

CFMS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fall Business Meeting, Visalia, CA 11/10/2012 by Wes Lingerfelt

The Mrs. and I left Nipomo at 5:30AM for the 156 mile trip to Visalia, CA. It was very cold and the streets were still wet from the fog and recent rain. The roads were for the most part deserted. It was fun watching the temperature readings as we progressed along our route. We observed 29 degrees in Atascadero where our daughter lives which turned out to be an indicator of what was to come. As we advanced up CA41 toward the Kettleman Hills we saw 22 degrees! BRR! Jeannie's BMW ran like top; I had forgotten how much fun it is to drive the Zoom-Zoom car!

We arrived at the hotel at 8AM and registered for the meeting. I sat at the same table as my good friends Gene & Barbara Bilyeu from Paso Robles and Herman Rogers from Bakersfield. We had a good time discussing all the latest news and events. Once again I heard nothing but praise for our last Gem Show and I was happy to tell them it was on again for next year.

The meeting began on time at 9AM. There was the normal agenda items covered according to the format for the meeting; however, I noticed some items were of particular importance this time. I have extracted these and included them here for everyone's information. First let me discuss the routine stuff:

1. There were 61 club directors, 5 officers and 26 committee chairs present for the meeting and a quorum was established. (Note that there are 114 clubs registered with the CFMS).
2. A new CFMS member club was approved for membership named The Gold Country Treasure Seekers.
3. The insurance company is sending out a survey letter to all clubs requesting information concerning the type and age of any buildings involved with the clubs to include the electrical wiring status. It seems laws have changed that make certain conditions of wiring and/or age of properties un-insurable.
4. The 15th of April is the cutoff date for submitting display case completion entries for the CFMS show in Ventura on 31 May through 3 June, 2013.
5. The directors voted on and approved several changes to the Operating Regulations.
6. The Camp Paradise E.S.S. committee announced a change in the seminar dates for 2013. It will occur the last week of August and the first week of September.
7. Frank Mullaney, the CFMS trophy coordinator, announced the availability of rock bags with a draw string that includes a Rockhound logo on the outside. See the info provided as an attachment.
8. The cost for CFMS dues remains the same as last year; CFMS dues \$2.00, Insurance \$6.00 or \$8.00 per member.
9. I received the 2013 Bulletin Contest Score sheet covering all the various bulletin categories for judging. Please ask if you want a copy.

The meeting worked though the lunch break and completed the agenda by 12:30 PM. Jeannie did some reading on her Kindle and visited with friends while I participated in the meeting. Overall it was a very good day.

The following are excerpts from material handed out at the meeting:

TAX ADVISOR REPORT

CFMS Fall Business Meeting-Visalia, CA-November 10, 2012

For the first time since 1994, I do not have a single tax exemption application pending. I do have a society with a revoked exemption due to failure to file the Form 990N. The Society has 1 year to reapply for exemption with a fee of \$100.00 rather than the usual \$800.

WARNING

Small nonprofit organizations (most societies) do not have an officer or key person that maintains all permanently required documents such as minutes, Articles of Incorporation, and tax exemption letter. Too often the annual change of officers and board members, introduces a high risk of these documents being lost or destroyed. In addition, the knowledge gained and documentation held by the outgoing officer, board member is not transferred to the incoming person. How does a society overcome this problem? I wish I had a good answer. A society with a long-term historian (think Shirley Leeson) might be the best answer. This method is only fool proof if the new officers and board members are made aware of the historian's files.

I would like to hear from societies with their methods for ensuring all permanent documents are retained and made available as needed.

Failure to file required regulatory forms can cause penalties, interest and in many cases revocation of tax exemption. One suggestion is to have a separate calendar with all filing due dates and the calendar reviewed at each Board meeting. Let me know if your society has a better solution to this problem. I will publish any feedback I receive.

This year I have had California societies that were in danger of having their exemptions revoked for failure to file the bi-annual Statement of Domestic Non-Profit Corporations with the Secretary of State. A couple of societies required to file Form 990 (Federal) and Form 199 (California) were sent penalty letters. In all cases the penalties were waived but it required much effort from the societies. In 1994 the California Franchise Tax Board attempted to revoke the exemption of all our societies exempt as social clubs. I assisted approximately 70 of the societies to obtain retroactive exemption as social welfare organizations for both Federal and California purposes. I still maintain a file on these societies. The past year I furnished copies of exemption letters and certificates of amendments to articles of incorporation to some societies. Contact me if you are missing articles of incorporation or tax exempt letter. '

I recently found out the Franchise Tax Board did not change their master file to show the exemption changes from 1994-95. If your Society was one of them, you can call the Franchise Tax Board and ask what type of exemption is shown on their master file. If they show social club, let me know. The specialist at the Franchise Tax Board has agreed to make the change.

