



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #5

May 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

It is almost time for the annual CFMS Convention, May 10 & 11, 2025. We will be meeting in Lancaster, at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds (2551 West Avenue H).

Presale tickets for the CFMS Banquet are available on the CFMS website. Also available are presale camping spots (limited availability) and non-competitive exhibit forms. Entry to the Show and parking are free!



This year at the CFMS Convention, you and/or your club will have the unique opportunity to purchase the CFMS trailer (Camp Zzyzx) as well as several pieces of equipment that are no longer being used by CFMS Earth Science Class via auction & sale. The CFMS Endowment tables will be at the show as well. Stop by and find hidden treasures for purchase.



Pictured left to right: Jim Brace-Thompson, Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Nick Hughes, Diane Cook, Nancy Brace-Thompson, Sandie Fender, Tony Fender

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies was well represented at the American Federation Convention in Hickory, North Carolina. At the Rules Committee Meeting for competitive exhibits, a few changes were presented and passed. I'm sure Jim will be sharing them with you in the near future. At the Director's Meeting, Tony Fender was voted in as AFMS 2nd Vice President. At the AFMS Awards Dinner & Editor's Breakfast, CFMS received many, many awards. The names of award winners will be shared after the CFMS Convention. It was a very nice Show & Convention! They really like minerals in the East.

See you in Lancaster.

Susan Chaisson-Walblom

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 10-11. CFMS Convention-Lancaster
June 5..... Deadline for July newsletter
Aug 17-Apr30. Camp Paradise

CFMS INSURANCE CONTACTS

McDaniel Insurance Services
PO Box 1294, Ojai, CA 93024
Tel (805) 646-9948
Fax (805) 646-9976; email: pmcdaniel@mcd-ins.com
Web Site: www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com

Fred Ott, CFMS Insurance Chair
(530) 677-8440
fred.ott@att.net

CFMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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CFMS WEBSITE

The CFMS website is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org
Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this website. Be sure to cite the source.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the newsletter is the 5th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be sent to the editor at bplarue@earthlink.net. "Snail mail"? Please send to the CFMS PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Articles without a byline are written by the editor.

DONATIONS

Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3). Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return. If a personal donation is \$250 or more, a letter attesting to that amount is also required. Member clubs and individuals are encouraged to donate to any of the following:

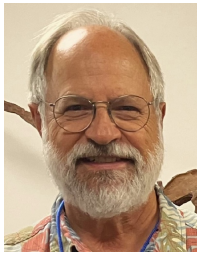
CFMS Scholarship Fund
CFMS Endowment Fund
CFMS General Fund
Diedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
AFMS Scholarship Foundation
AFMS Endowment Fund
Burns Memorial Camp Fund (benefits Earth Science Studies)
Facilities Development Fund

Your donations should be sent to:
Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Receipts and any supporting documents will be forwarded on to the committee member responsible for acknowledgment. Please make all checks payable to CFMS or AFMS as appropriate and note the fund in the memo section.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?!

Copies of the dues/insurance payment and society officer change forms were included in the January newsletter. **Dues are due January 1 and considered delinquent on March 1.** Please be sure that your club treasurer or other authorized person receives these forms. The insurance was increased \$1 per member due to an increase in the policy premium. The \$10 is allocated as follows: \$2 is the amount of the combined AFMS/CFMS dues (\$1.25 for CFMS; \$.75 for AFMS) and \$8 for the mandatory general liability insurance provided by CFMS. The overall cost of the insurance policy includes the service fees charged by the firm which services all the components of the CFMS insurance program. A reminder letter was mailed March 10 to those clubs which had not yet paid. The letter was mailed to the last known contact or the club address for those not listing a contact person, usually the Federation Director, if one was designated.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr.
Activities Chair

Kids Participate! Watch for Them at the 2025 CFMS Convention

With our CFMS Convention coming up any day now, I'm pleased to see participation by quite a few kids. When applications officially closed on March 1 for our 5th Annual CFMS Junior Achievement Awards, we ended up with two entries from kids under age 12 and three entries from kids 12 and above. Applications to participate with competitive exhibits officially closed on April 1, and we have three kids entering, along with one juniors' club case. No word yet on how many kids might be entering noncompetitive cases, but both competitive and noncompetitive kids' exhibits are automatically eligible for the Show Chair's Award for Outstanding Junior Exhibit.

Results for both the Junior Achievement Awards and competitive exhibits will be announced at the 2025 Convention Awards Banquet on May 10 at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds in Lancaster. I'm looking forward to seeing several happy kids! Thank you to the kids who are participating and to the adults who have inspired and encouraged them.

