp; Mineral Club - McPherson, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Mineral of the Month: Barite</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Bob Cooke</td>
<td>Northern Virginia Mineral Club - Arlington, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>The Day I Met Sue</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Colleen Hayes</td>
<td>East Texas Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Tyler, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>From the Field …</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Gina Malcolm</td>
<td>Sacramento Mineral Society - Sacramento, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Spending Time in the Workshop</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Terry Roberts</td>
<td>East Texas Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Tyler, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Prepping for the Program: Scotland Geology</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Elisabeth Nybo</td>
<td>Orcutt Mineral Society - Santa Maria, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Take Its Measure</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Lynn Metcalf</td>
<td>East Texas Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Tyler, TX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarship Foundation Honorees and Students

Showed here is a list of the various honorees and the students and academic institutions where they are attending. It has been a very interesting year for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. With Federations not having conventions and shows, it was a difficult process to decide on Honorees and students. The following is a list of federations, their honorees, students and universities attended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Honoree</th>
<th>Student #1</th>
<th>Student #2</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Dr. Aprita Nandi</td>
<td>Samatha Farmer</td>
<td>Tiffany Ostenburg</td>
<td>E Tenn. State U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Dr. Christopher H. Gammons</td>
<td>Céline Beaucamp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tech U of MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>George &amp; Anna Pericano</td>
<td>Kiersti Rosenbach</td>
<td></td>
<td>U of Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>Dr. Wayne Sutherland</td>
<td>Gregory Stark</td>
<td></td>
<td>U of WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Dawn Bissell</td>
<td>Alicia Jimenez</td>
<td>Monica Estrada</td>
<td>Texas A &amp; M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CFMS Not given this year
What is an endowment? If you were to view the internet dictionaries or a printed dictionary (yes—they still exist!), the answer would be that an endowment is a donation of money or property to a not for profit organization.

The AFMS Endowment Fund, works the same way as most endowments, which are designed to keep the principal amount intact and use the investment income for continuing support or maintenance of an organization.

Each Regional Federation has a representative as appointed by the chair—that would be me! This is different from all the other committees which have representatives. The representatives for those positions are appointed or voted upon by the Regional Federations, based on their bylaws and operating procedures.

I have been the Endowment Fund Chair for many years now. Previously to me, Donna and JC Moore successfully chaired the position. There have been a few changes since they handed over the committee to me. The first change is that we are no longer selling the pins for each Federation.

The second change was to the specification of the donation. The Endowment Fund committee is seeking donations of a value of $75.00 or greater and weighing no more than five (5) pounds.

The third change has been to the Federations’ representatives. As of the date of this article, please note the following:

This year, after polling all the Federation Representatives, it was decided to postpone the actual drawing to next year (2021). The reason was because many shows were cancelled due to concerns of COVID19. Without the opportunity to ask for donations, whether through the sale of tickets or through receiving specimen donations, it was decided to hold aside the tickets from this year separately. Tickets sale were extremely low.

However, we will be holding a special raffle next year for the 2020 ticket holders (for every 100 tickets that have been sold in 2020 there will be a gift card value at $100.00). There will be two(2) gift cards!

The endowment fund as of the date of this report, have thirteen (13) beautiful specimens that were donated to the fund for this year’s drawing. All specimens are posted on the website; along with the information of the donor, value and the donor’s federation. This is also a way to market your club or a business!

I request if you are sending a donation of a specimen that you please notify me via email at ciervo.neary@gmail.com or via my cell phone 516.449.5341 and leave a message.

Tickets for the drawing are $5.00 per ticket or 5 for $20.00. You may purchase your tickets from your Federation’s representative listed above. Thanks to all for your support throughout the years. Please continue to support the Fund. Buy tickets! Donate items!

