

Rocky Mountain Federation  
of Mineralogical Societies

# 2022-2023 Annual Report



July 15, 2023  
Casper, Wyoming

Host Club  
Natrona County Rock Hounds

# President's Welcome

## **Hello Fellow Rockhounds!**

I would like to welcome the Rockhounding Community, Officers, Delegates and Committee Chairs to the 2023 Rocky Mountain Federations of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting in Casper, Wyoming. I look forward to celebrating with the Natrona County Rockhounds at their 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock Show. I doubt there are very many clubs that can make that boast, and I am really looking forward to seeing what they have planned to commemorate this impressive milestone.

Within the Federation, we have a lot to accomplish this year during the House of Delegates Meeting. We have quite a few items for voting from Long-Range Planning (Check out this section in the report) and I can't wait to hear from the member Clubs / Societies.

The Convention will be a great time to catch up with old (no pun intended) friends and make new ones who share the love of the rocks and minerals. If you are attending the Show, I suggest sitting in at one of the RMFMS meetings to hear about the Federation.

If you see me walking around, be sure to say "Hi." I will be the one in the President's Hat. If you see me without the HAT, take a picture and send it along to Richard Jaeger, Bob Regner, Liz Thomas or DeLane Cox (all past RMFMS Presidents). There is a contest that benefits the AFMS Scholarship Fund!

In case you don't know about it, there is a brief history of The President's Hat in Addendum #1

See you in Casper!  
Sheri Johnson,  
RMFMS President

## Secretary's Invitation

All Rocky Mountain Federation Clubs, Officers, and Committee Chairs:

It is my privilege to extend an invitation to all member clubs, Federation Officers, and Committee Chairs to attend the 2023 RMFMS Convention to be held July 14-16 in Casper, Wyoming, at the Ramkota Hotel. Our hosts are the members of the Natrona County Rock Hounds, and their President, Mac Goss.

The RMFMS Executive Committee will meet Friday, July 14, at 1 pm in the Wyoming Theater Room at the Hotel. Please note the Gem and Mineral Show is being held in the Hotel's Ballroom. The House of Delegates will meet Saturday, July 15, at 1 pm in the Wyoming Theater. The House of Delegates Meeting is where all RMFMS business is conducted.

The RMFMS Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, July 15, at 6 pm in the Wyoming Theater. The Editors and Webmasters Breakfast will be held Sunday, July 16, at 8 am in the Wyoming Theater.

Each club is entitled to two votes on Federation business at the Delegates Meeting. Your Club should have two Delegates at the meeting representing your Club. Each Delegate should have a Delegates Form, signed by an Officer of the Club, either sent to the Credentials Chair two weeks before the meeting, or brought to the meeting and presented to the Credentials Committee table at least one hour before the Delegates Meeting.

If no member of your club can attend, please fill out a Proxy Form and assign your votes to another person who will be attending. A good person to ask to vote your Proxy would be your State Director, IF they are attending the Convention. Otherwise, ask another RMFMS member who IS attending the Convention. Your Proxy person MUST be in attendance for your votes to be counted. Delegate Forms and Proxy Forms are at the back of this packet. They are also on the RMFMS website. These must be presented to the Credentials Committee at least one hour prior to the Delegates Meeting.

Please have your Delegates bring a copy of this Annual Report to the Delegates Meeting. It contains the Meeting's Agenda as well as business papers and reports.

Wayne Cox, RMFMS Secretary

## **House of Delegates Meeting Agenda**

July 15, 2023 Casper, Wyoming

### Call to Order

#### Opening

- A. Invocation
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Recognition of VIPs Present
- D. Memorial Tributes

#### Business Session

- A. Credential Committee- Determining meeting quorum
- B. Minutes from Last Meeting
- C. Treasurer's Report

#### Officers Reports

- A. President- Sheri Johnson
- B. Vice-President - Jodi Brewster
- C. Secretary - Wayne Cox
- D. Treasurer - Gene Maggard
- E. Historian - Cinda Kunkler
- F. Past Presidents - Bob Regner, Liz Thomas

#### State Directors Reports

- A. Arizona/Nevada - Steve Kaminski
- B. Colorado - Kathy Honda
- C. Kansas - Brad Davenport
- D. New Mexico/Texas - Bob Regner
- E. North Dakota - Steve Fasching
- F. Oklahoma/Arkansas - Roberta Wagle
- G. South Dakota/Nebraska - Lori Green
- H. Utah - Tracy Jensen
- I. Wyoming - Jim Gray

#### Committee Reports:

- A. ACROY - Club Rockhound of the Year-Open
- B. All American Club Contest - Roberta Wagle
- C. BEAC (Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee) - Linda Jaeger
- D. Boundaries - Open
- E. Convention Advisor - Liz Thomas
- F. Credentials - Marvin Sawaia
- G. Finance Committee - Wayne Cox
- H. Fluorescent Mineral Tech Committee - Pete Modreski

- I. Fossil Technical Committee - Patrick Rowe
- J. Insurance - Gene Maggard
- K. International Relations - Mike Nelson
- L. Junior Program - Terri Harris
- M. Lapidary Technical Committee - Open
- N. Long-Range Planning Committee - Judith Beck
- O. Membership Directory - Liz Thomas
- P. Mineral Technical Committee - Open
- Q. Name Badges Committee - Richard Jaeger
- R. Newsletter Editor - Open
- S. Nominating Committee - Bob Regner
- T. Parliamentarian - Gene Maggard
- U. Programs Competition - Gene Maggard
- V. Program Library - Peggy Maggard
- W. Public Land Advisory Committee (PLAC)
  - 1. Arizona/Nevada - Dr. Alex Schauss
  - 2. Colorado - Mike Nelson, Chair
  - 3. Kansas - Jared Kyner
  - 4. Nebraska - Mike Nelson
  - 5. New Mexico/Texas - Open
  - 6. North Dakota - Mike Nelson
  - 7. Oklahoma/Arkansas - Stan Nowak
  - 8. South Dakota - Brandon Nelson
  - 9. Utah - Jack Johnson
  - 10. Wyoming - Richard Gerow
- X. Public Relations Committee - Open
- Y. Ribbons - Peggy Sue Moore
- Z. Safety - Open
- AA. Scholarship - Richard Jaeger
- AB. Stationery and Trophies - Open
- AC. Supplies - Roberta Wagle
- AD. Trademark Control and Use - Open
- AE. Uniform Rules Committee - Lee Whitebay
- AF. Webmaster - Dale Bright
- AG. Website Contest Committee - Jennifer Gerring

Unfinished Business

New Business

Resolutions

Adjourn

## Minutes

### **RMFMS Delegates Committee Meeting**

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

June 18, 2022. Las Vegas, Nevada

Officers and State Directors in Attendance: Sheri Johnson, Jodi Brewster, Gene Maggard, Cinda Kunkler, Liz Thomas, Steve Kaminski, Robert Carlson.

### **Opening**

President Sheri Johnson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced Judith Beck, who gave the Invocation.

**Recognition of VIPs:** Judith Beck, past AFMS President and RMFMS Past President; Liz Thomas, past RMFMS President and current AFMS Fifth Vice President; DeLane Cox, past RMFMS President; Richard Jaeger, past RMFMS President and past AFMS President; Dr. Bob Carlson, past RMFMS and AFMS President and past Northwest Federation President; Matt Charsky, President Elect, AFMS; Jeanne Charsky, Matt's wife; and Cheryl Neary, AFMS Executive Director.

**Credentials Report:** Sherry asked for a report from Credentials Chair DeLane Cox, who announced there was not a quorum. We are two clubs short of the necessary number.

**Memorial Tributes:** Sherry asked if there were any Memorial Tributes to be given. Several were given (see list at the end of Minutes.)

### **Business Session**

Secretary's Report: Minutes from last year's meeting were in the Annual Report. No corrections were made. Report approved.

Treasurer's Report: Gene Maggard announced the Federation had 10,890 members. Financially, the Federation lost about \$600 for the first time in a long time. Gene handed out his financial report for this year. Gene reported that the loss was expected, and explained why he believes this will probably go back up in three years. We are still realizing income on the investment. Because the IRS requires we do something with invested income, the Federation voted several years ago to give the interest and income from the investment accounts to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. This year at that amount was \$2,280.

## **Officer's Reports**

President: Sheri said there were several handouts on the back table. She hoped everyone picked them up. Her President's Message was included. She displayed the President's Hat which she and Jody Brewster, VP, had asked State Directors to make a small stone outline of their state to go on the hat band. Wayne Cox is still working on Arkansas.

Vice President – in Annual Report

Secretary - in Annual Report. Sherry introduced Debbie Buckman, who would take notes of the meeting while Wayne Cox is hiking with his Boy Scouts in New Mexico.

Historian - in Annual Report.

Past Presidents - Liz Thomas - in Annual Report.

## **State Directors Reports**

Arizona – in Annual Report. There is a longer version in handouts.

Colorado – absent because she broke her arm

Kansas – no report, and not in attendance

New Mexico/Texas - Bob had no report. He said that a storm wiped out his Internet so he could not type a report. He did say the Chaparral Club was no longer a member. But, everything else is OK

North Dakota – position vacant

Oklahoma/ Arkansas – Roberta Wagle said Cecelia Evans' Report is in the Annual Report. Roberta has just taken over the job, so she had no report.

South Dakota – no report, and not in attendance

Utah – position vacant

Wyoming – Report in Annual Report

Steve Kaminski gave an update on the status of the Arizona Hall of Fame, which is now open.

## **Committee reports**

All American Club – DeLane Cox reported one submission this year. The award will be presented at the banquet on Saturday.



The entry was forwarded to the AFMS for consideration.

Convention Advisor – Liz Thomas said her report is in the Annual Report. However she has three clubs who wish to be considered for upcoming Conventions later in this meeting.

Long-Range Planning Committee – Judith Beck spoke, but because there was no quorum, no business could be voted on. There was a supplemental report submitted in response to changes on the back table. Gene suggested the changes go back to the LRPC, and they should go over them and report next year. Judith agreed.

Directory Committee – Liz Thomas said she had tried to spice up the Directory a bit. She really needs submitted membership forms written more clearly so they can be read. She said there are many mistakes in the Directory, but she cannot always read the forms. Send changes for the Directory to her and she will send all changes to the clubs.

Name Badges Committee – Richard Jaeger said he ordered seven new badges.

Nominating Committee – Report in the Annual Report, but they still need State Directors for Utah and North Dakota. There will be no election of new officers due to lack of a quorum. Richard said according to the By-Laws the current officers will remain in place. If there are any resignations, the president will make appointments to fill the position.

Programs Library – Gene Maggard reported no programs have been requested this year.

Ribbons Committee – Peggy Moore reported that this year's regular order for ribbons was delayed due to covid problem, so she went to another source. She spent twice as much, but we were out of ribbons. Enough ribbons were ordered for three years. This was over the budget, but she feels we can cover it.

Scholarship Committee - Richard Jaeger reported additional donations have come in since he made the report in the Annual Report. He had a supplemental report. Kathy Honda had made a personal donation of \$500 to the Scholarship Fund.

Matt Charsky, the incoming AFMS President, thanked our Federation for the donations to the Scholarship Fund. He said he was proud to announce that the AFMS had awarded \$2 million in



scholarships through this year. Richard announced the RMFMS scholarship honoree and his two students will be at the banquet Saturday night and will give us a brief statement.

Stationery and Trophies Committee - Bob Carlson still has stationery for the Federation, if any officer needs it. He also has all trophies for the banquet.

Webmaster – Sheri said she is looking for a new webmaster, and may have located someone who will take job. She hopes to have the new website updated soon.

Trademarks Committee - Gene Maggard said this is very important item. We must keep up-to-date with when our trademark is due for renewal in order that the trademark does not expire. Our *pro bono* attorney, who is a member of the Payson Gemstones Club, must file a renewal six months before it expires. But we must keep up with any changes that are made. The government will not give notice if our trademark is not renewed, but will declare it abandoned. The cost to reinstate the trademark will be about \$600 plus attorney fees.

## **Unfinished Business**

AFMS Endowment Fund – Richard announced that he had raffle tickets to sell, which will be drawn for prizes at the AFMS Convention. He introduced Cheryl Neary who is the AFMS chair of the raffle.

Library - Sherry announced the update on the status of converting Library programs to online programs. Gene reported he does not have many programs to check out since several had been sent to Bob Regner to be copied. Bob and Joel Johnstone plan to copy DVDs to the website so many people could use them. They were to look at other programs in the library to see if they were salvageable. Nothing has been done at this point.

## **New Business**

Sherry announced there were three clubs who would like to host upcoming RMFMS Conventions.

2023 – Natrona Gem Club, Casper, Wyoming. It is their 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Show, and they would like to host the Convention in conjunction with that Celebration.

2024 – Oklahoma City Club would like to host the Convention the last weekend in October

2025 – Grand Junction, Colorado, would like to host this Convention.

Because there was no quorum, no vote could be taken on the hosting. It was suggested that the president call the Executive Committee into session and vote on the dates in order that the clubs can get start preparation for Conventions. There were seven members in attendance, which is a quorum, and the vote was unanimous to have the RMFMS Conventions as listed above.

Steve Kaminski, the Arizona State Director, said the Federation needs to consider holding the Convention electronically so all clubs could participate and vote. The Federation will be looking at this in the future, and Sheri asked the LRPC to look at this. Our current By-Laws would not support this. Steve said the Flagg Foundation had recently changed their By-Laws to allow electronic meetings, and he would try to get a copy of those By-Laws and forward them to the LRPC.

Resolutions – there were none forwarded.

Sheri asked for an Emergency Executive Committee meeting to be held directly after this meeting is adjourned.

Sherry asked if there was any other business. Being none, a motion was made to adjourn by DeLane Cox, seconded by Bob Carlson. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

*The Minutes were compiled from meeting recordings and notes from Sheri Johnson*

Memorial Tributes (as submitted)

Northwest Arkansas Gem and Mineral Society, Arkansas, lost members Stanley Wolfram and David Leininger.

Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club, Arizona, lost founding member Herb Jacobson.

Gila County Gem & Mineral Society, Arizona, lost Don Hawkins

Payson Rimstones Rock Club, Arizona, lost Cathy Otaró

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Arizona, lost Fran Pfier and Karen Dorsey

Daisy Mountain Rock & Mineral Club, Arizona, lost Herb Jacobson

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society, Nevada, lost Lynn Mathey

Oklahoma City Mineral & Gem Society, Oklahoma, lost Ron Matosky and Virgil Richards

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## **2022-2023 RMFMS BUSINESS**

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### **Treasurer's Report**

Fiscal year 2021-22 and the first half of 2023 are shown on the attached Excel spreadsheet (see Addendum #3 at end of Reports).