The IRS is having a workshop aimed at small exempt organizations. It will cover do's and don'ts on political activities and all regulatory reports required of small exempt organizations. If your society is interested in sending someone to the workshop, send me an email and I will forward the registration information. The Sacramento sessions are December 18, 19 & 20. The cost is \$45.00.

Mike Kokinos

CFMS Membership Committee Report
Fall Business Meeting-Visalia, CA-November 10, 2012

It's always rewarding to identify individual societies within the Federation who have celebrated decades of membership and continued growth and success.

Alternatively, it's frustrating to find other societies whose membership numbers are in decline and a few that actually disband entirely because of a lack of members.

Prior to this November meeting, I asked Pat LaRue to provide me with some information regarding membership in the Federation. Here is some of what Pat said:

There are 114 clubs which paid dues/insurance for 2012. This is down from 117 clubs in 2009. There has been a steady loss of clubs in the 11 years I've been in this position. We've gained some clubs but not enough to replace the numbers lost. The majority simply "died on the vine".

The number of members has steadily declined from a high of 11,043 in 2000 to this year's count of 9,254. Here are the numbers from 2000 forward:

2000 - 11,043
2001 - 10,580
2002 - 10,470
2003 - 9,885
2004 - 9,439
2005 - 9,364
2006 - 9,415
2007 - 9,375
2008 - 9,772
2009 - 10,066
2010 - 10,355
2011 - 9,509
2012 - 9,254

The primary goal of the CFMS Membership Committee has been to provide guidance and assistance to member societies in their efforts to increase membership. Articles are submitted on a regular basis to the Federation's newsletter and I am available at each of the twice-annual Directors meetings to meet with your Society's Director/representative.

Based upon the availability of a meeting room at the November 10th Directors meeting in Visalia, I will be available following the Directors meeting and lunch to discuss concepts and tools which each Society may adopt to assist in membership development.

Fred Ott
Membership Committee Chairperson 2012

Rockhounding is more than a hobby it's a PASSION!

October 17, 2012
 CFMS Directors & Officers
 Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Juniors Activities Chair
 Report on Juniors Activities

My juniors report somehow got left out of the packet at our last Director's meeting, so I just want to start by repeating my thanks to everyone who helped close out our 2011 CFMS Year of the Child. But let's not relegate that to just a one-year presidential theme; let's make *every* year the Year of the Child! I hope all clubs are making renewed efforts to do more to sign up kids and engage in educational outreach to schools and scouts, homeschoolers, science fairs, and any and all means possible, including kids' activities at your local shows. We've posted a Menu of Kids Show Activity Suggestions to the CFMS web site to provide a source of ideas when thinking about what to do for kids at your show. If your show doesn't have a Kids Booth, I encourage you to start one. The Menu gives ideas about how to do so. And if you've been doing kids' activities all along, it might provide ideas for shaking things up and adding a new activity or two. Look under the "Manuals" tab at <http://www.cfmsinc.org>.

I continue work with the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program. Nationally, we've issued 2,634 Membership patches to kids and have awarded 6,096 badges, including 275 "Rockhound" badges for kids completing at least 6 activity badges and 18 "Rock Star" pins for kids who have earned all the badges. Since the program began, within CFMS we've signed up 522 kids and have awarded 1,083 activity badges, 59 Rockhound badges and 6 Rock Star pins. There has been a definite down-tick in involvement in the past year from CFMS clubs. Let's hope this is just a temporary blip, especially since thanks to the AFMS-I'm pleased to note I've added 5 new badges: *The World in Miniature*, *Special Effects*, *Fluorescent Minerals*, *Reaching Across Generations*, and *Maps*. I posted a revised and expanded Manual to the AFMS website in March: <http://www.amfed.org/lfralfrabadge.htm>. Kids can now receive a Membership patch then work on earning any of 20 activity badges while working their way toward a Rockhound badge and a Rock Star pin-all *entirely free* thanks to the generosity of the AFMS Endowment Fund. If you haven't signed up your club's kids, don't hold back! Last year, I was pleased to report that thanks to the initiative of Pat Egolf (Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY), we established a "Rock Pals" program to encourage kids in local clubs across the U.S. to exchange rocks, fossils, and minerals in a program similar to "Pen Pals." Kids box up enough rocks, minerals, or fossils from their local area to fit in a medium-size flat-rate box available at the Post Office to exchange for a box of goodies from another participating club from anywhere in the U.S. Sadly, Pat passed away in January. To honor her memory and efforts, we now call this the Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Program, and Darryl "Diamond Dan" Powell (NY) and Todd Maurer (OR) have volunteered to oversee it. For details, see <http://www.amfed.org/lfralrockpals.htm>. I've also made a personal \$100 donation in Pat's memory to the AFMS Scholarship Fund, and I encourage others to do so, too.