**Bulletin Editor’s Hall of Fame**

Shirley Leeson, Chair

The three new inductees for the AFMS Bulletin Editors have, by now, have been notified, I didn't make a report in the meeting agenda because I wanted to surprise them. I would like to note the new certificates were designed by Frank Mullaney, the AFMS Badge chair. They are on parchment and are ready for framing.

**Certificate of Achievement**

**David Jacobsen**

Because of his many accomplishments as editor of Caramel Gem and Mineral Society, David has been voted into the BULLETIN EDITOR’S HALL OF FAME.

**Lori Heinemann**

Because of her many accomplishments as editor of Surcoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., Lori has been voted into the BULLETIN EDITOR’S HALL OF FAME.

**Matthew Lybanon**

Because of his many accomplishments as editor of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Matthew has been voted into the BULLETIN EDITOR’S HALL OF FAME.

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**Federation** | **Name** | **Address** | **Contact Information**
--- | --- | --- | ---
California (CFMS) | Heidi Hall | 9055 Trina Circle Stagecoach, NV 89429 | hdafler@yahoo.com
Eastern (EFMLS) | Larry Huffman | PO Box 2444 Hickory, NC 28603 | lthuff314@embarqmail.com
Midwest (MWF) | J.C. & Donna Moore | 25235 N. State Route 97 Cuba, IL 61427 | jcmoore3rd@gmail.com
Northwest (NFMS) | Judi Allison | 1701 NW 11th St. Hermiston, OR 97838 | jall@cottnet.net
Rocky Mt (RMFMS) | DeLane Cox OR Richard Jaeger | 8152 Spanker Ridge Dr. Bentonville, AR 72712 3515 E. 88th St. Tulsa OK 74137-2602 | delane3z@earthlink.net rjgrsci@aol.com
South-Central (SCFMS) | Jerold Simpson | 1302 Annapolis Dr. Corpus Christi, TX 78415 | jsimpsonclaims@live.com
Southeast (SFMS) | Leslie & Dave Wayment | PO Box 780791 Sebastian, FL 32978 | aastainedglass@bellsouth.net
President David Wayment called the meeting to order.
J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President, gave the invocation.
David led the Pledge of Allegiance.

David noted that the memorials were included with the regional federation reports. Any additions should be e-mailed to Secretary Donna Moore and Central Office Cheryl Neary.

David greeted everyone who was attending online and said a lot of good work was coming from Zoom meetings. We may continue to use Zoom, especially for committee meetings, etc., between annual meetings. These are very unusual times, but we are doing the best we can.

Parliamentarian Steve Weinberger noted that before we approve the agenda, a reminder that only officers and directors may vote. They are the only ones who may speak. Anyone else wishing to speak must receive permission from their regional vice president. He asked that everyone else mute unless expecting to speak. Cheryl Neary, 2nd Vice President, moved to accept the agenda as presented in the packet. Jerrold Simpson, 3rd Vice President, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

J.C. Moore moved to accept the 2019 minutes of the AFMS Board of Directors Meeting as printed in the packet. Cheryl Neary seconded the motion, which passed by roll call vote.

David recognized the AFMS Past Presidents who were “in attendance”: Doug True, Sandy Fuller, Matt Charsky, Richard Jaeger, Steve Weinberger, and Ron Carman.

Officers Reports:

President David Wayment had a report in the packet.
President-Elect Judy Beck had a report in the packet.
1st Regional Vice President Jim Brace-Thompson had a report in the packet.
2nd Regional Vice President Cheryl Neary had a report in the packet and addendum.
3rd Regional Vice President Jerrold Simpson had a report in the addendum.
4th Regional Vice President J.C. Moore had a report in the packet.
5th Regional Vice President Jim Bosley had a report in the packet.
Secretary Donna Moore had a report in the packet.
Treasurer Pat LaRue had a report in the packet.

David called for reports from the directors:

California Federation President Marcia Goetz had a report in the packet.
California Federation Vice President Juanita Pardum had no report, but added she was not aware of anyone who had passed away.