For fiscal year 2021-22, income exceeded expenses by about \$8,600. A big chunk of that was a very surprising drop in our insurance premium with Philadelphia Insurance Company of about \$2,500. Other than that, income was somewhat larger than anticipated and expenses were generally lower than expected. No State Directors turned in travel expenses for visiting clubs in their jurisdiction.

Fiscal year 2022-23 is off to a good start. Half way through the year income exceeds expenses by \$8,000. There will be some Convention expenses and postage of \$454 for mailing the Directories is not included, but barring some big surprise, we have already incurred most of our income and expenses.

For those who pay attention to these sorts of things, you are probably aware from previous Treasurer's reports that our Vanguard bond fund suffered large unrealized capital losses the past year as the Fed began making large increases in the discount rate. The bond fund is making a comeback as low interest rate bonds mature and higher paying bonds are purchased. The bond fund has an unrealized capital gain YTD of \$2,900. There has also been a slow but steady increase in dividends from the bond fund.

Both of our bank CDs, which are drawing very low interest rates, have matured, and those funds have been combined and moved to Edward Jones. The \$89,784 value of that account is invested in an \$88,000 CD at 4.6% maturing on 1/12/24 and the balance is in a Money Market account. It seems that Edward Jones will

only invest in CDs at round numbers of a thousand dollars. The higher interest rates are already making a difference. We have already exceeded 2021-22's interest income for the whole year.

The RMFMS total membership is up this year. We ended 2021-22 with 10,896 members. All clubs that are going to report for 2022-23 have done so, I believe. We currently stand at 12,804 members and 78 clubs. Four clubs, Verde River Rockhounds (Cottonwood, AZ), Moab Points and Pebbles (Moab, UT), Beehive (Ogdon, UT) and ROCK (Salt Lake City, UT) did not renew their membership. Moab disbanded. We gained two clubs, Cache Rock and Gem Club (Logan, UT) and Sierra County Rock and Gem Society (Truth or Consequences, NM). Cache was previously a member but dropped out for three years.

All in all, fiscal year 2022-23 is looking good. Let me know if there are any questions or concerns.

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

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### President's Report

What a year it has been. We now have 78 Clubs in the Rocky Mountain Federation, with a total of 12,804 members. It is good to see the numbers grow for this amazing hobby. We did lose four clubs: Verde River Rockhounds (Cottonwood, AZ), Moab Points and Pebbles (Moab, UT), Beehive (Ogdon, UT) and ROCK (Salt Lake City). And we added two: Cache Rock and Gem Club (Logan, UT) and the Sierra County Rock and Gem Society (Truth or Consequences, NM).

My activities this year include:

- The Executive Board met several times via Zoom during the year to hash out the new RMFMS website. It is a work in progress, but it is improving.
- The AFMS had two Zoom Meetings to coordinate what is going on across the entire country.
  - Meeting #1 – Extended discussion about how to bring more volunteers into the open positions for both the AFMS and the Regional Federations
  - Meeting #2 – Discussions included:
    - A potential partnership with Rock & Gem Magazine,

- Concerns with the Mojave Trails National Monument closing for collecting.
  - The AFMS Convention in Billing, Montana, this year will include five days of field trips, starting Monday after the Show; Registration has been extended to July 1, 2023
- I attended the 2022 RMFMS Convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada.
  - Due to not having a quorum, we were unable to conduct any business, which means we have A LOT to go over in 2023 at Casper.
  - Be sure to review the items on the Long-Range Planning Committee. These are a few of the items we will be voting on in Casper, Wyoming. If no one from your Club/Society will be attending, please make sure to contact your State Director regarding your Proxy vote! ***Every Club / Society has a say on how the RMFMS operates, so make sure your concerns are voiced at the meeting, either by attending or via a Proxy vote.***
  - If you are unsure who your State Director is, please contact Jodi Brewster or myself.
- I attended the AFMS Annual Convention in Westwego, Louisiana, in October. It was a great show and attended by representatives from RMFM including Liz & Ben Thomas and Linda & Richard Jaeger.

We have a few new State Directors and Committee Chairs this year:

- UT State Director – Tracy Jensen
- ND State Director – Steve Fasching
- NM / TX State Director – Bob Regner
- All American Club – Roberta Wagle
- Credentials Chair – Marvin Sawaia
- Webmaster – Dale Bright

And we also have several vacant positions that need to be filled.

If you know of anyone who might be a good fit for these positions, please give me a call or send me an email.

- ACROY (American Club Rockhound of the Year)
- Boundaries Chair (preferably a past RMFMS President)
- Newsletter Editor
- Juniors Program
- Lapidary Tech
- PLAC – NM / TX
- Public Relations
- Safety
- Stationary / Trophies
- Uniform Rules

And finally, I want to thank everyone who is a part of the RMFMS Executive Committee and all member Societies and Clubs. You have all made this experience as the RMFMS President an incredible experience. It has been an honor to serve, and I am humbled by the people who are a part of this amazing organization. Thank you for your support!

Sheri Johnson

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## Vice President

Where did the year go? It went so fast that YES, I am late on my RMFMS report. Here is the breakdown of what I did in 2023.

June 2022: Post-Convention Communication. Contacting all who had gotten sick. Checked on their well-being and updating them on the progress of the investigation of the cause of the illness. The Health Department said the outcome was not food poisoning: it was a Noro virus.

October 2022: The Ada, Oklahoma, club contacted me a couple of months back about coming to Globe. We had seven of their club members come out. Marvin and I had scheduled a two day rock trip for them. We had taken them to six different areas where they were able to collect Azurite, Travertine, Serpentine, Marble and Silica. We made sure they did not leave empty handed. Marvin and I love when clubs call us and want to come check out our Copper Town. We get to meet great people. We were so busy looking for rocks we forgot to get a group picture.



RMFMS president Sheri Johnson asked if I would contact the Utah Clubs to see about getting a Utah State Director. I contacted all seven clubs in Utah via email and phone. No one was interested in the position at that time.

February 2023: A Minnesota club of 20 plus members came to do some rock hounding. They were here for a three-day rock hunting trip. We took them to most of the same place as we did the Ada group. It rained one day so we invited them to come to our club for a workshop day so that they didn't have to just sit in their hotel rooms. They were able to cut some of their rocks that they had collected and they got to do some wire wrapping. Just because it rains doesn't mean we can't still have fun.

The RMFMS Executive Committee held a Zoom meeting to meet with the new Webmaster and discussed the new website.

March 2023: the RMFMS EC held a Zoom meeting to continue discussion on website.

April 2023: Attended the AZ/NV State Director's "Casper, Wyoming, Pep Rally" event that was held at an exclusive earth science museum gallery -The LGF Gallery, owned by Michael Fleeman. RMFMS President Sheri Johnson also attended, along with about seven AZ/NV clubs and one guest club, the Pinal Gem & Mineral club.

May 2023: AFMS held a Zoom meeting to update everyone on AFMS activities.

Jodi Brewster

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## Secretary's Report

During this year RMFMS has voted to bring three new clubs into the Federation with the successful votes for the Cashe Rock and Gem Club from Logan, Utah, the Sierra County Rock and Gem Society from Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, and the Corral Bluffs Alliance from Falcon, Colorado.

I really missed being at the Convention last year, but due to my obligations to my Boy Scout Troop, I was backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico that same weekend.

And, last, as reports from Officers, State Directors, and Commit-



tee Chairs are coming in, I am in the process of completing the 2022-23 RMFMS Annual Report in preparation of the 2023 Convention in Casper, Wyoming, which must be sent out 30 days prior to the Convention. This Annual Report will also be posted on the RMFMS website.

Wayne Cox

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### Treasurer

Report given Earlier.

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### Historian

In the summer of 1967, I was looking forward to a week long visit with my life long friend. Little did I know that 56 years later in the summer of 2023, I am looking forward to a chance to visit with my MANY friends that I usually don't see except one time a year – this year in Casper, Wyoming!

I came across an item as I was looking through an issue of Lapidary Journal (December, 1966), when I came to their 'Calendar of Events' I scanned down 1967 shows, and saw this listing:

“\*June 9 through 11, **ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION**, Annual show. In conjunction with **Wyoming State Show**. Hosts: NATRONA COUNTY ROCKHOUNDS, Casper, Wyo. Industrial Bldg., Natrona County Fairgrounds, Casper, Wyo. Committee Chairman: Mary Stanton, Pres., c/o Soc., Box 576, Casper, Wyo.”

A little further down the page was this listing:

\*June 29 through July 2” the joint show of the AFMS & Eastern Federation shows were hosted by the local club in Washington DC. There were articles on Arizona, Oklahoma and “GRUNERITE & OTHER GEMS FROM EASTERN WYOMING” By June Culp Zeitner.

I received a call from the North Central Kansas Gem & Mineral Club to help them determine when their group organized in 2008/07 (?). In my 'search' I was missing a few RMFMS

Directories. A folder with '2009 Reports' provided me with a list of 08-09 Member Reports where I did find them listed. It appeared no dues were submitted, so they were not listed in the Directory. The Kansas State Director's report by Marvin Lundquist noted that 'A new Club, North Central Kansas Gem and Mineral Club, was installed during the past year'. I talked with Gene Maggard and after checking his insurance records they were added in 2011-12.

I am now on a mission to find photos of every RMFMS President wearing 'The President's HAT'. It's a fun tradition and the HAT has been worn by many. Howie Whiting at the request of Richard Jaeger (in 2005) wrote up the history documenting some of the 'fines' imposed on some who did not wear the hat as required. The HAT started in 1986 and was worn by Presidents from 1987 continuing through the years. In 1995 an OP concerning the HAT was adopted at the Delegates meeting written by John Alf. All fines imposed (decided by a gathering of past Presidents) are given as donation to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, a very worthy cause to support graduate Geoscience students.

I am still in awe at my surprise for having been selected for the 2022 RMFMS Gold Pan Award! It proudly hangs on my wall, now with the one my Mother, Louellen Montgomery, was awarded in 1984. She along with Tom Chatburn & Dan Caudle were the first 3 recipients of the RMFMS Gold Pan Award at the 1984 RMFMS Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A special thanks to Dr. Robert Carlson who made the plaque. I hope to continue to find ways to repay you all for this Honor!

Cinda Kunkler

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### Past Presidents

My last year as a Past President but not my last duties. I am on several Committees, and I am always a phone call away or email away for whomever we elect as our new President of Rocky Mountain Federation, or anyone that needs me.

It has been so much fun. It has brought a lot of joy to my heart knowing I try my hardest to do everything in my power to make this organization a great one. And most of the credit goes to ev-

everyone who surrounds me with so much love and help. I thank you and appreciate you.

This year was not so easy for the board because we had so many very important positions that we just could not get filled. I hope we can get these filled so we can have a full head-on approach to informing and working with all the clubs. President Sheri Johnson and Vice-President Jodi Brewster, I can tell you they are very hard workers and do a great job.

So, come see me in Casper and let's make this a great year.

Liz Thomas

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## STATE DIRECTORS REPORTS

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### Arizona - Nevada

Once again, the desert blooms with vibrant community and Arizona-Nevada Societies, Clubs, Guilds, and Foundations are blooming like desert flowers after a long spring rain. Updated or new contact details for Presidents and/or Secretaries are provided. So use the attached to markup and amend your 2023 RMFMS Directory.

#### Statistics

Emails Received: ~200 per month    Emails Sent: ~50 per month

Events Attended: ~1 per 1-2 Months

Hours of Phone Calls: Average ~8 per Month

Events Produced: 1 (The 2023 AZ/NV Convention Prep Rally)

New Clubs Motivated to Join RMFMS: Hopefully, 1 tentative (Pinal Geology And Mineral Club)

#### Activity This Year

##### Convention Prep Rally

On April 15, 2023, I held the Arizona and Nevada Convention Prep Rally (CPR). The goal of this event was to bring together the Arizona - Nevada leadership to promote interest and involvement in the RMFMS Convention and promote awareness and networking among the Arizona-Nevada organization.

The venue was the Larry G. Fleeman Natural History Museum Gallery (the LGF Gallery) in Scottsdale, Arizona. The LGF Gallery is a private exhibit space for the LGF collection of petrified

wood, meteorites, mineral, fossils (mega fauna to delicately preserved squids) and ancient weapons. Michael Fleeman, the founder and owner of the gallery is interested in developing the gallery into a world class natural history museum and uses the gallery to introduce visitors to his collections and project. He generously and graciously not only allowed the event to be held there, but gave private tours throughout the housed collections. His petrified wood collection is among the best in the world, and represents seven continents (no mean accomplishments). While there, Michael placed a piece of the moon in one of my hands and a piece of Mars in the other.

Attendees included representatives of the Coconino Lapidary Club, the Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club (DMRMC), the Flag Mineral Foundation, the Gila County Gem & Mineral Society, the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club and the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society. Three of the four board members for the Pinal Geology and Mineral Society, a prospective RMFMS club were also in attendance. Both Sheri Johnson (RMFMS President) and Jodi Brewster (RMFMS Vice President) attended. We discussed the general structure, purpose and function of the RMFMS, the 2022 RMFMS Convention, need for participation in the upcoming Convention (in person or via proxy), and concerns and questions by those in attendance. Sheri Johnson presented a brief outline of the major questions to be brought to Convention this year: possible adjustment of prize award(s) for juniors competing at the Conventions and possible adjustment of quorum required to hold the House of Delegates Meetings.

Feedback from this meeting included:

1. The group was unanimously grateful for the RMFMS's efforts to provide insurance. There were concerns raised regarding recent difficulties in obtaining certificates of insurance, which generally related to the transition to Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance's (PhII's) new broker (Seguro Insurance Agency, LLC; representative Jazmin Hernandez De Varlack). A significant concern seems to be that there is only one person in the world, Ms. De Varlack, that can provide certificates of insurance.
2. The group appreciated the explanation regarding the coverage provided by the existing PhII liability policy coverages

and the insight to the history of claims.