As 2012 began, I judged junior articles for the AFMS Bulletin Contest, and winners were announced at the July AFMS meeting in Minnesota. I also continue writing articles for the Kids' Page of *Rock & Gem* magazine. I'd like to start running a series of articles in *Rock & Gem Kids* about especially outstanding juniors, and I encourage anyone to contact me with names and details about kids who deserve such special recognition to serve as inspiration and role models for other kids.

If you'd like to help with our CFMS Juniors Activities, contact me: Jim Brace-Thompson, 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577. Also, check out Kids Corner on the AFMS website at <http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm>. I'd love to see each and every society within CFMS participating and awarding badges to their pebble pups and junior members via the Badge Program. Remember: *it's free* thanks to the generosity of the AFMS and their Endowment Fund.
 Let's all help kids learn while having fun!

October 17, 2012
CFMS Directors & Officers
Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Long Range Planning Committee Chair
Report on Long Range Planning

My primary goal as Chair this year of the Long Range Planning Committee has been to continue efforts I had begun as CFMS President to digitize our key documents--By-Law and ORs, Officer's Manual, Convention Agreement, Museum Inventory, New Club Application Form, Expense forms, etc. Most of these items are now digitized, and I'll be presenting them to the Executive Committee for deciding how and where to post them to the CFMS website.

The biggest task has been to revise our Officer's and Chairmen's Manual to bring it in line with our latest By-Laws and ORs since the Officer's Manual does not seem to have been updated in many, many years. We also wish to add a new document on "Processes and Procedures" for the Executive Committee to cover things not explicitly addressed in the By-Laws and ORs. By the time we meet in Visalia, I will have delivered a revised Officer's & Chairmen's Manual to the Executive Committee for their review and approval before we set about posting it to the CFMS website and distributing copies to officers and committee members.

I've also set a target of updating the Show Manual that contains tips on hosting a CFMS Show and having it available in electronic form. The current manual is a bit overly large and intimidating, and we're attempting to whittle it down to the essentials and to make it more accessible and "user friendly."

CFMS MEMBER RECOGNITION

One member or couple from your club can be recognized each year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Club Name -----

Person or Couple _____

Members for how long? (Approximately) _____

Write a brief paragraph on how (he, she, they) have helped your club: Service to the club. Being an officer, show chairman, bulletin editor, help at the shop, instructor, educational speaker, hospitality at meetings (greeting new members and making them feel a part of the club). If they have held many positions over the years, list several of them.

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Home of the ROCKHOUND LOGO

Phone: 408-266-1791

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Items and Prices are listed below.

Rock bags: 1 to 99 \$.50ea
100 to 249 \$.40 ea
lots of 250 \$.375 ea
lots of 500 \$.35 ea
lots of 750 \$.325 ea
lots of 1000 \$.30 ea

Rockhound Logo items:

Large Stickers 3 1/2 ": \$.50 ea or \$33.00 per 100

Small Stickers 1": \$3.00 per 100

Patches 3": \$1.50 ea

. Lapel or Hat pin approx 7/8": \$1.00 ea.

. Campaign button 2 1/4": \$1.00 ea.

License Plate Frame: \$18.00 ea.

Earrings: \$3.00 pr

We can personalize the following Rockhound logo items:

Metal travel mug: \$18.00 ea. Call for case quantity discounts

15 oz ceramic mug: \$12.00 ea. Call for case quantity discounts

11oz ceramic mug: \$10.00 ea. Call for case quantity discounts

Hats: \$10.00 ea.

Carrying bags: Call for price.

T Shirts: \$18.00 ea.

We can also personalize the following items: clipboards, jewelry boxes, clocks,
or any item you need for your favorite rockhound.

Banners, embroidery, badges, awards-call for pricing

Shipping is not included in the price quoted and prices are subject to