Eastern Federation President David Nock reported his report was in progress. Their convention was to be held the following weekend. He expressed the thought that reports don’t need to be done in time before the meeting because they are still working on the information in the future.

Eastern Federation Vice President Ellery Borow had a report in the packet.
Midwest Federation President John Donker had no report. Catherine Clevenz, MWF 2nd Vice President, was attending the meeting for him.
Midwest Federation Vice President Susan Stanforth had a report in the packet.
Northwest Federation President Kenneth Zahn had just sent a report. He added that their show and convention had to be cancelled in April. It was set for the Golden Spike club, in Odgen, Utah, but their venue cancelled. They tried some other locations but had the same problem. Their federation has two new clubs, two had dropped. They had two good awardees selected for the scholarships. They were looking for a place to host their convention in 2021.

Northwest Federation Vice President Beth Heesacker had nothing to add.
Rocky Mountain Federation President Bob Regner had no report. He said he was working on one. The Rocky Mountain was able to hold their convention. It was a great convention.

Rocky Mountain Federation Vice President Sheri Johnson said their convention was well done. She was looking forward to having an in-person convention next year.

President Wayment interjected that he was disappointed that he did not get to travel to each convention this year. President Elect Judy Beck assured him he could go with her.

South Central Federation President Roger Burford had no report and was not present.

South Central Federation Vice President Jerrold Simpson could only have one place on the board. He had no substitute. He noted that their convention was cancelled, and they had no Zoom meeting. They are still planning to host the AFMS in 2022.

Southeast Federation President Jesse Griffin said they were focusing on distance by Zoom. He thanked the Eastern Federation for helping them. One club that decided to have a show offered to host the convention, but they declined because of their aging population and the virus.

Southeast Federation Vice President Melissa Hill Rader had nothing to add.

Committee Chairmen Reports

All American Awards – Regina Kapta had a report in the packet. She added that she is stepping down as chairman. Her replacement is Mary Boesdorfer from the LOESS Club in Springfield, Illinois. They are crafting a pandemic aspect to the contest because so many clubs had to cancel their shows and meetings. They were considering virtual aspects, Facebook chats, virtual tours, etc. She said to watch for the information to be posted on the AFMS Website and for articles in the AFMS Newsletter.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year – Judi Allison said this is a free, great way to recognize those people in our clubs who do so much. More clubs need to use it. This is a good way to recognize unsung heroes. She said it was quite simple and doesn’t cost a penny. She urged members to nominate those who don’t get notoriety.

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President Wayment noted that people don’t know about some of the websites and programs that are offered. He has been trying to get information disseminated better.

AFMS Newsletter – Sue Webb had a report in the packet.
Audit and Review – Pat LaRue had a report from the CPA who did the audit.
Boundaries – Bob Carlson reported that, “Happily, there is nothing to report. No boundary issues have been raised in 2020.”

Bulletin Editor’s Hall of Fame – Shirley Leeson had no report but had sent a list of recipients to be announced during the awards presentations later. Judy Beck said Shirley had asked to continue as chairman of the committee. She is in assisted living but is alert and doing pretty well.

Bylaws Revisory – Steve Weinberger had a report in the packet. He announced no changes had been proposed.
Central Office – Cheryl Neary had a report in the packet and addendum. She replied to David Nock that we need deadline so we can get packets to share information.

Commemorative Stamps – the chairman for several years, Wendell Mohr, had passed away so the position is open.
Endowment Fund – Cheryl Neary had a report in the packet.
Financial Investment – Wayne Cox had a report in the packet.
Historian – Jennifer Haley had a report in the packet.
Inter-Regional Field Trips – Doug True had a report in the packet. He added there would be a field trip in May 2021 to the Blue Forest to dig fish fossils. Watch for information in the newsletters.
Judges Training Seminar – Margaret Kolaczky had a report in the packet. She had stepped down from the chairmanship. David was hoping to talk her into reconsidering.
Junior Programs – Jim Brace-Thompson had a report in the packet. He added that for many years the Summit Lapidary Club in Ohio had sponsored a poster contest for juniors. They had stopped doing this. Michelle Cauley from North Lakes Academy Rockhounds in Minnesota would like to re-instate this. He suggested we might do a trial basis then if it is successful, have a proposal at the next meeting.