The question of insurance designed to protect club leaders from personal liability was raised, specifically, Directors and Officers Insurance. A request was made that the RMFMS look into the addition of this insurance to its portfolio. It was mentioned that not having this type of coverage has been reported as a reason some highly qualified potential leaders have not sought office in some of the clubs. I have also personally noticed that some clubs have their own additional D&O policies, and the associated procedures can conflict with those of event coalition partners. If the insurance coverage were coming from a single source, these conflicting terms and conditions would be a lot less likely to occur.

3. Disappointment was expressed in the amount of communication of details regarding the Convention. Clubs were expressing reticence to attend or sign Proxys when they had little information about the issues being put forward at the upcoming Convention. There was concurrent gratitude from these same voices for the Convention Prep Rally and a request for more of these types of efforts. Mr. Bill Freese (VP and Field Trip Coordinator) of the Daisy Mountain requested that an appropriate budget be allotted to the State Directors to allow them to hold outreach functions similar to the CPR.

4. A request was made that those responsible for publication of the Convention packets include a working draft of the anticipated agenda of issues anticipated to be brought before House of Delegates meetings.

### Unaffiliated Clubs

I continue to communicate with unaffiliated groups to maintain their awareness of RMFMS and its services. I've been told by the leadership of the Pinal Gem & Mineral Society (PGMS) in Coolidge, Arizona, that they are strongly considering joining the RMFMS. The PGMS was founded about 9 years ago adjunct to the Pinal Geology and Mineral Museum, both of which are led by Dr. Ray Grant, a retired professor and department head for the Mesa Community College (the site of the Flagg Gem Mineral and Fossil Show). I have nothing new to report on Granite Mountain Jewelry Artists, (GMJA) a club of about 20 members based in Prescott, AZ.

## Club Visits

I have made no visits to Arizona and Nevada clubs. I did meet Ed Huskinson, President of the Mohave Gemstoners, when visiting Kingman for work recently. I made it to the Payson Show, and met with representatives of various clubs at the Flagg Gem & Mineral Show and the two MSA Heritage Mineral Shows in Phoenix. Also, while on vacation in Kentucky, I visited and made donations to two clubs, The KYANA Geological Society (Louisville) and the Bluegrass Gem & Mineral Club (Lexington). Both meetings were well run, had good presentations and were rewarding to attend. Both groups have a vibrant mix of interests and talents.

## Clubs Status Reports

APACHE JUNCTION ROCK & GEM CLUB (Apache Junction, Arizona): I spoke with Dan Jarvis (Retiring FT Chair) and Jerry Fellenz (incoming President; [convi3@yahoo.com](mailto:convi3@yahoo.com)). The Club is doing fantastic. Membership, while slightly decreased, remains over ~400. With Dan Jarvis as the field trip chair and leader they have been having 2 or 3 field trips per week. Dan is retiring from the position this year. Their facility is like new and houses lapidary, silversmithing and slabbing labs. Their show is growing with around 65 vendors in November 2022. They are adding a spring/summer show at Mesa Community College, the same location as the Flagg Mineral Foundation's Show. Their self-owned facility is located at 2151 West Superstition Blvd., Apache Junction AZ. They have a great website: <https://ajrockclub.com/>. I took their quiz on the website's front page and got schooled, 9 of 13 correct. But who knew they put borates in charcoal! Established: January 19, 1966, the AJR&GC is now a 501[c]3.

COCONINO LAPIDARY CLUB (Flagstaff, Arizona): Spoke with Wayne Scott (Field Trip (FT) Chair) and Robert Cote (Pres.). The core group of Club is strongly committed and membership numbers are trending mildly up. About 12 to 15 members attend a typical meeting. Most recent show was in 2019. There are no active plans to restart show, eventually this is expected. Robert considers regrowing membership his top priority as President. Their website is under reconstruction: best contact is by email at [CoconinoLapidaryClub@gmail.com](mailto:CoconinoLapidaryClub@gmail.com). Robert and his wife attended the first RMFMS AZ/NV Convention Prep Rally at the LGF



Gallery. I appreciated their active participation in the discussion.

DAISY MOUNTAIN ROCK & MINERAL CLUB (Anthem Community in Phoenix, Arizona): Spoke with VP and FT Chair Bill Freese. President Ed Winbourne has been dealing with health issues So, Bill is filling in a bit. Recently, I have been getting communication from Ed too, hopefully that bodes well for him. Bill mentioned that he most enjoys the feeling of fellowship amongst the club as well as its strong success with coalition field trips. He is also proud of the Club's efforts at S.T.E.A.M. nights. Membership is around 300 and the trend is up. The Board comprises 4 officers and 15 at large board members. The club has 30 to 40 strongly committed members that actively share the work load. It also has a scholarship (up to \$1,500 in recent years) awarded each year to a college bound local high school student. Bill is concerned that the RMFMS does not have a strong message to its member clubs and there is little understanding about what the RMFMS does. Bill commented that he was very appreciative of the RMFMS AZNV Convention Prep Rally held at the LGF Gallery in Scottsdale on April 15, 2023. He said this is just the thing that RMFMS should be doing to bolster and communicate its message. He suggested a breakout meeting at the Conventions to have a less formal setting for sharing the RMFMS message and entraining club leadership's engagement. The Club owns a few pieces of equipment which are cared for by Doug Duffy, the former Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum Lapidary Lab Director who now runs his own facility at another venue where he provides a well-established (and sold out into the future) lapidary course. DMRMC's website is: <https://www.dmrmc.com/>

FLAGG MINERAL FOUNDATION (Mesa, Arizona): Spoke with Les Presmyk (Chairman). The Foundation exists to preserve, grow, and curate the collection of mining engineer Arthur L. Flagg and continue his legacy of outreach and education of mineralogy and natural sciences. To accomplish this, the Foundation has a three-fold mission: 1) To curate the A.L. Flagg Collection and make it available to the public for viewing and study via loans to mineral and earth science museums. 2) To produce the Flagg Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, a 110 to 150 vendor affair, with displays, competitions and demonstrations; and 3) produce the Minerals of Arizona Symposium which puts on a day and a half of mineral and related presentations along with accompanying



rock sale. This year's symposium had the very popular theme of Stories of Field Collecting Adventures. It attracted numerous attendees and presenters from out-of-State. The Flagg Foundation (<https://flaggmineralfoundation.org/>) is a club of about 70 volunteers who pay dues in to participate in the work and fellowship of carrying out the organization's missions.

GILA COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY (Miami, Arizona): The GCG&MS is doing well. After a banner year in 2022 when they peaked at 168 members, the club currently has 65 members and is regrowing. They've had very good shows in 2022 and 2023 during the second full weekend of January. Club President Jodi Brewster is resigning to focus on volunteering to the RMFMS. While she will still be involved in the Society, there is a need for someone to step up and assume the helm. Secretary Marvin Sawaia is also stepping down for similar reasons. The GCG&MS was founded in 1956 in the heart of one of the world's richest copper resource regions. The GCG&MS awards a (~\$500) scholarship every year to a STEM oriented, college-bound high school student. The Club is very proud of their recent scholarship winner, Rosa Pacheco. If you read the article about her on their website, you will be proud of her too. Their website can be found here: <https://gilagem.org/>.

HUACHUCA MINERAL & GEM CLUB (Sierra Vista, Arizona): Spoke with President Jen Lavelle. This club, located in Sierra Vista, Arizona has about 50 to 60 members with an active core of about 25. That is a great proportion. The Show last year was very successful with about 35 vendors. Their attractive website has details for events that planned out at least through September 2023. They do about 10 or so field trips a year. Their website can be found here: <https://hmgc.site/>.

LAKE HAVASU GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY (Lake Havasu City, Arizona): The LHGMS is doing very well. They had a tough time when their building sold and rent exceeded resources. A cooperative arrangement with the local museum they now support the museum from within and have located club activities to a nearby facility. These changes have produced significant growth and added vigor to the club. They are considering sending delegates to the convention. Their website can be found at: <https://lake-havasugms.com/>. On it I found their newsletter for March 2023. I liked the photographs showing their fine lab and the "Hints and

Stuff' section near the end.

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA (Phoenix/Scottsdale, Arizona): is the oldest mineral society in Arizona established in 1935 by Founder Mr. Arthur L. Flagg (mining engineer and progenitor of thumbnail collecting). It is a growing, thriving club with strong leaders serving its 330+ members. MSA provides monthly field trips and monthly in-person and ZOOM meetings that feature raffles, silent auctions, free table of awesomeness, top notch speakers and a Video Archive Project to record and preserve these unique talks. The MSA ([www.msaz.org](http://www.msaz.org)) awarded 2022 Rockhound of the Year to MSA President Chris Whitney-Smith for his persistent, tireless, and exemplary leadership. Hannah Brodhagen was awarded MSA 2022 Junior Rockhound of the Year for her volunteer efforts and her pursuit of knowledge and excellence in the hobby. **Get Ready To ROCK Phoenix!** MSA's The 3rd Phoenix Heritage Mineral Show at Shrine Auditorium is rising again on first Saturday and Sunday in June 2023. Billed as the only quality mineral show in Capital City of Arizona, it presents special exhibits featuring the show poster mineral, junior minerals, gemstone and fossils, educational demonstrations and raffles. The Saturday Night Program Event includes, social hour, dinner, speaker Les Presmyk, silent & live auctions, and live musical performance by Evan Jones & Bernie Lezotte. MSA has had a Mineral Collection from its beginning with majority of its finest minerals on public exhibit at University of Arizona Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum in Tucson, and Pinal Geology Museum in Coolidge, Arizona. MSA participates with a spinning wheel booth at the annual Flagg Gem & Mineral Show in January and mentors and encourages adult and junior members with their special and competitive exhibits at a variety of shows including in the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show in February.

THE MOHAVE COUNTY GEMSTONERS (Kingman, Arizona): reported having a great year. The club is lead by Ed Huskinson who says the membership is well on its way to pre-pandemic levels and, more importantly, the existing members are keeping the club energized. MCG has an active claim for honey onyx. Their website is: <http://www.gemstoners.org/>.

OLD PUEBLO LAPIDARY Club (Tucson, Arizona): I spoke with Victoria Fila (President) Simply reading their newsletter "Cutting Remarks" one can be inspired by how active and energetic this

club is. It struck me that Tucson, Arizona, is singularly a mineralogically blessed town given the stature storied organizations that reside there. I wrote a note to the four officers of the club and got quick responses. The club is doing great with ~380+ members, over 100 of which are new and adding their own energy to the club. Field trips have been restored. They have their own facilities that include meeting room, lapidary lab, slabbing lab, and silversmithing shop. The casting lab with five stations/workbenches (each with rotary tools) has been modernized. They have already started their next project, updating their silversmithing lab. They produce a symposium and do two “Hob Nob” events which are tailgate sales in April and October; members are the vendors. They have classes in cabbing, casting, faceting, slabbing and silversmithing. Their website is found at <http://www.lapidaryclub.org/>.

PAYSON RIMSTONES ROCK CLUB (Payson, Arizona): I spoke with Rollo Pool (President; 928-595--2059) and several others in the club. The Payson Club, started in 1992 is very proud of its community and education outreach. They generally award three to four scholarships each year. In 2022 they totaled \$5,500, up \$1,500 over previous years. Scholarships are renewable. They purchase and donate books to the Pine and Payson libraries, sponsor elementary grade school after-care programs, and produce a 3rd/4th-grader rock/fossil education program. Joyce Hendrix, the Vice President serves as Program Chair and has the whole year of presentations booked. They put on a great fall show with dozens of dealers, an extensive kids’ education area, a demonstration area that changed each day, raffles, exhibits, and door prizes. I got to see it all first hand. Speaking to other members of the Payson club, I noticed a sincere sense of appreciation in each of the voices when they spoke of Rollo. Membership was at 162 in March 2023. They have a well-presented website that is informative and easy to read. It can be found at: <https://www.rimstonesrockclub.org/>.

PRESCOTT GEM & MINERAL CLUB (Chino Valley, Arizona): Jodi Brewster assisted me with interviewing new club president Joel Pomerene via a questionnaire. Joel was most proud of the Club’s August show: a large, well-attended affair with a many and varied vendors offering mineral, gemstone and jewelry items to the public. They put forth as their Rockhounds of the Year Maggi Lieber (2022) and John Munday (2023). I know personally how

deserving Maggi is; she being the ultimate communicator of all things PGMC. I extend my congratulations to her and John. As of April 2023, their club had 303 active members in good standing. Last year's show, held inside the Findlay Sports Arena, was well received and the trend is up. Vendors usually vary from 50 to 65 with ~ 4,000 attendees, also trending up. Our delegates to last year's show and meetings had many issues which were passed onto the respective parties. They have a workshop with a certification program for slabbing, trimming, and cabbing. They offer scholarships for Yavapai Community College Classes in Geology, Lapidary and Jewelry. Their website may be found at: <https://www.prescottgemmineral.org/>.

SEDONA GEM & MINERAL CLUB: <https://sedonagemandmineral.org/> Great website with awesome pictures. Information about their meetings, parties, field trips, the October gem show, and more can be found there.

SILVERY COLORADO RIVER ROCK CLUB: I spoke with new President, Jennifer Swayne. She has studied Geology and has been in the SCRRC for about 6 years. They have a well-established Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SCRrockclub/>. They have 83 members as of May 2023 and the trend is up. Their shows are sales events, done multiple times a year with members as vendors. At these shows they give out lots of freebie rocks to kids and promote earth science awareness and education. They provide wire wrapping classes. They have a field trip program with about two trips per month. Favorite sites are Lions Springs and a Squiggly Jasper site near Bullhead City.

THE SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY: Located in Las Vegas, Nevada, the SNG&MS is the only RMFMS Nevada club. I spoke with Andrea Packo (President) and RMFMS President Sheri Johnson. One of the oldest clubs of its kind, the SNG&MC organized in 1930 as the Prospector's Club. Lapidary Arts equipment includes slab, trim and geode saws, Cab King machines, flat laps, doping equipment and faceting machines. The club puts on classes including shop equipment & safety, wire wrapping, beading. Silversmithing, and faceting. They have a broad-spectrum earth science and hobby library and a 100+ member Junior Club. They have an agate claim where Christmas, lilac, and bacon agates can be found. Members of SNGMS are encouraged to deposit their extra material there, so many

non-native rocks may be found. It's a "Free-Dump-of-Awesome-ness". Kind of a cool idea, but years later, could create some head scratching. Metal detectors are available for rental. They have something like nine field trips scheduled for the next six months, including several in June, July and August. They have a Monthly Cabochon Contest and its theme is a different aquatic animal each month. Their website: <https://www.snvgms.org/>.

