



A. F. M. S. Newsletter

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Get it Ready - All American Awards Entry! By R. Kapta, AFMS Chair

What is the purpose of your club—what is the mission? This mission is usually stated in clubs' charters or bylaws and is seen on club websites and membership materials, but how well is that mission fulfilled? As clubs grow and change, does the mission still fit? Most clubs have a blended goal of promoting the hobby via education, community outreach, attracting new members, and providing a space where our geology interest can be fostered. How well your club accomplishes that mission can be reflected in your AACA yearbook, as it provides an opportunity to look at the big picture—how do the monthly programs, annual shows, junior activities, community involvement and member events satisfy that mission through the year?

Each yearbook entered is evaluated based on proven facets that grow a club. From junior meetings, and workshops, to shows, publicity and community involvement—all contribute to a club's growth and ultimate survival. In an age where many other interests compete for our members' attention, it takes several different approaches to *get* a person's interest, *keep* that interest, and promote *active* participation. We all need active members, and the challenge of finding them is one of the biggest problems that clubs can face. The AACA yearbook criteria promote different aspects that are vital to a club's survival. The award winners in each yearly contest can serve as models to inspire, and as a resource for some great ideas for your club. One thing I would like to point out is that club entries are not evaluated against each other, but for the aspects that makes a strong, active club serving its mission. Each entry begins with 100 points, and judges look to match club activities to those criteria.

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 The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more it can serve as an historical document for the club, and an excellent tool to encourage prospective members.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

(Continued, p. 2)

The Goodness and Beauty of an American Historical Recreational Activity: The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

The archives of the AFMS Historian Committee are invaluable to the understanding of who we as members of a national organization are, who share a special interest in the enjoyment and study of the Earth Sciences, and the Lapidary Arts and Crafts.

Similar to the adventure of discovering rocks and gems and learning how best to display them, or learning how to grind and polish them to set in jewelry, a historian combs through the files to find the gems of value and inspiration and brings them to the surface for its members.

I think you will remember H.C. Dake of The Mineralogist Magazine from a few historian articles over the years. In the June 1950 magazine he reminded the subscribers about the beginning years of Recreational Rockhounding as the AFMS was preparing for a convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin that year.

Dake referred to the earth science hobby as one of the important byproducts of the depression era. In late 1929 as the black cloud of depression began to hit the nation, people needed something to do to feel useful, something to do to feel constructive to fill their time. They needed something that would add value and meaning to their lives, when all they had known was lost. The earth sciences in so many ways fulfilled those needs, and it was a new boon for America.

But did you know that our heritage of earth science Societies and Federations actually gave to America what no one else did or knew how to create to give at the time, and continues to give? Take the time to think about that over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, and let it sink in. Our value then is as good as gold now as it was then, and is truly an American value.

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Official Magazine of the AFMS

Remember

No issue in January, so get your
December articles in by Nov 5!

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Seven Regional
Federations



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Bulletin Exchange Groups

By Mark Nelson, AFMS BEAC

If you began the job of serving your club as its editor, you had no idea of what options you might have for formatting the bulletin. The only thing most of us had to go on was how the previous editor formatted the club bulletin. We noted that the previous editor faithfully reported the news of the club each month—sometimes in eight pages, sometimes six or twelve - depending on what articles were available for the bulletin.

I wanted my bulletin to be different, even better, than that of my predecessor—but didn't know how to do that. I was a pipefitter and contractor—not a journalist! In conversation with the bulletin editor of the Whittier (California) club during a multi-club field trip I learned about the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors and, through Doug Arnold of S.C.R.I.B.E., I learned about bulletin exchanges. Doug gave me the email addresses of half a dozen editors and we began to exchange our bulletins each month.

What a world that opened! I read every bulletin, either on-line or in print in the evenings after work. I saw bulletins with both attractive covers and those which were very plain. I saw how various editors addressed their club news, federation news, news about members, field trips and calendars. After six months I could see how they formatted their bulletins so that each month the needed club information, like the president's report, club news, field trip, new members and federation information could be put in the same place and on the same page in the bulletin each month. It made it easy to remember to report on these! I learned about the value of a calendar in the bulletin so that a member could stick it in a place to remember meetings and things. I read of clubs that included a *Sunshine Report* - so that members who were sick or who had recently experienced a change in life could be comforted or congratulated. I learned about clubs that had a short "Rock Of The Month" talk by a member, and editors who have a "quiz" each month that awards a prize to the first person who answers a trivia question whose answer is in one of that month's articles. Great stuff for club involvement and interest!

Most of all I recognized how other clubs overcame the major hurdle we all face in producing bulletins—where to find new and interesting articles! Exchange editors make available original and shared feature articles, tips and safety information. They have an archive of fresh material for their bulletins so that they did not have to continually develop original articles to interest their members. When you read another club's bulletin you will see articles that you would like to share with your own club members in your bulletin. You can copy them directly from that club's bulletin! The accepted custom for sharing articles is to give the originating club bulletin, and the club bulletin in which you read the article, authorship credit at the beginning or end of the article. Here is an example: Suppose that Jim Peterson wrote an article on Amethyst that originally appeared in the Ogden Rock and Gem Club's bulletin *Beehive Buzzer*. In your exchange of bulletins with another editor you saw this article and wished to share it with your members in your club's bulletin. You would highlight and copy the article to your word processing program, format it to suit your bulletin's space and font and set it into your draft bulletin. The article would be entitled "Amethyst, by Jim Peterson". At the conclusion of the article you would quote your source - *Source: Beehive Buzzer 9/09 via (the bulletin and issue date where you saw the article).*

From P. 1—Get it Ready

The deadline for the AACA entries will be March 1, 2020. The contest will cover the year 2019 from January thru December. The AACA contest is a two-tier competition—the first tier is entry in the Regional Federations' contest, and the top three entries are submitted to the AFMS level for judging. Check with your regional chairs for their deadline. The deadline for entry in the AFMS contest is **March 1, 2020**. The regional deadline will need to be earlier, so check your Regional newsletters for those dates.

Forms for the 2020 contest are on the AFMS website.

Questions? Contact Regina at rmkapta@comcast.net.

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.

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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 means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and 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.

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Content – Letters, Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter, address changes and questions should be sent to the Editor.

Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication
Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author. For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.

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.

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

from Emerson Tucker

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southern Federation
2019	March 8 - 10 Pomona, CA	June 1 -2 Monroe, NY	AFMS March 23-24 Cedar Rapids, IA	October 18-20 Lewiston, ID	August 2- 4 Prescott, AZ	January 19-20 Fredericksburg, TX	Oct. t. 11-13 Huntsville, AL
2020	June 25-28 Lodi, CA	March Hickory, NC	Sept.18 - 20 Howell, MI		Big Piney, WY	October 12-13 Temple, TX	AFMS Oct. 16-18 Knoxville, TN
2021		July Syracuse, NY	Sept 10 - 12 Toledo, OH		AFMS April 21 - 25 So. Jordon, UT		
2022		Sept. Harrisburg, PA				AFMS January 29 - 30 Tyler, TX	
2023							