Long Range Planning – Doug True had a report in the packet.
Name Badges – Frank Mullaney had nothing to report.

Nominating Committee – Doug True had a report in the packet listing the 2021 nominees to be voted on under new business.

President – Judy Beck, Rocky Mountain Federation
President-Elect – Jim Brace-Thompson, California Federation
1st Regional Vice President – Matt Charsky, Eastern Federation
2nd Regional Vice President – Roger Buford, South Central Federation
3rd Regional Vice President – David Rich, Midwest Federation
4th Regional Vice President – Jim Bosely, Northwest Federation
5th Regional Vice President – Steve Heneger, Southeast Federation

Past Presidents Advisory – Doug True had nothing to report
Photography – John Martin had a report in the packet.
Program Competition – Darrel Watkins had a report in the addendum. Two programs had been submitted. Results would be announced at the awards presentation.

Public & International Relations – Bob Jones had no report.
Publication – B. Jay Bowman had no report.
Safety – Ellery Borow had a written report.
Scholarship Foundation – Sandie Fender had a written report with the agenda for the meeting to follow the AFMS Director’s Meeting.
Show Consultant – Emerson Tucker had a report, which was included in the addendum.

Uniform Rules – Leslie Wayment reported that the committee held a meeting the previous evening. There were no proposals for changes to the rules, so the present rules stand for another year. The Rocky Mountain Federation becomes the next chairman of the committee since they host the next convention. She asked them to let us know who the chairman will be.

Uniform Rules Eligibility Files – Josie Middleton had a written report. Her form for reporting competitive exhibits has been placed on the AFMS Website.

Ways and Means – Richard Jaeger reported no activity,
Website/Webmaster – Marty Hart had a report in the packet.
Website Contest – Don Shultz had a report in the packet. Winners would be announced later at the awards presentations. Certificates will be mailed out. He offered thanks to Jeff Ursillo for judging.

Unfinished Business –

None reported.

New Business

Budget – Judy Beck noted that the proposed budget was in the packet. It was very hard to do a budget this year with so many cancellations of conventions, shows, meetings, etc. She used the 2018-19 budget for the future budget. The AFMS always finishes on balance.

J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President moved to accept the budget as presented. Cheryl Neary, 2nd Vice President seconded the motion. Past President Matt Charsky, with Cheryl Neary’s permission asked why the endowment fund amount went from $6,500 down to $1,000. Cheryl noted that there was little money turned in from ticket sales, the main fundraiser, this year because shows and conventions were cancelled. Judy had lowered the amount because there was not that much interest to support the amount normally budgeted. Pat LaRue said that the endowment fund funded the judges training workshop, which had not been held for the last couple or three years, there was no travel expense this year since the convention was virtual, no patches for juniors had been ordered, no program expenses were incurred. She recommended putting the endowment fund amount back to $6,500 in anticipation of these expenses occurring in 2021.
Judy Beck noted we needed an addendum to increase the amount in the endowment fund portion of the budget. President Wayment suggested we bump it back up to $6,500 now, and if not all used this year, it will still be there. He and Pat LaRue both suggested bumping the amount back up to $6,500.

J.C. Moore restated his motion to move that the budget as amended re-establishing $6,500 for the Endowment Fund be approved. Cheryl Neary who had seconded the motion, agreed.

A roll call vote was taken on the amended motion, which carried unanimously.

Election of Officers
David Wayment read the list of nominees as presented by the nominating committee chaired by Doug True, immediate past president. J.C. Moore moved to accept the list as presented. Jesse Griffin, Southeast Federation President, seconded the motion. A roll call vote passed unanimously.