SUNSIDES GEM & MINERAL CLUB: "Finding and Grinding Rocks in Cochise County since 1967" The SGMC is located in Pearce, Arizona. In March 2023 I spoke with David McKeon (Filed Trip Leader) and Sandra Johnsey (Treasurer/acting Secretary). At the time they both were positive but concerned as the club sought to fill leadership spots of president, vice president and secretary. The positions had been vacated for various reasons. On May 14, 2023 I received this update from their newly elected Club president Ryan Czarnecki and Sandra Johnsey. Dave McKeon is the newly elected Vice President and maintains his positions as Lapidary Lab Director and a Field Trip Leader. The Club is currently seeking a Secretary and believes that with a continued steady influx of new members and with possible interests from one of the other 24 current members (up six member since March), that position may be filled soon. Monthly meetings average between 10-20 active members, sometimes more with guests for exhibitors or presentations. As the Club aims to continue growing its membership, its primary goals are to provide more outings, share fellowship and community with the existing members and to expand weekly hours of operation and direction of its 10'x20' Lapidary Lab. The lab houses two slabbing saws, trim saws, an 8" Cab-King and a few other arbors, cabbars, polishers and tooling. They seek to quadruple the lab's size and capacity. Their Facebook page is: <http://www.Facebook.com/groups/236850006742760>. Ryan's contact info is: Ryan Czarnecki, President, Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club, 520-841-3336.

TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.: TGMS is steadily growing and on track to surpass 500 members for the fiscal year 2022/2023. General Meetings are a hybrid of in-person and ZOOM platforms with a consistent procession of excellent lecturers. TGMS enjoys an expanding schedule of Society member events and other social activities. The 2023 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® celebrated "All Things Silica" and was yet another successful Show. New dealers, interesting lecturers, outstand-



ing exhibits, and lots of patrons attending and buying. They are moving the TGMS Show forward with lots of enhancements each year. With no less than six established outreach programs TGMS supports community organizations and students at all levels of education with scholarships, donations, and educational programs. Field Trips and Educational Classes are gaining in number of attendees. The TGMS Officers & Directors and the TGMS Show Committee, are committed to working hard in achieving/maintaining the goals set forth 76 years ago by a group of 28 individuals, to encourage interest and study in geology, mineralogy, lapidary and allied earth sciences. Come join us and don't miss the 2024 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®: "Pegmatites - Crystals Big and Beautiful!"

USFG, U.S. FACETERS GUILD: The guild is a national organization, with officers and director spread across the nation. Their website is <https://usfacetersguild.org/>. Left Message – Update Pending.

VERDE RIVER ROCKHOUNDS: While currently still a club, The Verde River Rockhounds are no longer a RMFMS member organization. The club has experienced a fair amount of strife, stops and starts. Their Facebook page is still active and mentions a meeting in held in March. Phone calls to leadership have not been returned. Bill Freese has been interacting with them a bit and promised to provide an update soon. I just received an update from Bill that, the club met on April 10<sup>th</sup> and voted to disband.

WEST VALLEY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB: Spoke with Lara Serbin. The WVR&MC (based in Buckeye, Arizona) has been blowing on the embers of volunteerism for the past year. While some pots are still smoldering, the field trip team is on fire. Excitingly, they have expanded their field trip leader team from one to five leaders. Everyone has heard of the Helzarockin' Gem & Mineral Show. It is even advertised on the radio. Auspiciously, a burro visited the show this year, it just walked in and made itself at home. You have to wonder if it is the progeny of Arizona's mining burros, and being among rocks is just in its blood. They have a story on their website (<https://westvalleyrockandmineralclub.com/>) about their visit to the UA Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson. They coincidentally scheduled it for the same day as the signing event for the Fourth Edition of the *Mineralogy of Arizona*. That was serendipity at its finest.

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB: (WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB: (Show Low, Arizona). Their website is: <https://whitemountain-azrockclub.org/https://img1.wsimg.com/>. I spoke with Carl Hickman (Treasurer) and Cathy Cargile (Show Chair). Proud to still be a club, they are contributing to the Nature Center Display and to the local STEM Program. They've rejoined the Show Low and Snowflake-Taylor Chambers of Commerce. Cathy Cargile is a dynamo and was my speediest interview. We covered all the topics well in just 15 minutes. It was a great discussion. Their show had 19 vendors with 60 tables and the trend is up. The club is in good shape and good hands. The WMGMC 's goals are: to generate and provide funds to science classes at local schools; to donate earth science publications to local libraries; and to support and contribute to earth science scholarship committees. I've just read their current version of their newsletter "Rock Talk" and read a reprint article on Apache Tears told "the Apache way" and a short but information dense article (by Donna Pollard) on Stephanite. "Rock Talk" is full of heart and science. I rather enjoyed reading it.

WICKENBURG GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY: I spoke with new Society President Karen Havird ([khavird@earthlink.net](mailto:khavird@earthlink.net)). The WGMS has 154 members, an indoor-outdoor Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Show of up to 40 vendors over Thanksgiving weekend; two gold claims; and an annual \$3,000 scholarship that is open to seniors from any of eight regional high schools. This year's Wickenburg High School recipient is going to the Colorado School of Mines. Their website is: <https://wickenburggms.org/>. Check out the pictorial tour of the Vulture Mine underground and the "A Desert Scene" Sculpture story. The field trip program has two trips per month, the result of concerted efforts. Field trips include a scavenger hunt, classes on rock identification and how to carve marble and cut slabs. There is a "dirt party" for gold in Stanton, Arizona, each year. Their gold claims are visited often by members.

Club Status Section Conclusion: WHAT A HOBBY!!?!!

Steve Kaminski

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Colorado

No Report Submitted

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Kansas

The number for memberships continues to rebound after the last couple of years. At least in the Topeka club we are seeing more



young folks joining up, replacing many of the older members that we have lost. We have also seen a replacement of couples with kids getting involved. There are, state wide, 415 members on the rolls. This includes 44 youth members.

I have traveled 1,416 miles attending general meetings and shows. I have attended all four of the club's shows at least once. Olathe holds two shows of which I attended both. The fifth one doesn't hold a show. I have also attended at least one general meeting of the four clubs mentioned.

The fifth club merely meets for dinner on one Sunday a month for a social hour.

I have only had phone conversations with one club's president. We exchanged three or four calls concerning issues they were having.

I forward every communication I receive from the RMFMS. I send Emails to all the clubs about upcoming shows and events of interest, in and out of Kansas. I have forwarded many articles I have run into that might be of interest concerning research carried out by our state and local science departments.

I promote my club, state clubs, RMFMS and AFMS at every opportunity I encounter. These are done over different social medias. Probably on average I send links to the many AFMS club sites four times a week to folks looking for help with IDs and lapidary help. I keep the AFMS 'Club Sites' page on an open tab all the time to be able to share quickly.

The only real issue I have had to help resolve was with a club needing to know how to deal with a particular member who was causing disruption and animosities within the membership. I turned to the leadership at RMFMS and got no reply for a couple of months. All we had to work with was an ancient short sentence in both clubs' Bylaws. I believe clubs and the RMFMS need to take a look at this and make some changes. We need something that is more user friendly for clubs to be able to address the changes in our society. People are just not as friendly and polite to one another as they were in the past.

The only other issue I have is with communications. Our one club never responds in any way. With others it takes multiple

contacts to get a response or an acknowledgment of them getting whatever was sent.

I do get inquiries as to whether or not I have been receiving newsletters from the RMFMS. We all would like to see more coming out of you.

I believe that four of my five clubs will be attending the Convention in July. I will contact the fifth club again before deadlines occur.

Bradford W. Davenport

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### New Mexico - Texas

No Report Submitted

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### North Dakota

No Report Submitted

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### Oklahoma - Arkansas

This was my first full year as Oklahoma/Arkansas State Director, and I have attended as many events as possible and introduced myself. I have reached out to all the clubs in the territory many times through the year.

I did receive the State Director's Case from Cecilia Evans last year and recently found out she has come across another box that will be delivered to the TRMS show in July. I displayed the case at the Oklahoma City Show, the church where TRMS meets, and Gem Faire in Tulsa. The case will be shown at the TRMS show in July while I am in Casper, Wyoming. Pictures were posted to the Facebook group "Oklahoma Rockhounding" with much positive feedback.

Roberta Wagle

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### South Dakota - Nebraska

No Report Submitted

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### Utah

No Report Submitted

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## Wyoming

At the present time we have seven active clubs in Wyoming. The Northeast Wyoming Rock Hounds has had some problems, and I believe they have them worked out.

The Sublette County Rock Hounds has been presenting the junior rockhound program to its members for over a year. Sublette County Rock Hound officers, Jim & Leane Gray, have been promoting this program to all of the Wyoming clubs.

### Wyoming gem and mineral shows will be four this year

1. Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society May 13-14, 2023.
2. Sublette County Rockhounds June 16-18, 2023.
3. Natrona County Rockhounds July 14-16, 2023. This will also be the annual Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society show and the Annual Convention for the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
4. Shoshone Rock Club August 12-13, 2023

### Wyoming clubs' membership

Overall, the Wyoming clubs have increased membership by 168. The Northeast Wyoming Rock Hounds did not file a report so were removed from the report. I'm working to get them back into the swing of things for 2024.

As the Wyoming State Director, I spent considerable time talking with the Cache Rock & Gem Club in Logan, Utah, about re-joining the Rocky Mountain Federation. They decided to do so.

### Deaths in the last year

Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society - Larry Adams, Jon Ogden, Carroll Schell.

Sublette County Rockhounds - Bob Fischer, Tom Marchwick, Dick Tanner, John Tanner.

Natrona County Rockhounds - Toni Platt, John Mullin, Jeanette Decker.

Cody 59ers - Jim Platt, Steve Smith, John Allen, Les Hunt.

No other clubs reported.

<b>WSMGS – 2022 - 2023 MEMBERSHIP REPORT</b>					
<b>CLUB NAME</b>	<b>ADULTS</b>	<b>JUNIORS</b>	<b>PEBBLE PUPS</b>	<b>LIFE HONORARY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
CHEYENNE MGS	66	0	0	14	80
CODY 59ers RC	153	19	11	19	202
NATRONA CO RC	73	0	4	6	83
REX YOUNG RC	11	0	0	0	11
RIVERTON MGS	204	7	0	9	220
SHOSHONE RC	70	0	0	9	79
SUBLETTE CO RH	181	21	27	5	234
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>909</b>

### 2023 RMFMS Scholarships

Here are the two students our department would like to recognize through the RMFMS scholarship. Thank you for this support and opportunity.

I asked each of the students to provide a short bio for the newsletter. Please let me know if what is written below is appropriate and sufficient for your needs.

#### Mollie Pope, MS student

I grew up in southeastern Kentucky and earned my BS in Geology with a minor in nanotechnology from Union College in Schenectady, NY. While at Union, I studied the relationship between the Chugach and Prince William terranes in southern Alaska through U-Pb and Hf isotope analysis of detrital zircons. After my time at Union, I began a Fulbright Research Grant at the University of Cape Town, where I investigated the formation of the Saldanha quartz porphyry in the Western Cape of South Africa. Prior to my start at the University of Wyoming, I worked at Yellowstone National Park as a Guest Geologist through the Scientist-in-the-Parks program.

Currently, I am a second-year master's student working on my thesis entitled "Apatite as an indicator of water content of magmatic source regions." This project aims to develop an apatite-based hygrometer that relies on the partitioning of F-Cl-OH in apatite. My work focuses on the natural apatite from the Caetano Caldera

in north-central Nevada and the Laramie Anorthosite Complex in southeastern Wyoming.

Julian Hernandez Diepenbrock, Ph.D. student

When I was two and a half years old, I was given a bucket of plastic dinosaurs for Christmas by my Aunt and Grandmother. While I was certainly too young to understand what a paleontologist was, and the path that I would have to take to get there, it was right then and there that I think I realized exactly what I wanted to become. Once I was old enough, I put everything that I had into realizing that dream, and starting my Freshman year of high school, I was able to begin working with local museums in my home of Southern California. I still remember the very first dinosaur bone I prepared- a leg bone from a large long-necked dinosaur called *Diplodocus*, from the Late Jurassic Morrison Formation. More important to me than just working on previously collected bones were the opportunities I had to work with the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology on multiple-week summer field excursions out to the mountain west, by collecting fossils and visiting National Parks in Utah, Montana and Wyoming. Beyond collecting the fragments of animals from a bygone era, this trip served as essentially a two-week geology lesson, and truly sparked my interest in that field of science. Truthfully though, I don't know if anyone could take a tour of Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Yellowstone with professional geologists, and not come away wanting a degree in geology. So that's what I did.

I attended the University of Arizona where I attained a Bachelor of Science in Geosciences in 2021. In the summers between classes, I continued to work with various museums, particularly the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis, WY, and the Hot Springs Mammoth Site of South Dakota. While at these institutions I gained the necessary field and laboratory skills, as well as the opportunity to continue to explore and learn about the local geology. It was during this time that I truly figured out what I wanted to study- the sauropods, or long-necked dinosaurs. While at the WDC I worked full-time in the Morrison Formation, and almost exclusively at sites containing sauropods. During my first summer there, I also had the opportunity to attend a talk on the fascinating science being done with these fossils at the Washakie Museum in Worland, after which I felt my course was set. When the time came to apply to graduate schools, I reached out to

the University of Wyoming, hoping I could study their renowned collection of early sauropod finds from the Morrison. As it turned out, the University had recently collected material from a rather large Morrison formation site that needed study. When I learned had been accepted, following the interview and application process, I leaped at the chance to confirm my acceptance, and as of now, am thoroughly enjoying my research on those Morrison sauropods. And what of those plastic dinosaurs from all those years ago? They're on the shelf above my desk, just above me as I write this.

Submitted by:

Dr. Mark Clementz, Honorary Scholarship Recipient

Professor, Department Head

Department of Geology & Geophysics

1000 E. University Avenue

Laramie, WY 82071

Jim Gray

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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American Club Rockhound of the Year - ACROY - Vacant

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### All American Club Competition

This is a new position for me this year. I have a passion for scrapbooking and have completed a few yearbooks for TRMS. Soon after being appointed to the position, I contacted all the RMFMS clubs and was amazed at how many clubs did not know about the yearbook. I had many questions and quite a bit of interest in a 2023 yearbook.

We had one submission this year, and because it was from my club, it was not judged by RMFM. Instead, it was sent directly to the American Federation All American Club Committee. With the interest shown I'm hoping that RMFMS will have several entries next year.