Also, we should have several proud kids as a result of the Bulletin Contest. I can't announce it just yet because awards will be officially unveiled during the CFMS Convention Banquet, but several CFMS kids won national honors at the AFMS level, including one First Place trophy and one Second Place, as well as three more placing in the Top Ten. All will be announced in Lancaster. Well done, kids!

Last month, I noted that a new badge was being finalized for the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program. Well, now it's official! I attended the AFMS Show & Convention in Hickory, North Carolina, and on March 29, they held a cracker barrel session on latest developments with the AFMS Youth Program, where they unveiled the "Sand & Sediment" badge. For anyone chomping at the bit to jump right in, you can access all the new activities at

<https://www.juniors.amfed.org/fra-badge-program/the-badges/sand-sediment>.

By the way, does your club participate in STEM/Science Nights in your local school district? If so, some of the activities for the new badge make for great hands-on activities that Lori Carter (who wrote up the new badge requirements) uses at her local schools. She gave great demonstrations during the cracker barrel. Try it out—I know I will!

2025 CFMS CONVENTION

By Jim Brace-Thompson

Seeking Silent Auction Items—and Bidders!

As I noted last month, our upcoming 2025 CFMS Convention is unusual in that it's being tagged onto an independent club show—the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club (AVGMC) show. To explain: when no club stepped up this year to host a CFMS Show & Convention, AVGMC graciously offered to allow us to use their facilities to run competitive exhibits, hold the spring Directors Meeting, and host an Awards Banquet at the same time and place as their regular club show. So this year, rather than a CFMS "Show & Convention," we have a CFMS "Convention" alongside the AVGMC Show.

Thus, opportunities for fund-raising for the Federation are limited, and we are scrambling for ways to raise income for CFMS given that a "Show & Convention" is normally the big money-maker of the year. One opportunity we're banking on is a silent auction during our Cracker Barrel. We've been holding small silent auctions for several years at Cracker Barrels preceding CFMS Shows & Conventions and Fall Directors Meetings, but this time, we'd like to really go BIG with it! We ask anyone planning to attend the Cracker Barrel to please bring several primo items (rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, lapidary or jewelry items, rock-related books, etc.) to help generate as much income as possible from those in attendance. In addition, we need bidders, so please bring a wallet full of good old-fashioned cash!!

This will take place 7:00 PM on Friday, May 9 at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, and I'll have a supply of bid sheets and pencils so folks can write down what it is they're donating and a starting bid amount. Let's all pitch in for the common good!



CAMP PARADISE

By Jill Atkins, Co-Chair

Great news! We have a hard stone carving instructor for 2025 Camp Paradise! Peter Adam is an award winning stone carver who, along with everyone else, will be donating time and expertise to Camp Paradise to enrich the learning experience of our students. Thank you Peter for agreeing to carry on the work of Bob Rush. Please visit CFMSinc.org for his bio, class description and prerequisites.

Application and payment are electronic this year and seem to be working flawlessly. (You may still download, write a check and mail if you prefer.) The Bapplications are rolling in so you may want to stop procrastinating and get on it! Excitement is high this year. We have people from all over the country signing up.

In 2023 Moi was gifted an ugly rock! (I too was shocked.). I brought it to camp in 2024 to confront the miscreant. Alas she was not there so some wags took the rock and “decorated” it. It went on the auction table and raised money for Camp Paradise. Good news! It’s back! Pepe has generously re-donated it back to CP and it will be on the auction table the second week of camp. (I think Michelle “encouraged” him.). We want everyone to have an opportunity to have this “art piece” in their own house for one year. Then it comes back to Camp Paradise to be put on the auction table once again. I hope to see you this summer.

THE MAGIC OF CAMP PARADISE

by Shae Andrae

Collecting rocks is a hobby I’ve had since as far back as I can remember. I didn’t understand my connection then but I do recall the kinetic energy I’d felt with each and every one as I was compelled to pick them up and pack them into my already bulging pockets, socks, bra, or any other crevice I could squeeze them into...okay, within reason people....don’t get any weird ideas (I wasn’t that compelled...lol). I liken my connection with them as a symbiotic relationship...almost as if I couldn’t exist without them, and they without me. Little did I know I was embarking on a long road to becoming a rockhound. My passion for rocks evolved into embarking on gem shows, which further evolved into me branching out on my jewelry making journey. This is where I discovered VGMS. This opened up a whole new

world for me. When I first joined VGMS, I didn’t know what to expect. My goal was to be a part of a group that would offer some keen insight to help educate me on how to determine the different types of rocks, which ones would be best for making jewelry (ie, design elements, hardness, etc), provide info on the geosciences, offer field trips, and to make new friends. I was quite pleased to find out they provided that and much, much more. I was also pleased to discover the Club has a lapidary shop where the members are taught how to use the saws to cut the rocks, and to make use of the lapidary machines to form the rocks into shapes that would be ideal for jewelry designing. I found the members were also eager to share their wealth of knowledge and to provide guidance on the field they were so passionate about.