Waving or Reducing Membership Dues
Cheryl Neary had proposed in the addendum to the agenda and packet for the meeting that the AFMS consider waving the AFMS Dues. Some federations were considering waving fees because members could not attend shows, conventions were not held, etc. David Nock reported that the Eastern Federation were waving the Eastern Federation portion of their fees, noting many clubs had already waved local dues for 2021. Cheryl noted that the AFMS membership fee is 75 cents per member. This would amount to $40,000 if waived, which would be a huge reduction to the income if we waived the total amount. Pat LaRue said this is the AFMS’s sole source of income. She hopefully anticipates we will return to normal expenses in 2021.

J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President, representing the Midwest Federation, reported they had decided to cut the local federation portion in half, but planned to pay the AFMS dues. 25 cents of the AFMS Dues is already being paid by interest from the MWF Endowment Fund for all members.

Discussion continued with points being brought up to poll the other federations to see what they planned as far as dues, would lowering then again immediately the next year raising the AFMS portion of dues be confusing to the clubs, we could possibly use some of the endowment fund interest, but there were other things that might need to come out of that. It was suggested that the matter should die for lack of a motion after a long discussion. Then Juanita Pardon, California Federation Vice President, moved to determine who is interested in reducing or eliminating the fee for this next year. Jesse Griffin, Southeast Federation President, seconded her motion. In discussion the proposal of a special meeting to discuss this was suggested. Juanita said if we are interested then we needed to decide by how much. Ken Zahn said the Northwest Federation would probably prefer to leave the AFMS portion as it is and do any reduction from their federation portion.

After a rather lengthy discussion with no apparent consensus, Juanita, with Jesse’s approval retracted the motion. The understanding would be that the incoming president could decide if this needed further consideration.

Status of Commemorative Stamps
The chairman, Wendell Mohr, had passed away in the past year or so. He had headed up the effort to lobby the U.S. Postal Service to offer rock, mineral or earth science stamps. This is a special committee that just doesn’t have to operate, instead of eliminating it. It has been several years (maybe 20) since there have been any rock, mineral or gem stamps. Jim Brace-Thompson noted here there had been a great effort maybe 15 years ago to get people to lobby for mineral stamps. He had gotten the junior members involved in the process. Ellery Borow noted that he was a stamp collector. The post office gets a lot of money for the stamps that are not used. He would like to see the effort pursued. He considered it a worthy effort because people still use stamps.

President Wayment noted that some collectors spend a lot of money just collecting, not using stamps. He offered the chairmanship of the committee to Ellery, who accepted. Jim Brace-Thompson offered to assist Ellery. He thought it would be a good project for the kids.

Combining/Reducing the AFMS Committees
Jim Brace-Thompson noted there are 34 different committees. After looking over the committees, he decided there are some that might be combined, but he is not putting forth a proposal because most of the committees are working. He took the idea off the table.

Long Range Planning - Geology 365
Judy Beck introduced Doug True, chairman of the long-range planning committee. They had been investigating website development, re-imagining what we would like to see. Doug noted that Marty Hart is now on the committee.

David Nock, president of the Eastern Federation had noticed that Geology 365, a website that was creating a lot of attention was possibly doing things that were not legitimate such as listing club information, logos, etc. The ad hoc committee of the long-range planning committee met to investigate this as well as looking at the AFMS Website which they perceived as outdated and slow. They suggested it needs to be reworked, but on the advice of several knowledgeable people think it would be easier to rebuild the whole site. Doug said they are just in the beginning stages of discussion, and maybe nothing should be done at all. They were now discussing with Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster, about working it out.

The portion of the proposal concerning juniors, was looking at combining with 4-H. One club had done this, and 4-H paid the insurance, they also wanted to coordinate with Diamond Dan, and upgrading the junior stage.