Roberta Wagle

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## Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee - BEAC

Materials for the RMFMS Bulletin Editors Contest were emailed to editors and/or club presidents listed in the latest RMFMS Directory on December 6, 2022, and a follow up was sent February 4, 2023. Complete rules and fillable score sheets, which act as the application form, are now posted on the RMFMS website, as well as the AFMS website. The AFMS Guidelines and score sheets are almost identical to the RMFMS materials, with the exception of the Photo Collage category, which is an RMFMS category but not AFMS. It is included on the RMFMS Features Score Sheet that was in the email sent to editors and/or club president.

Guidelines for the Bulletin Editors Contest have been added to the RMFMS website. All information regarding RMFMS contests is under the Resources heading. You just choose Contest Forms and scroll down to the Bulletin Editors Contest.

Contest rules for 2023 have returned to normal. This includes sending all entries as hard copy.

Entries returned to me by the February 15 deadline were distributed to RMFMS judges, and the top three winners in each category were forwarded to the AFMS Committee for judging. Editors of top five winners in each RMFMS category will be notified by email in April.

Of the 36 RMFMS entries, 23 will receive placement ribbons, and eight will receive trophies. All participants will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for participation. Fifteen entries were forwarded to the AFMS Committee for judging, in addition to five direct entries to AFMS for a total of 21 entries from the RMFMS to the AFMS contest.

The awards for RMFMS winners will be presented at the "Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters" on Sunday, July 16, in Casper, Wyoming. I will be working with Custom Crafts in Tulsa to have the First Place plaques made. Requests for ribbons and appropriate information has been sent to Peggy Sue Moore, the RMFMS Ribbons Chair.



Since publication of the RMFMS Newsletter has not happened since May, 2022, I have been forwarding information to the RM-FMS editors on my email list, whenever requested by the RM-FMS Officers and Committee Chairs.

Linda Jaeger \_\_\_\_\_

Boundaries - Vacant \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

A Conference Support person is someone that gives help in any way to the host club that is hosting the Convention. This year, as you all know, we will be in Casper, Wyoming. This is going to be a huge deal for us as well as the Natrona Club. This is their 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock Show.

Our next conferences will be:

1. Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society which is in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I have been working very closely with all the people running the show and they are very excited to be doing this. The dates will be October 25, 26 and 27, 2024. See you all there.
2. Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club, Grand Junction, Colorado. I have been speaking with Pat Martinez for almost two years and they are excited and very much want to host the Convention. They have finally decided that they would love to host the show in 2025. Thanks to all the clubs that step up and help put on such great conferences.

I love going to Colorado and am looking forward to going there in 2025. I also have been speaking to the Wasatch Gem Society about hosting the show in 2026. They have shown great interest because they had to give up their last show due to Covid-19. But they are up and running full speed ahead now. Just this year they had over 80 vendors and over 5000 people through the door each day. What an amazing club.

Hope to see you all at all the shows and Conventions.

Liz Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

## Credentials Committee

This year RMFMS President Sheri Johnson tasked me with being the Credentials Chairperson, a task I have not taken lightly. I have talked with a few people about being on the Credentials Committee with me, and have one confirmed member (Peggy Maggard) and one who will serve if she is able to make it to the Convention. I will also ask for an alternate or two just in case any of the members cannot make it.

As of May 10, 2023, I have received four Delegate forms and two Proxy forms. I have emailed all the State Directors that are listed in the RMFMS Directory and have had two of the State Directors forward the Delegate and Proxy forms to their clubs. I will begin emailing all the clubs who have not sent either of form, and I will provide the Convention Packet with both forms

This year, the Federation has 78 clubs in good standing and as stated in By-Laws Article IV.6, there must be 33 percent of the clubs represented for a quorum. So, for a quorum at this year's Convention, 26 societies will need to be represented.

I have written a program to aid in this position and with accountability. The program will track how many people have sent in Delegate forms and how many Proxies, and who the Proxies are assigned to. A report will be printed out and submitted to the RMFMS president after the meeting starts with up-to-the-minute statistics, and confirmation if there is a quorum or not.

The new program will also print ID Badges for all the RMFMS Board, State Directors, and Delegates/Alternates. Each badge will clearly show the name, place and times of the Convention, the name and RMFMS Office/Committee (if held) by each person, society/club name, city and state and position within that club if any. There will be a barcode on the bottom of the ID if the holder is a Delegate or Alternate.

The reports for the President will be generated off the number of IDs scanned, which means that they are in attendance.

I will be bringing my computer, printer, laminator and all items that will be needed should anyone come with any forms "in hand" prior to the Convention. I will be at the venue on Thursday, July 13, 2023, and will hand out any badges and sign in those who have sent in their delegate forms prior to us leaving for the Con-

vention. I will also be handing them out on Friday, July 14, 2023, as well.

I have also set up a three-ring binder with all the state names that make up our Federation and each state will have a divider and a breakdown of its clubs with information if they have a Delegate or Proxy form or not.

I plan to check in with all the Clubs and Societies who have not sent either Delegate or Proxy forms sometime in June, just to make sure everyone has an opportunity to sign a form and attend if they can.

Marvin Sawaia \_\_\_\_\_

### Finance Committee

The financial records of the RMFMS for the period of November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2022, have been reviewed and found to be correct. We wish to thank the Treasurer for sending quarterly updates that allows us to be current on the Federation's financial status.

If you or if you know of someone who would be interested in serving on the Finance Committee for the rest of 2023 and later years, please let me know.

Wayne Cox \_\_\_\_\_

### Fluorescent Mineral Technical Committee

No Report Submitted  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Fossil Technical Committee

No Report Submitted  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Insurance

Out of 78 total clubs, 75 subscribe to the RMFMS liability insurance. Offering the liability insurance is very important to the success of RMFMS. Premium collections have exceeded the premium that we pay for the last couple of years, last year by \$2,500 and so far this year by \$1,200. If this trend continues we will need to look at lowering the premium charged to the clubs.

Gene Maggard \_\_\_\_\_

## International Relations Committee

This has been a very quiet and inactive year for the International Relations Committee. I believe that in 2022, both U.S. and international travelers were in a post Covid-19 pandemic funk. I know that in 2023 international travel by U.S. citizens is zooming upwards. I am uncertain if travel to the U.S. is increasing. I plan to spend two weeks in England riding the trains and bunking in small communities. If the opportunity arises, I will try and attend a mineral club meeting. I hope to visit the Cornwall mining area and museums, and the Jurassic Coast.

I did receive six emails from travelers interested in collecting New Mexico Pecos Diamonds, Moab agates, Kansas carboniferous fossils, tellurides (WOW), ajoite (WOW WOW), and some miner from Morocco wanting to talk about Carlin Trend dussertite (WOW WOW WOW).

I answered as best I could (the first three were easy): 1) I can't tell one telluride from another without reading the Perky Box label, but contacted Joe Smith for help; 2) tough to find ajoite except at dealers in Arizona who had old samples from Ajo; and 3) I don't know if dussertite at Carlin is an indicator of gold but to contact the mining companies.

Long story with many conversations. All of these contacts came from my Blog. Nice way to meet people!

Mike Nelson

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## Junior Program

No Report Submitted

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## Lapidary Technical Committee - Vacant

## Long Range Planning Committee

Each year the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is tasked with looking at issues that may have a long term effect on the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We do this by studying our organizational By-Laws and/or Operating Procedures. Sometimes we identify the need to update, change, clarify, or create a document.

Last year we received quite a few suggestions. As a Committee we study each suggestion, look at the current By-Law or Operating Procedure, and then make our recommendation.

You will see our Committee recommendation and our rationale in bold print at the end of each proposal. During the Executive Committee Meeting prior to the House of Delegate's Meeting, the proposals are reviewed and that Committee also makes a recommendation. All of this information is then brought to the House of Delegates for presentation, discussion, and a vote.

This year the Long Range Planning Committee will be presenting the proposals that were not voted on last year at the business meeting and several new items that were received this year. Attached you will find each item and the Committee's recommendation. Recommended changes received at the Delegate's Meeting last year have been studied and incorporated into the proposals at the Committee's discretion.

The current By-laws and Operating Procedures are available on the rmfms.org website (click on "Resources" and then click on "Official Documents"). Please review these proposals prior to the House of Delegates meeting in July. Each item will be presented on the floor and a vote will be taken.

If any changes are recommended, please present these in written form for the Delegates. Prior to the meeting, feel free to contact me at [Lkbeckfam@gmail.com](mailto:Lkbeckfam@gmail.com) if I can help with any clarification.

Judith A. Beck

**Proposal #1.** By-Laws, Art. VI – Convention and Annual Business Meeting

2. ...Saturday, if possible. If the Host Society has a two-day show, both the Executive Committee and the House of Delegates Meeting should be on Saturday, with the EC meeting in the morning, and the Delegates in the afternoon.

Reasoning: Many clubs only have two day shows, and we are missing out having them as hosts for our Convention because of the mention of three and four day shows in the By-Laws and OPs. And we still have a few Delegates who can come for Saturday only. In my opinion, this change will NOT affect the di-

rectives in By-Laws Article V – Executive Committee, or Operating Procedures No. Convention Management Code -1: Subject: Management of RMFMS Convention and Shows, Page 4, under “The Federation shall plan...Federation Business Meetings are:”.

**The LRPC recommends no change to the current By-Laws. There is a difference between a Show and a Convention. We can still hold a three day Convention even if it is a two day Show. Holding all of these activities on one day would be very taxing for the individuals involved.**

**Proposal #2** Changes to OPs presented at Delegates Meeting

According to the present By-Laws, any new OPs or changes to OPs can come during the House of Delegates meeting with no prior presentation:

Article XI – Amendments

“2. Amendments to the Operating Procedures shall be in writing any time prior to the House of Delegates Meeting or on the floor at the House of Delegates meeting.”

Propose a Change to:

“2. Amendments to the Operating Procedure, both new OPs or changes to the current OPs, shall be in writing with copies for everyone in attendance in order that everyone be able to read the proposal before voting, and be presented to the RMFMS president prior to the House of Delegates meeting or as New Business on the floor at the House of Delegates meeting.”

Reasoning: This would prevent the fiasco that took place at the 2021 Delegates Meeting when an *ad hoc* committee presented a change that the Executive Committee had approved but needed proper wording and a motion presented for Delegates to vote on. Many Delegates could not hear the presenter very well, either. The Secretary was not handed a copy of the motion in order to get it correct in the Minutes. If all present have a copy, there can be no misunderstanding of what the motion proposes. This will not affect OP General-2; Subject: operating Procedures System, paragraph 1 and 2.

**The LRPC recommends no change to the current By-Laws.**



**Requiring that submissions be in writing with sufficient copies for all present would prevent business from being done on the floor on the day of the meeting.**

**Proposal #3.** By-Laws, Article XIII – Proxies, Paragraph #1, states:

“1. A written Proxy presented by a member of an affiliated society in good standing may be used:

a. when a Society will lack one or both votes because of the absence of Delegates or Alternates in the House of Delegates meeting, provided that the Proxy is presented to the Credentials Committee prior to the meeting so that the Committee may ascertain its validity, i.e., signed by a Delegate or Alternate who would be eligible to vote; “

Suggest changing to:

Art. XIII- Proxies

1. “a. “...signed by an Executive Officer of the Society stating that they do not have a member who can attend the Delegates Meeting and the Society wishes to have this person vote for them.”

Reasoning: The problem is in the wording “..signed by a Delegate or Alternate who would be eligible to vote:”. If a Club does not have a Delegate and has to rely on a Proxy, how can they have someone sign it that does not exist? The “Proxy” is another person who will be at the meeting and can vote as a Delegate for the club issuing the Proxy. However, the Proxy Form needs to be validated by a signature of an officer of the club, so the validity of the Proxy Form can be checked when presented.

**The LRPC recommends adopting this change to the current by-laws.**

**Proposal #4.** Article XV – Minutes to Societies

“As soon as practical after the close of the Annual Business Meeting, the Secretary of the Federation shall provide the Secretary of each affiliated society a copy of the Minutes of this meeting.”

Suggest change to:

Art. XV – Minutes to Societies

“...shall provide the president, secretary, or the person designated as the contact person for each Society in good standing a copy of the Minutes. The Secretary shall also provide all RM-FMS Officers and Committee Chairs, as well as the Webmaster, an official copy of the Minutes.”

Reasoning: the 2021 Delegates Meeting, it was brought up that several Societies did not have a president or secretary. To whom should the Secretary send the Minutes? Usually the Membership renewal form has at least a Contact for the club, so that person should be the person receiving the document.

**The LRPC recommends adopting this change to the current By-Laws.**

**Proposal #5.** Committees should match in By-Laws, OPs and Directory

According to the By-Laws:

#### ARTICLE XVIII – COMMITTEES

1. “The RMFMS shall have two types of Committees: permanent, and *ad hoc*. Permanent Committees are those that exist from year to year and are necessary for the conduct of RMFMS business. The *ad hoc* Committees are appointed by the President to perform a specific task and cease to exist upon completion of that task. Only Permanent Committees are included in the By-Laws.”

Note presented at Meeting: Single heads of a position are not “Committees” and should not be listed in the By-Laws as Committees. However, they need to be included in the Annual Report list of those who have a job and they definitely need to give a report. It would be a good thing to have the Committees listed the same in the By-Laws, Membership Directory and Website. They currently are not.

**The LRPC agrees that ideally committees would match in the By-Laws and Operating Procedures. We do believe that single persons can constitute a committee and do not recommend any changes in the wording of Article XVIII.**

Committees NOT listed in By-Laws but ARE in the Operating Procedures:

Program Competition (would like to change to New Program Competition)

Program Library

**The LRPC suggests that the Program Competition wording in the By-Laws and OPs be listed as New Program Competition. The Program Library is listed in both the By-laws and OP and recommend no change there.**

Committees IN the By-Laws but NOT in the Operating Procedures and needs an Operating Procedure:

Safety

International Relations

Newsletter Editor

**The LRPC submits these OPs for the House of Delegate's Approval.(See below)**

Committees Not in By-Laws and NOT in OP but OP Needed:

Historian

**The LRPC submits these OPs for the House of Delegates Approval. The LRPC further recommends that the index of the Operating Procedures be adjusted accordingly.**

**Proposal #6** Operating Procedure No. 1 - President's Duties PD-1

Change the wording on #4 and #7 to:

4. As soon as elected, recruit qualified people to fill all Committee Chair positions so that all Committee Chairs and officers are ready to start their jobs on the first day of the elected term.

7. Be in charge of the Program at the Annual Recognition Banquet, which should include:

Invocation

Introduction of Dignitaries

Introduce Host Society Representative

RMFMS Competitive Cases Awards

All American Club Award

New Program Contest

Scholarship Honorary Awards Winner

Scholarship recipients, if present  
Resolution thanking Host club, any others  
Installation of All RMFMS Officers

**The LRPC recommends changing #4 to:**

4. "Recruit qualified people to fill the Committee Chair positions, making sure the person in each position understands the requirements of the job."

**The LRPC recommends changing #7 to:**

7. Be in charge of the Program at the Annual Recognition Banquet, including the installation of new officers.

The list for the Program can be added to the current Convention Code.

Proposal #7. Operating Procedure No. Executive Committee – 1  
EC-1

Operating Procedure that needs to be divided and re-titled:

Procedure No. Executive Committee - 1                      Adopted 6-15-63

Subject: Administrative Area Organization              Amended 4-23-16

This Operating Procedure is not about the Executive Committee or Administration, and references to these two entities covered by the OP is difficult to find in the current Operating Procedures. The current Operating Procedure needs to be divided into: 1. State Directors; and 2. Delegates and Alternates. Here is the proposed change:

The First OP change:

Procedure No. Exec. Committee-1                      Adopted 000000

Subject: State Directors Duties

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies is divided into districts (states) with one member from each district as a State Director. State Directors are elected by the House of Delegates and will serve on the Federation's Executive Committee.

As stated in the RMFMS By-Laws, ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Section 2, the term of office for State Directors

shall be for two years. The term of office shall begin on November 1 of the year elected and run until October 31, two years later. The following State Directors shall be elected in even numbered years: Colorado, New Mexico/Texas, Oklahoma/Arkansas, Wyoming and Utah. The following State Directors shall be elected in odd numbered years: Arizona/Nevada, Kansas, North Dakota, and South Dakota/Nebraska.

Each State Director shall:

1. Serve as a liaison between all member clubs in their district and the Executive Committee.
2. Render all possible service and assistance to member clubs.
3. Encourage all district clubs to publish a newsletter and have a website.
4. Assist member clubs with local, state, and Federation shows.
5. Maintain close contact by letter, electronic communication or personal visit if possible with member clubs.
6. Promote Federation activities and programs to member clubs and individuals.
7. Prior to the Annual Convention, encourage each member club to have club Delegates attend the House of Delegates meeting. If no club member is able to attend, help arrange a Proxy so the club will be represented and a quorum will be present to conduct business at the House of Delegates meeting.

The Second OP change:

Procedure No. Exec. Committee – 2

Adopted 0000

Subject: Delegates and Alternates Duties

Each club in the Federation should appoint two of its members to act as Delegates for the Annual Meeting. These individuals may be one of the club officers or a member selected for this position. In this way, every club will be directly connected with, have a voice in, and be informed about the operation and administration of the Federation.

Each Delegate shall:

1. Know the services provided by the Federation and urge their club to make use of the aids and information available through the Federation committees.
2. Make plans to attend the annual House of Delegates meeting to represent the club. If that is not possible, assist the Club officers in obtaining a Proxy for the club.

Reasoning: It will be much easier to find the job description of both these entities if they are under separate OPs.

**The LRPC recommends this change to the current Operating Procedure.**

Proposal #8. Changes in the Convention Management Code

Page CC-1 (Page 1 of 5)

Operating Procedures No. Convention Management Code - 1

Adopted 6-10-78

Subject: Management of RMFMS Convention and Shows

Amended 000000

It is desired that an invitation from a member society to host a Rocky Mountain Federation Convention and Show be submitted in writing to the Officers of the Federation at least thirty (30) days in advance of the annual business meeting. More than one society or any state organization composed of units within the state, all of which are affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation, may act as host under the same conditions that govern a single affiliated group.

If possible, invitations for hosting a Rocky Mountain Federation Convention and Show should be submitted at least two (2) years in advance for a regional show and at least four (4) years in advance for a combined regional and national (AFMS) show. The invitation should include the proposed dates and tentative location of facilities where the Convention and show will be held.

As soon as possible after the invitation of the Host Society has been accepted by the Federation, the President of the Federation shall clear the dates with the American Federation to avoid conflict with other regional Federation conventions. Following the approval of the dates, the RMFMS and AFMS Newsletter Editors



will be notified and an official announcement of the time, place, and Host Society will be made to all RMFMS affiliated societies and to the AFMS.

For three months prior to the Show and Convention, the Host Society shall provide the Federation Newsletter Editor information about the event for each issue of the newsletter.

The President shall appoint a Convention Advisor to assist, advise and make recommendations to the Host Society on matters of Convention procedure. The Advisor will be the only liaison between the Federation and the Host Society in Convention matters of mutual concern. (It is recommended that the Convention Advisor be a person with experience in planning and assisting with larger shows and should reside reasonably close to the Host Society in order to understand the needs of both the Federation and the Host Society. This may not be necessary if there is a good line of communication.).

Within sixty (60) days after the invitation of the Host Society has been accepted, it is encouraged that the Host Society share a skeleton organization with the Convention Advisor of the Federation.

If financial assistance is needed:

1. Upon request from the General Chairman of the Host Society Convention Committee, and upon approval of the RMFMS Executive Committee, the Treasurer of the RMFMS may advance a loan to pay for immediate expenses of not more than \$1,000.00. Any amount advanced by RMFMS to the Host Society shall be repaid out of the proceeds of the Convention after all authorized expenditures have been paid.
2. The RMFMS can provide a \$1,000.00 grant to the Host Club for the RMFMS Convention upon request and payable after the return of the worksheet for the expenditures of the Convention. This worksheet will be provided by the Treasurer and must be returned to the Treasurer along with receipts covering the requested amount(s).
3. This grant will be used to help cover meetings, Editor's and Webmaster's Breakfast, Awards Banquet, and miscellaneous expenses involved with the RMFMS Convention only.

All funds generated from the Convention and Show as profit shall remain with the Host Society.

As a suggestion, the Host Society shall provide:

1. A suitable building or buildings for the Convention and Show.
2. At least six (6) months prior to the show, arrange for hotel headquarters and meeting rooms, and a group rate for Convention attendees. The Hotel information shall be published in the RMFMS Newsletter.
3. As a suggestion, at least four (4) months before the Convention and Show, the Show Committee of the Host Society shall provide each affiliated society, all members of the Executive Committee, and all Committee Chairs with a packet of information (Which can be mailed out or send electronically). This packet should contain:
  - a. Registration forms, including Awards Banquet and Editor Webmaster breakfast reservations.
  - b. Entry blanks for Competitive Exhibits.
  - c. Entry blanks for non-Competitive Exhibits.
  - e. Entry blanks for Junior competitions.
  - f. Host hotel registration and reservation information.
  - g. Directions to host hotel and show.
  - h. Credentials forms, to be obtained from the Secretary.
  - l. Field trip, programs, special features and displays information.
  - j. Any other information pertinent to the Convention, show and local area.
4. The Exhibits Committee of the Host Society shall also be prepared to furnish as many copies of entry blanks as may be required in addition to those furnished to each affiliated society.
5. Provide display cases for exhibitors. Exhibitors needing display cases must submit a request to the host society within 45 days prior to the Show. The request for display cases is included on the Exhibit entry forms.
6. Provide customary tables for dealers, adequate lighting, and power facilities.
7. Provide all Convention promotional and advertising materials, including a printed informational program.
8. Provide any special equipment necessary for special displays.

9. Provide skirting for all tables in compliance with their own local code. Decorations may be used to enhance the appearance of the show, but are not required.

10. Provide space with tables and chairs in a convenient location for the use of Federation Officers that shall be the Federation Headquarters.

11. Adequate 24-hour protection must be maintained in the exhibit area that shall be augmented by special guards in the event material of extraordinary value is on display.

12. The mechanics of the Convention, special speakers, janitor service, ticket selling and taking, demonstrations, operation of host-sponsored projects (such as grab bags) and similar activities shall be the responsibility of the Host Society.

13. Directional signs in the display area and, in so far as possible, any other necessary signs should be kept uniform in size and character.

14. Provide space with tables and chairs for the Uniform Rules judges and their needed equipment. This space should be in a location allowing for minimal interruption or distraction, preferably in a private room.

15. Sale of dealer space, tables, light and power, regulating the size and character of dealer, signs, and all other details connected with dealer participation shall be the responsibility of the Host Society.

16. Convention packets shall be provided for all registered Convention attendees. Packets shall contain name badges, tickets, Convention and Show schedule, and any literature describing the host city and area attractions.

17. Host society will supply a microphone, sound system, and United States of America flag at the meetings and banquet. Host society will have available the equipment for electronics as needed.

#### Suggested Fees:

1. Each adult shall pay a reasonable show admission fee as recommended by the Host Society.

2. The Host Society may at its discretion provide its active members, exhibitors, judges and speakers with passes in lieu of an

admission fee.

3. The Host Society shall be responsible for collecting any necessary fees in relation to any functions or activities associated with the Convention and/or show. The Federation Secretary, and/or Treasurer may assist in this function as requested by the Host Society.

Other Events:

1. The Host Society may set up a committee to plan and conduct field trips before and/or after the Convention, and shall give adequate notice of such trips to all affiliated societies well in advance of the Convention and Show.

2. The Host Society may plan special lectures and programs throughout the Convention, and shall supply information of such lectures and programs to all affiliated societies.

3. The Federation shall plan and conduct its business meetings in the location(s) provided by the Host Society. The Federation business meetings are:

a. Executive Committee Meeting, normally held on the first day of the Convention.

b. House of Delegates Meeting, normally held on the second day of the Convention..

Special Events held during the Convention and Show:

1. An Awards Banquet shall be planned, with the Host Society making all arrangements including the sale of tickets.

a. The program will consist of the following:

- i. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
- ii. Introduction of Dignitaries
- iii. Introduce Host Society Representative
- iv. RMFMS Competitive Cases Awards
- v. All American Club Award
- vi. New Program Contest
- vii. Scholarship Honorary Awards Winner
- viii. Scholarship recipients, if present
- ix. Resolution thanking Host club, any others
- x. Installation of All RMFMS Officers

b. The RMFMS President, in consultation with the Convention Chair, shall determine any further additions to the program.

c. The banquet and show tickets for the Scholarship Honorary Award Winner and his/her spouse and for the Scholarship recipient or recipients shall be paid for by the Rocky Mountain Federation.

2. With the help of the Bulletin Editor's Advisory Committee Chair, an Editors and Webmasters Breakfast shall be planned by the Host Society and tickets made available for purchase.

#### Competitive Exhibits:

1. The Exhibits Chair of the Host Society shall work with the Federation Uniform Rules Committee Chair in obtaining judges, registering exhibits, and any other phase concerning Competitive Exhibits that may be necessary.

2. The Competitive Exhibits shall conform to the classes and judging procedures as set out in the current edition of the AFMS Uniform Rules. Ribbons and trophies will be awarded according to these Uniform Rules and as stated in the RMFMS Operating Procedure governing Federation Trophies, OP No. Uniform Rules-2.

3. Competitive Exhibits trophies and all ribbons for First through Third Place, First through Third Level, and Honorable Mention shall be furnished by the Federation.

#### Ribbons:

1. All designation ribbons, i.e., Delegate, Exhibitor, Dealer, etc., all Competitive Exhibit ribbons, and all RMFMS Contest ribbons will be the responsibility of the Federation. An overlay ribbon will be provided showing the Federation emblem, date and place of the Convention and Show each year.

2. The Host Society shall be responsible for ribbons used for Special Displays and noncompetitive exhibits, which shall be considered as a general show expense.

#### Additional Awards:

Special prizes and/or trophies may be offered and awarded under such regulations that may be set up by donors and the Host Society.

Insurance:

The Host Society shall obtain liability insurance coverage in the maximum practical amount, naming both the Host Society or Societies and the Rocky Mountain Federation as named insured. The RMFMS Liability Insurance will suffice. Such insurance shall be in force from the date of the first physical activity at the Convention site through the date of final clean up. Similar coverage must be obtained for any sponsored event or promotion, such as field trips, rock swaps, etc., in which the Rocky Mountain Federation as an organization is a participant.

**The LRPC recommends approval of this Operating Procedure.**

Proposed New OP for Historian

Page HI-1

Operating Procedure No. Historian – 1

Subject: Historian

Adopted 0000000

The Historian shall be nominated and voted into office by the House of Delegates for a term of five years. The Historian shall have custody of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies history and shall be responsible for its continuation from year to year. The Historian shall be a member of the Executive Committee and attend all meetings as possible. The Historian shall keep an accurate record of all past and present RMFMS history. Pertinent historical additions shall be at the discretion of the Historian and/or the Executive Committee. The entire records or any part thereof shall be made available to any member of the Federation needing it for information to further the interests of this Federation.

The Historian shall:

1. Coordinate with the Newsletter Editor annually to have copies of the year's newsletters transferred to the historical files at the Annual Meeting.
2. Maintain files of RMFMS Annual Meeting agendas and cor-



rected Minutes from all meetings as received from the RMFMS Secretary. Maintain copies received of all meeting reports, contest results and updated RMFMS Directories, By-Laws, Operating Procedures and all *ad hoc* Committee reports.

3. Gather and maintain materials of historical nature from RMFMS meetings and Conventions, e.g. show pins, case favors, banquet favors, banquet programs, Show programs, Editors and Webmasters Breakfast programs, etc., and other activities with photographs (when available) and other memorabilia.

4. Display items from the RMFMS history at the Annual Meeting/show.

5. Coordinate with officers and chairpersons the disposition of documents and records that may have historical value.

6. Keep RMFMS members informed of RMFMS historical related activities or information by submission of articles to the RMFMS newsletter and website.

7. Submit a report of activities to the RMFMS Secretary forty-five days prior to the RMFMS Annual Meeting for inclusion in the Annual Report.

8. Submit a budget request to the RMFMS Treasurer when requested.

9. Send receipts of budgeted expenditures to the RMFMS Treasurer for reimbursement.

10. Deliver to their successor all material pertaining to the duties of this Committee within a reasonable time after the end of their term.

11. The RMFMS Historian may, with the approval of the Executive Board, allow items from the RMFMS to be loaned to a reputable museum within the RMFMS boundaries or for display at an AFMS show.