Doug noted that all their meetings had been recorded. They were now asking for funds to start on the website. Steve Weinberger with Cheryl Neary’s permission, asked if we allocate funds, will the committee come back to the board for permission before implementing their plans. One suggestion was to hold a special meeting to approve funds after more specifics were brought forth. Doug said nothing should be done without approval. Matt Charsky, with Cheryl Neary’s permission, noted that there were three separate proposals under one project with three parts. He said we had always brought forth one project per proposal. He noted there were all kinds of questions raised with this proposal, which was very weak. It is not good to ask for large amounts of money ($35,000) when money is not available. Each proposal should be presented separately. We need to wait until we know what is going on.

Janice Kowalski, with Cheryl Neary’s permission, said there are a lot of resources in the Eastern and American Federations that might take part for a different or reduced sum. This leaves the AFMS in a bad spot. We need to look at other places for bids.

Matt Charsky said this kind of expenditure makes no sense when we are talking of reducing dues. Doug True said maybe we want to wait, get more information together and then go for funds. He was just trying to help the AFMS.

David Wayment explained this is three sub committees of an ad hoc committee of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Judy Beck, Jim Brace-Thompson and David Wayment were sitting in on all three sub committees to establish continuity.

Cheryl reminded the group that only the interest from the endowment fund can be spent. David asked Sandy Fuller, past president, about her inquiry of money available to be used. She had asked, but no specific answers were provided. She asked if money was allocated and not spent, what was done with it? Did it go back to principle? Resources are needed without having to wait another year. They will need to come back in April with 3 proposals. They had started with one idea that evolved into three ideas. They wanted our web resources to be usable to the regions and clubs.

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Jim Brace-Thompson said that after sitting in on a few meetings, he had three points to mention:
1. These are good, committed people with good ideas.
2. Most of the ideas are good, he questioned some of the others. Judy and Jim being on the committees as upcoming presidents was good for continuity.
3. He is also uncomfortable at the brevity of the proposal, especially on the financial part. We need more details, especially on the money. He would like to see more details. He hoped to work with the committee for future approval.

Doug True said they should table the funds request for now. Let Judy Beck call a special meeting or move on to the next meeting when more details are available. Judy noted that the next AFMS meeting is scheduled for April, which isn’t that far away. By that time, they can have more specific proposals that can be brought up. They hope to make the AFMS more relevant to the clubs.

Steve Weinberger questioned the operation software mentioned in the Geology 365 proposal. He asked who the private entrepreneur was. David Nock said it was a member of the Eastern Federation from New Jersey but would not name him. Steve asked if he is already absorbing our clubs, shouldn’t we know who he is. David Wayment said only two clubs are participating in his venture at this time - his own club and the club in Billings, Montana, to critique his club management system. There is a collection site and a club management site. The collection portion lets people put a few of their specimens with information on the site. The club management site deals with field trips, club information, membership, etc. Right now, the gentleman is doing this as a tribute to his father, but how long will he continue it and keep it updated. Now the club management portion is free. The collection site allows selling of specimens. Only a certain number can be listed then for a few dollars, more space is allowed. David Nock suggested that people go online and learn about the site at Geology365.org.

With further discussion concern arose about the club management portion of the site. All the clubs in the US are already listed with their logos without the permission of the clubs. There was concern that we need to do something. This was seen as a warning call that we either need to work with this person or ask him to stop listing our club information without permission. There was much concern about tracking of members. There was concern expressed about the legal liabilities involved and who would manage the information, which some clubs are already refusing to give out.

President Wayment said we have had quite a bit of discussion. He recommended that we table the discussion until the next meeting in April when more research and more input will be presented.