12. Coordinate the collection of information on museums within the RMFMS and forward the information to the RMFMS Webmaster. Those museums should have in their collection many examples of items of interest to RMFMS members; such as gems, minerals, lapidary art and including even examples of fossils, mining memorabilia, and Native American artifacts.

**The LRPC recommends approval.**

Proposed New OP for International Relations Committee:

Operating Procedure No. International Relations Committee – 1  
Adopted 0000000

Subject: International Relations Committee Organization and Duties.

The President shall appoint an International Relations Committee Chair, who will select a committee as deemed advisable and necessary.

The purpose of this Committee is to:

1. Encourage the exchange of information, and cooperation, with rock, gem, fossil and mineral clubs external of the United States;
2. Answer questions submitted by international club members about collecting specimens in the United States, especially collecting such specimens on land managed Federal, State and other legal entities;
3. Answer questions from RMFMS/AFMS members about collecting laws and regulations in countries other than the United States; and
4. Act as a goodwill ambassador for international visitors wishing to connect with rock and mineral clubs in the United States. It is envisioned that such activities will provide educational value to RMFMS club members.

This committee will:

1. Furnish the RMFMS Newsletter Editor information about international clubs for possible rock, gem, mineral, and fossil cooperative activities, including exchanges and fieldtrips.
2. Prepare information and suggestions about international collecting laws and regulations that may be informative for United States rockhounds planning international trips.
3. Encourage member clubs to present information/programs about international geological features, rocks, minerals, and fossils.
4. Encourage individual club members to submit questions about minerals, fossils, gems, and rocks of non-United States origin.
5. Encourage club members to develop programs about non-United States rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils that could be

shared with other clubs, and programs on United States resources that could be shared with international clubs (all of this by computer technology).

**The LRPC recommends approval of this Operating Procedure.**

Proposed New OP for Safety Committee:

Operating Procedure No. Safety-1  
Subject: Safety

Adopted 000000

The President shall appoint a Chair of the Safety Committee who will select committee members as deemed necessary.

The purpose of the Safety committee is to promote safety in all aspects of the hobby.

The Safety committee will be composed of a chairperson and members from the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Safety Committee shall:

1. Promote safety programs within the Federation.
2. Submit timely articles on safety to the RMFMS newsletter.
3. Be of assistance in furthering better safety measures throughout the RMFMS.
4. Submit a report on activities and any recommendations to the Secretary to be included in the Annual Report.
5. Submit a record of all expenses incurred in the performance of duties during the year to the RMFMS Treasurer.
6. Submit to the RMFMS Treasurer, 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting, a budget request for this Committee for the following fiscal year,
7. Turn over to the successor or chairperson all pertinent correspondence and reports of committee activities plus recommendations for further action.

**The LRPC recommends approval of this Operating Procedure.**

Proposed new OP for Newsletter Editor

Operating Procedure No. Newsletter Editor -1 Adopted 0000000

Subject: Newsletter Editor

The President shall appoint a Newsletter Editor who shall be responsible for disseminating current information to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS).

Newsletters should convey information of RMFMS activities, affairs, and contain the following:

1. President's or Vice-President's message.
2. List of Officers and Chair people.
3. List of Federation shows.
4. Committee reports and articles regarding activities of interest to societies.
5. Information from American Federation of Mineralogical Societies of interest to RMFMS members.

The Newsletter Editor duties include:

1. Checking articles for clarity and verbiage and checking any questionable articles with the President before printing.
2. Prepare the newsletter to be sent out electronically each month to all clubs, officers, committee chairs, and other national officers as needed.
3. Submit a report on activities and any recommendations to the Secretary of the RMFMS to be included in the Annual Report.
4. Submit a record of all expenses incurred in the performance of duties during the year to the RMFMS Treasurer.
5. Submit to the RMFMS Treasurer, 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting, a budget request for this Committee for the following fiscal year.
6. Turn over to the successor or chairperson all pertinent correspondence and reports of committee activities plus recommendations for further action.

**The LRPC recommends approval**

Proposal #9. Change in the necessary Quorum for House of Delegates Meeting:

Reference:

By-Laws, Article IV-House of Delegates, #6

The current OP states:

Operating Procedure-CR-1

3. "...In accordance with the RMFMS By-Laws, ARTICLE IV – HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Section 6, a quorum for the purpose of taking votes on business at the Delegates meeting is representation of one-third of the total number of societies."

Propose a change to:

3. "...In accordance with the RMFMS By-Laws, ARTICLE IV-HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Section 6, a quorum for the purpose of taking votes on business at the Delegates meeting is representation of 20 percent of the total number of societies."

**The LRPC recommends approval.**

Proposal #10 Operating Procedure-LR-1 Long Range Planning

The current OP states:

3. "The Chair will submit a report of activities to the Secretary 60 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting for inclusion in the meeting agenda."

Propose a change to:

3. "The Chair will submit a report of activities to the Secretary 45 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting for inclusion in the meeting agenda."

Rationale: This will conform to other deadlines in the By-Laws and Operating Procedures.

**The LRPC recommends approval.**

Proposal #11. Operating Procedure-JP-3 , page 1 - Junior Cash Awards

In the second paragraph:

"There shall be two awards given each year at the annual convention. Award One of \$25.00 shall be for juniors age twelve (12) and younger. Award Two of \$25.00 shall be for juniors age thirteen through seventeen...."

Propose a change to:

“There shall be two awards given each year at the Annual Convention. Award One of \$50.00 shall be for juniors age twelve and younger. Award Two of \$50.00 shall be for juniors age thirteen through seventeen....”

**The LRPC recommends approval of this change.**

### Membership Directory

I switched things up a bit on the Directory this year. I moved all the information pages to the back of the book. I am hoping this will help with getting to the clubs more quickly.

The hardest part this year was making sure everything that was sent in was correct. So, when all the reports came in, I copied the report and sent it back to the clubs to verify that all information was indeed correct. I was quite astonished that a lot of the names, addresses and emails were incorrect. I was also astonished that a couple of clubs did not want all that information in our Directory. But I understand. I did get this year's book out more quickly with only a few minor mistakes.

I do ask that all clubs, please get your report back asap and make sure it is filled out with correct information...address, email, phone number and all. I would greatly appreciate it.

Liz Thomas

### Mineral Technical Committee - Vacant

### Name Badges Committee

One order for Name Badges and Job Bars has been made since last year's RMFMS Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. One Name Badge and three Bars were ordered on Dec 12, 2022. The total cost of these items, including sales tax, was \$24.42.

I'm sure another order will be made before our 2023 Convention in Casper, Wyoming, and I will pass that information on to you there.

If anyone needs to have a Badge or Job Bar ordered for them, please let me know during the Convention.

Richard D. Jaeger



## Newsletter Editor - Vacant

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### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for 2023-2024 consists of Bob Regner, Chair, with Judy Beck, Richard Jaeger, Liz Thomas. The nominees are as follows:

President - Jodie Brewster  
Vice President - Jim Grey  
Secretary -  
Treasurer -

State Directors to be elected this year for a two-year term:

Arizona/Nevada - Steve Kaminski  
Kansas –  
North Dakota - Steve Fasching  
South Dakota/Nebraska - Lori Loomis

State Directors appointed this year to continue the two-year term to end in 2024:

New Mexico/Texas - Bob Regner  
Utah - Tracy Jensen

We have been notified that Sheri Johnson, who is finishing up her second term as RMFMS President, has been asked to serve as Third Vice President of the AFMS.

Bob Regner

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### Parliamentarian

No Report Submitted

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### Programs Competition

No Report Submitted

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### Program Library

One program has been rented so far this year. It was a slide set. Our DVDs are in the hands of our Webmaster and have been for 6 months. They are supposed to be put on our website so

that the programs can be downloaded for free. No report on the progress of this project.

Gene Maggard

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## Public Land Advisory

This has been another quiet year for new federal/state regulations or collecting information in the Rocky Mountain region. Part of this quietness is probably due to a variety of other important items on the plates of BLM and USFS. I continue to try and track items of interest to rockhounds.

As far as I know the Forest Service still has rather specific rules for collecting non-vertebrate fossils while new proposed rules for the BLM are “on hold.” The good news is that I have been in contact (several times) with a federal paleontologist, and we plan to meet, hopefully in person, within the near future to discuss casual collecting and other regulations concerning non-vertebrate fossils.

There is not much uniformity in USFS or BLM regulations for the collection of minerals and rocks (except petrified wood) so rockhounds need to contact the local or regional offices (or study their web sites) to understand the rules. These local employees are full of useful information, will give you a good map, and are of great value to help in your collection of specimens.

As a consequence of various federal and state regulations that seem to shut out recreation by rockhounds, or at least make collecting more difficult than necessary, it is my opinion that much collecting on federal and state lands in Colorado is done illegally.

On March 30th, 2023, the Department of Interior (BLM boss) *published a [proposal](#) to guide the balanced management of America’s public lands for the benefit of current and future generations. The proposed Public Lands Rule provides tools for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to improve the resilience of public lands in the face of a changing climate; conserve important wildlife habitat and intact landscapes; plan for development; and better recognize unique cultural and natural resources on public lands.*

*The proposed rule directly responds to the growing need to better manage public lands, waters, and wildlife in the face of devastating wildfires, historic droughts, and severe storms that com-*

*munities are experiencing across the West, as well as deepen BLM's collaborative work with communities, states and Tribes to support responsible development of critical **minerals**, energy and other resources. The Proposed Rule appeared in the Federal Register on April 3, 2023.*

*This proposed rule is designed to ensure that the nation's public lands continue to provide **minerals**, energy, forage, timber, and recreational opportunities, as well as habitat, protected water supplies, and landscapes that resist and recover from drought, wildfire, and other disturbances.*

I cannot determine if the passage of the Proposed Rule will encourage or discourage rockhounding activities. I found the term "mineral" appeared four times, seemingly in the context of industrial minerals as noted in the above paragraph. Rockhounds/rockhounding/mineral collecting did not appear nor did the word "fossil." The closest encouragement for rockhounding is probably: *ensure that the nation's public lands continue to provide... recreational opportunities.* The Federations, clubs and individuals must continue to push and advertise rockhounding as a recreational opportunity completely different from illegally (usually) collecting cultural artifacts such as pottery shards and "arrowheads." We must continue to support rockhounding as a recreational opportunity that provides a gateway for students to better understand science and STEM activities. In other words, take a youngster rockhounding and tell the BLM/USFS and send an activity photo to your congressional representative encouraging them to support access to public lands for these activities.

You may locate the Proposed Rule at: [Federal Register : Conservation and Landscape Health](#). The comment period ends June 20, 2023. The Federal Register is always fun reading before drifting off to sleep at night!!

Now, this next item has little to do with federal/state collecting rules on managed lands. However, it might have something to do with rockhounds getting collecting access on USFS land.

As we all know the federal government is prioritizing renewable energy and electric vehicles. This use of green energy requires minerals containing Rare Earth Elements (REE) but also minerals containing cobalt, copper, nickel, aluminum, graphite, manganese, and others. Currently the big push, besides REEs, is

lithium. If you feel like rolling the dice, purchase stock in companies associated with mining and producing lithium.

Did you invest five years ago and watch lithium hydroxide zoom up to ~\$80 per kilogram (and become a gazillionaire, at least on paper) then tank by April 2023 to ~\$25 per kg with some commodity brokers projecting even lower prices in 2024? But there are many mining companies still out there looking for lithium, mainly in the form of the mineral spodumene ( $\text{LiAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$ ).

This chatter leads me to the hundreds of mining claims being processed in the southern Black Hills of South Dakota centered around the town of Custer. Currently there are around seven companies exploring for lithium near Custer with the largest being (I think) United Lithium. As I understand, they have an extensive core drilling and rock sampling program on over 15 square miles and have staked over 500 claims, many/most on USFS land.

Why look in the Black Hills for lithium? In the 1940 and 1950s the numerous Precambrian pegmatites in the Hills produced perhaps 200,000 tons of lithium—mostly from mining spodumene in open pit mines. Some of the individual crystals of spodumene may have reached 25-40 feet in length. Try mounting one of those in a Perky Box!

Last fall I was looking at some of these old pegmatite mines and pits and outcrops trying to collect interesting minerals (micro-mount size). I thought this activity was legal since the lands were managed by the USFS. Much to my dismay I was chased off a couple of pegmatites since they were under claim. If this sort of massive claiming leads to rockhounds being denied permission to collect, then we will lose thousands of acres of pegmatites to explore and pound.

I don't even pretend to have good knowledge about mining claims and collecting so please understand that mostly I have questions and am concerned about land access.

And so it goes. Happy Collecting.

Mike Nelson

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Public Land Advisory Committee

No other reports submitted.

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## Public Relations Committee - Vacant

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### Ribbons

No Report Submitted

### Safety - Vacant

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### Scholarship Committee

Thus far - as of May 1, 2023 – three Rocky Mountain Federation clubs have contributed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation for the fiscal year November 1, 2022, through October 31, 2023. I sincerely wish to thank each of the clubs that have contributed to the Scholarship Foundation. The clubs, the amount they contributed, and the percentage to which that brings them are listed below. A percentage of 2500% would mean the equivalent of the club donating \$1 per member for 25 years.

Gene & Peggy Maggard	\$100.00
Kathy Honda	\$1,000.00
Topeka Gem & Mineral Society	\$465.72
Tulsa Rock & Mineral	\$788.00
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society	\$400.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$2,753.72</b>

A \$25 donation from the Topeka Club was made in memory of Barbara Sky. Cinda Kunkle of the Topeka Club also made a \$20 donation in memory of Barbara Sky that is credited to the Topeka Club. Gene & Peggy Maggard made a donation of \$100, which I have listed as a personal donation, in memory of Don Richardson and Larry Skelton; the Wichita Club made a donation of \$50 for each of those individuals, also.

The Tulsa Club made a \$50 donation for each of the following: Steve Loffer, Gail Lunsford, Regina Richards, and Terry Williams. Richard & Linda Jaeger made a \$100 donation in memory of Fred White tht is also credited to the Tulsa club. The donation from Kathy Honda, our Colorado State Director, was a personal donation.

I hope that we will have contributions from several other clubs this year. Last year we had over \$4600 in contributions. Remember, through the AFMS Scholarship Foundation our RMFMS is able to award two \$4,000 scholarships each year to graduate students

majoring in the Earth Sciences. These donations are also an excellent way to honor members who have passed away.

Our Honorary RMFMS Scholarship Awardee this year is Dr. Mark Clementz, a professor and chairman of the Department of Geology & Geophysics at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming. He was selected by Jim Gray, our Wyoming State Director.

Dr. Clementz has selected two outstanding geology students to receive the \$4,000 scholarships awarded to students in the RMFMS Federation through the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. Those students are: Mollie Pope, a current M.S. student at the University of Wyoming and Julian Hernandez Diepenbrock, a current Ph.D. student at the University of Wyoming.

See my AFMS Endowment Fund letter in Addendum #2.

Richard D. Jaeger

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### Stationery and Trophies - Vacant

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### Supplies

Supply sales in Las Vegas at the RMFMS Convention last year went well. We had a total of \$138.00 in sales. All items will be in stock for Casper, Wyoming, this year. I expect to need restocking of both pins for next year.

All items are available by mail any time during the year. My address is in the Membership Directory under "Supplies."

Roberta Wagle

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### Trademark Control and Use - Vacant

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### Uniform Rules Committee

No Report Submitted

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### Webmaster

No Report Submitted

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### Website Contest Committee

2023 Results: The RMFMS Website Contest had three entries.



A First Place trophy and First, Second, and Third Place ribbons will be ordered through RMFMS. The Website Contest Chair makes certificates for all the entries. The winners are announced at the RMFMS Convention at the “Breakfast for Editors and Webmasters.” After the Convention, the Website Contest Chair will email the judged score sheets to website winners for their knowledge.

Procedures: The RMFMS Website Contest chair coordinates the AFMS website contest for the RMFMS region. This involves sending out email notices to all RMFMS regional club/society webmasters through the State Directors, encouraging the clubs to enter the website contest. Once the entries are received by the contest deadline, judges from other AFMS Federations are contacted and the entries are sent to them. These judges score these entries using contest entry forms and score sheets provided by the AFMS. The scores are sent to the Contest Chair to tally, which determines ranking. The Chair then sends the First and Second Place winners to the AFMS Website Contest Chair for the AFMS Website Contest judging.

The contest ran smoothly with no unusual problems.

Numbers and statistics: Contact with AFMS Website Contest Chair through emails and phone calls, regarding coordination of 2023 contest (re: contest dates, times, judges, application and entry forms, entries and results) = **55**

Contact with RMFMS clubs/webmasters/presidents and RMFMS State Directors announcing contest entry dates = **30**

Contact with RMFMS Webmaster/newsletter editor to publish contest dates = **4**

Contact with Website Contest entry webmaster = **15**

Contact with judges for the RMFMS Website contest entries = **12**

Order contest ribbons and First Place plaque = **4**

Create certificates and send judges reports to contest entry webmasters = **3**

Contacted Linda Jaeger to request that she announce winners and give ribbons to the contest winners since I couldn't attend

the Convention = 2

Contact AFMS Website Contest Chair to enter First and Second Place RMFMS entries = 2

My approximate hours involved as RMFMS Website contest chair = **30 hours**

Jennifer Gerring

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## Addendum #1 - History of The President's

In case you did not know, this is the story of the RMFMS President's Hat (Courtesy of Richard Jaeger / Sheri Johnson)

The HAT originally belonged to Ralph Platt who was President of the RMFMS in 1954-55. Ralph was a much beloved person in our Federation. In 1986, the RMFMS Federation Convention was in Arizona. Alice Smith, who was the RMFMS Vice President, forgot to bring her hat on the field trip. She had a health issue and needed to have her head shaded from the Arizona summer sun, so Ralph gave his hat to her. It is the hat that became and still is The President's HAT. The HAT has been worn by Presidents from 1987 until present day.

But, I mentioned a contest in the Welcome letter.....

In 1995, the HAT got its very own OP in the RMFMS Operating Procedures, to "formalize the minimum requirements for wearing of the Hat". It includes the proper care and wearing of the HAT, as well as what constitutes non-compliance with the OP. Every President "can decorate the HAT with 'adornments that add to the character' of the HAT. The penalty for non-compliance with the OP is a fine in the amount determined by the President's Hat Compliance Committee and is payable to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Here are just a few HAT stories.

When Richard Jaeger was President in 2005, he determined that he was going to have as much fun as I could with the HAT and try to rack up the largest fine yet given for improper wearing of the HAT. He did all he could to bait the Past Presidents, who make up the HAT Committee. In Roswell in 2007 during the Awards Banquet while the Committee was meeting, He decided to wear the hat on my hand instead of his head and said "I wasn't fearful of getting fined because the Past Presidents were just a bunch of teddy bears". The fine was \$40, which he promptly blamed on his wife Linda, who was sitting next to Richard at the head table. At that point, she informed the Committee that I had moved Federation property from the car to the hotel while not wearing the hat; the fine increased to \$50. When Richard was President again in 2016, he decided to break the record for the largest fine yet assessed by baiting the Past Presidents even further.

He succeeded. He really had fun with the HAT. He decorated the HAT with various bands, feathers, Navajo and Cherokee pins, etc.

Stan Nowak served as President after Richard. He wore the HAT not only to the 2008 RMFMS Convention in Tulsa but to club meetings and shows all over our area. Another member of his club, John Worden, made sure to report to the President's Hat Committee if Stan failed to wear the HAT. Stan was unable to attend the Convention in Roswell. Yonis Lone Eagle was the Vice President at the time and the OP was amended to designate the Vice President to wear the HAT in the absence of the President. Yonis did so with distinction.

Bill Smith followed as the next President and was almost perfect in the wearing of the HAT. Bill found, as I had, that when he attended the Denver Show and shows or meetings elsewhere, including meetings in other AFMS Regions, that people knew who he was and what he represented. Now, it seems that Bill's wife, Janet, felt he should be fined over something, so she told Bob Carlson that Bill took the HAT off when he took a shower at the Colorado Springs Show – thus a fine of \$10.

DeLane Cox loved the HAT too and decorated it with peacock feathers, a band with sequins, and an amethyst hat pin. She actually did a pretty good job of wearing the hat with just a few slip-ups. She recalls that her fines were about \$20 at the Federation Shows in both Albuquerque and Sandy, Utah. Now, the AFMS Show in Jacksonville, Florida, was another matter. I managed to get pictures of DeLane minus hat at a couple of official functions. I think we fined her maybe another \$10.

Diane Weir followed DeLane as President. She had as much fun with the HAT as Richard did and tried to break the record for a fine by baiting the Past Presidents just like Richard. In Tulsa, the HAT appeared on the Vice President, Jeri House, at an official function and in Cody, Wyoming, it appeared on Ben Thomas, the husband of RMFMS Secretary Liz, at the Awards Banquet. Of course, fines were assessed. Diane's HAT was adorned with fancy broach pins, crystals, flowers, and beaded bands to match the colors of different outfits which she wore.

In my case, people may not know me, but they sure recognize the HAT. It is always a topic of conversation. Every RMFMS President decorates the HAT in a different way, as specified in the RMFMS Ops. For my HAT band, I asked the State Directors to reach out to the member clubs and request a stone, native to the state, shaped like the state (including the out-of-boundaries states). I do have a bit of fun with the HAT as well. When the President's HAT Compliance Committee members are not looking, I take the HAT off, just to see if anyone will report me. And, there are LOTS of pictures of me at official functions, not wearing the HAT. That said, wearing the HAT is an honor and it is all in good fun.

Richard, I'm coming for your record as the highest fine assessed for non-compliance!

## Addendum #2

### **AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND by Richard Jaeger**

I am the Rocky Mountain Federation Regional Chairman for the AFMS Endowment Fund. Cheryl Neary, current AFMS President and a member of the Eastern Federation, is the AFMS Endowment Fund Chair, and also the AFMS Central Office Administrator.

Basically, this is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the AFMS Convention in Billings, Montana, in August. People from around the American Federation donate prizes for the raffle – they may be jewelry, crystals, minerals, fossils, books, or other items, the value of which range generally from \$75 to \$200. The drawing is handled so that there is at least one winner from each of the seven regional federations; last year we had five winners from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

As items are donated, pictures of them will appear in the AFMS Newsletter and on the American Federation Website <amfed.org>. There are generally around 30 items.

This is a major way to financially support the American Federation's efforts on behalf of our hobby. Currently the funds go towards the Junior Rockhound Program, Judges Training, and preparing Neqw Programs for distribution to Regional Federations that can be used by individual clubs. Over \$5,000 was raised last year. Cheryl requests that the checks be sent to the regional chairs so that we may issue tickets and have a record of who has entered. Checks should be made payable to the "AFMS Endowment Fund." We then forward those checks to Pat LaRue, the AFMS Treasurer. I will fill out the proper number of tickets for each contribution, send the stubs to the donating individual, and get the tickets to the RMFMS/AFMS Show in Billings in August to be put into the RMFMS bag. There will be at least one general prize ticket, maybe two or three, drawn from each of the bags for the seven regional Federations. After that, all tickets will be dumped into one bag, and further drawings will take place until all the prizes have been awarded.

I hope many of you will participate and hopefully be winners in Billings. But you need not be present to win. I would also be happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle, or they could be sent directly to Cheryl Neary; the more prizes, the more winners, and hopefully, more money raised. Cheryl's address is: 42 Jefferson Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772. My wife Linda and I are each donating a piece of jewelry for the Endowment Fund prizes. My contact information is provided below. Please share this information with your club members and thanks for your consideration.

**Please purchase some tickets – and hopefully get your ticket drawn in Billings in August.**

Richard D. Jaeger  
3515 E. 88<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602  
918-481-0249

[RjgrSci@aol.com](mailto:RjgrSci@aol.com)

Addendum #3

**RMFMS**  
**Final 2021-22 Financials and First Half 2022-2023 (11/1/ 22 to 4/30/23)**

**Beginning Balance 11/1/2022:**

Checking Balance	13,607.29
Edward Jones 924	32,159.23
CNB CD 544 (Matures 12/22)	55,984.44
Vanguard Bond Fund	88,427.45
Ending Balance	<u>190,178.41</u>

Category	Fiscal Years							
	2021-22 Fiscal Year Report				2022-23 Fiscal Year Budget			
	Expense		Income		Expense		Income	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
All America Club	100.00				100.00			
AFMS Travel	1,500.00				1,500.00			
Competitions - Exhibits	100.00	157.06			200.00	171.44		
Competitions, Newsletter	100.00				100.00			
Convention Exp	1,300.00				1,100.00			
Convention-Exec. Board Travel	600.00	585.00			1,000.00			
Directory -	1,400.00	980.79			1,200.00	754.19		
Donations-AFMS Scholarship Foundation	2,280.00	2,403.00			5,300.00	5,300.00		
Dues/Memberships-AFMS	7,200.00	6,662.25	14,000.00	14,788.40	7,300.00	7,470.75	15,000.00	17,590.50
Insurance Prem. - Clubs	7,500.00	5,091.00	7,500.00	7,400.55	6,000.00	6,646.06	6,000.00	7,972.80
Interest / Dividends			2,300.00	2,874.57			5,300.00	2,904.36
Library	50.00		25.00		50.00		50.00	
Name Badges	150.00	132.25			150.00	29.22		
Newsletter								
Ribbons	300.00	733.55			200.00			
Secretary	100.00				100.00			
State Director Travel	1,000.00				1,000.00			
Subscriptions								
Supplies	75.00		80.00	529.00	75.00		200.00	
Treasurer	150.00	100.00			100.00			
Trademark						123.55		
Website		221.82			250.00			174.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,905.00</b>	<b>17,066.72</b>	<b>23,905.00</b>	<b>25,592.52</b>	<b>25,725.00</b>	<b>20,495.21</b>	<b>26,550.00</b>	<b>28,642.65</b>

Vanguard Fund Unrealized Capital Gain (Loss) 2,900.78

**Ending Balances 4/30/23:**

Checking Balance	18,850.37
Edward Jones 924	89,784.41
Vanguard Bond Fund	92,527.54
Ending Balance	<u>201,162.32</u>



**PROXY FORM for the Rocky Mountain Federation  
2023 Convention being held at the Ramkota Hotel  
and Conference Center, 800 N Poplar St.,  
Casper, WY 82601**

**Society Name**  **of**

**City**  **State**  **does**

hereby appoint   
(Please print name)

as Proxy Delegate with full power to represent this Society at the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies at the House of Delegates Meeting to be held in Casper, Wyoming, on July 15, 2023.

As duly authorized by the above named society, I submit this form to the RMFMS:

**Society Officer**  **Date**   
(Please print name and office held)

This completed form must be returned to the RMFMS Credentials Committee Chair no later than One Hour prior to the Delegates Meeting.

If mailing prior July 1, 2023, mail to:

Marvin Sawaia,  
Credentials Chair  
PO Box 1006  
Claypool, AZ 85532

After July 1, 2023, please bring  
this completed form with you and  
turn it in at the Credentials Table  
at the Convention. Thank you.

Or send as an email it to  
[register4RMF@hotmail.com](mailto:register4RMF@hotmail.com)  
by July 10, 2023





**CREDENTIALS FORM** for the  
**2023 Rocky Mountain Federation Convention** held  
**7/14/2023 - 7/16/2023** at the **Ramkota**  
**Hotel and Conference Center 800 N**  
**Popular St., Casper, WY 82601**

If filling out by hand to be mailed in, please print in each of the fields. Thank you.

Society Name

City , State

	Name of representative	Office held if any	Phone Number
Delegate	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Delegate	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Alternate	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Alternate	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

The above named Delegate(s) or Alternate(s) have been chosen to represent this Society at the Annual Business Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies at the House of Delegates Meeting to be held at Casper, Wyoming, on July 15, 2023.

Society Officer and Title

Date Authorized

Please Note: Delegates will only be allowed to vote if your Society is in good standing (see By-Law, Article X -Eligibility).

Reference: Articles of Incorporation, Article III, Membership

By-Laws, Article XII, Credentials of Delegates

By-Laws, Article XIII, Use of Proxies

This completed form must be returned to the RMFMS Credentials Committee Chair no later than One Hour before the Delegates Meeting.

If mailing prior June 15, 2023, mail to:

Marvin Sawaia,  
Credentials Chair  
PO Box 1006  
Claypool, AZ 85532

After June 15, 2023, please bring this completed form with you and turn it in at the Credentials Table at the Convention. Thank you.

Or email completed form to  
[register4RMF@hotmail.com](mailto:register4RMF@hotmail.com)  
by July 5, 2023