Upcoming AFMS Meetings and Conventions
The 2021 AFMS Convention is scheduled for April 21-25, 2021, in South Jordan, Utah. The club is still planning to hold the show and convention. Information will be e-mailed to the board, covered in the newsletter, and posted on the website as it is made available. Announcements –

Jim Brace-Thompson said he has a good relationship with Rock and Gem magazine. The new general manager wants to support rock clubs in whatever ways possible. They are interested in providing a special trophy for the bulletin editors contest and would like to publish some of the winning articles. They are doing a survey of the current demographics of rockhounds and would like to work with the AFMS on a broader scope. The managing editor, Toni Rahn, wants to help us (AFMS) whenever with whatever they can. Jim Brace-Thompson has been working with her (He writes for the magazine.) and will keep us updated.

J.C. Moore, 4th Vice President, moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Regner, Rocky Mountain Federation President, seconded the motion. David Wayment declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Moore, AFMS Secretary

“NEPA-For-Lovers” Program at April 21-25, 2021, AFMS/RMFMS Meeting in S. Jordan, Utah

Well, it’s really a program on “NEPA For Lovers of continued access to Forest Service and BLM lands in which to collect.”

American Land Access Association (ALAA) is planning a program presentation at April’s AFMS/ RMFMS meeting in Utah on how to effectively engage the Forest Service and BLM when they conduct public meetings and seek comments on draft environmental documents that impact our access to collect on public lands.

It is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its new, revised, implementing regulations (Sept 24, 2020) that govern how those agencies must interact with the public when they propose major projects or wish to revise Forest Management Plans and associated Travel Management (access) Plans.

Dr. Ken Zahn of the Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club in MT, will review what NEPA requires of the Federal agencies and how best to provide powerful input to them when they seek public input or comments on their draft environmental impact and travel-access documents.

Ken has 25 years experience in applying the NEPA review process to Federal land projects and plans, and has both defended -- and sued -- Federal agencies over how they implement NEPA. He will discuss how the Forest Service/BLM typically conduct public meetings and NEPA reviews of draft documentation, how to provide key input during meetings at which access and recreation are discussed, and how to best give substantive comments to FS/BLM when draft plans or planning documents are circulated for review.

Having a basic understanding of these processes will give you and your club members more confidence in making the voices of rockhounds heard when agencies -- and those who seek to “lock up” the public lands -- often strongly advocate for only “quiet and no-surface-disturbance” recreation.

Watch the next AFMS, ALAA, and Regional Federations’ Newsletters for details on where/when the program will be presented at the combined April 2021 AFMS/RMFMS meeting (most probably Thursday evening or Friday afternoon, April 22 or 23). ALAA hopes you will encourage interested club-level representatives from within each Federation to attend both this always-fantastic Wasatch Gem Society show and this important and timely ALAA program.
AFMS Committees: 2019 - 20

Here is the Committee Chairs list for 2019-20. You can contact these people if you need information, have questions or to share ideas with them. Please note that the @ sign in the email address has been replaced by the word “at” to foil bots that collect email addresses.

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sandie.fender at gmail.com

Sandy Fuller, Vice President
Margaret Kolacyk, Secretary
Barbara Ringhiser, Treasurer
**AFMS Code of Ethics**

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

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations 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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**Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions**

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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>2021</td>
<td>June Lodi, CA</td>
<td>July Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>Sept 10 - 12 Toledo, OH</td>
<td>AFMS April 21 - 25 So, Jordon, UT</td>
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<td>Sept. Harrisburg, PA</td>
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<td>AFMS January 29 - 30 Tyler, TX</td>
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**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 AFMS 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 AFMS Central Office. Subscriptions are $5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to "AFMS" and sent to Cheryl Neary, AFMS Central Office, 42 Jefferson Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772-1008, 516-449-5341 <centraloffice.afms at gmail.com>.

Content: Letters, Editorial Comments, Submissions

Any questions or other communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor. Suzanne Webb, 9895 Kerrydale Ct., Reno, NV 89521-4401, 775-624-8446 <AFMSeditor at gmail.com>.

Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication.

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