Another great benefit of being a Club member was the opportunity to sign up for Earth Sciences Studies Camp Paradise hosted by CFMS. This is an annual camp workshop that offers rockhounds the unique opportunity to expand their craft by learning the skills of jewelry making, which includes silversmithing, wire wrapping, lapidary arts, enameling, hot wax casting and much more...there’s something for everyone. The instructors are quite gifted too. They generously offer their time and expertise by sharing their vast wealth of knowledge over a one or a two week period to those of us who are eager to learn. I found the cost to be quite reasonable as well. The cost includes room/board, 3 meals per day and whatever jewelry classes you can squeeze in. Sounds like a fantastic opportunity, right?! I thought so too, so I didn’t hesitate to sign up for a week long adventure.

Being the venturesome person I am, I decided to make a road trip out of it. Sooooo, I packed up my mini cooper convertible with the necessary amenities and planned my first stop at the half way point where I stayed at a Marriott in Lodi. The hotel concierge provided the name of a local wine tasting room that was within walking distance. So I ventured there, had some wine and a bite to eat and also had the pleasure of meeting Dave (@DaveandtheBox), the entertainer who was booked there that night. After a fun night of listening to Dave’s ‘feel good’ music,

he and I became fast friends, exchanged numbers and I walked back to my hotel so that I could get some good rest for the long drive up to Camp Paradise the next day.

I woke up to perfect weather the next morning so I ventured with the top down on my convertible and my music playing loud while I enjoyed the beautiful journey up North. I felt like I was in heaven. Little did I know the real heaven began when I arrived at Camp Paradise in Strawberry Valley up in Northern California. Don't get me wrong, it's not glamorous by any means but rather it's wonderfully rustic. One might consider it paradise, just as I did, if they like to be in the wilderness, surrounded by the vast evergreens. The aroma of the pine trees brought back those fond memories of my youth as a Camp Fire Girl and to me it was as if I was in heaven.

I was also about to discover that this is a place where the jewelry making magic happens. The eager rockhounds come from all over to share in this experience and to learn what they can while there. Catherine and I became fast friends as we cavalierly attempted to push the boundaries of Steve's syllabus in his silversmithing class. Our reputation preceded us in our second year there too, as we were deemed double trouble by Glenn, our very patient wire wrapping instructor. We all appreciate Pepe as well, the chef who ensured our bellies were fed so we have the energy to create. Thank you Pepe! On behalf of us rockhounds, we are all very grateful to Ann Marie McCann who graciously coordinates the registration portion of the event, and are especially grateful to Jill and Gary for their time and effort in coordinating such a fantastic event each year.

I learned so much and am appreciative of the opportunity to experience the magic that occurs there. I'm also looking forward to another road trip and jewelry making adventure again this year. This will be my third year and is the first time I'll spend the entire two weeks. I had no idea what to expect until I was immersed in the magic of Camp Paradise. It truly is an amazing journey.

IT'S SHOW TIME!

By Diane Cook, 1st VP

Get ready—it's Show Time! The **CFMS Convention** is just around the corner and will be held in conjunction with the **Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club's Annual Show** at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds.

The excitement kicks off on **Friday, May 10, 2025:**

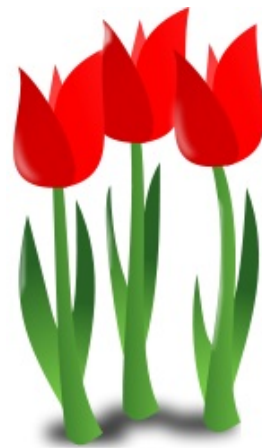
- **Competitive exhibit entries** will be accepted from **12:00 PM to 6:00 PM**,
- At **7:00 PM**, join us for the **Cracker Barrel** in the **Show Pavilion Foyer**. This casual gathering is free to attend and a great opportunity to network, share ideas, and make new friends.
- A **Silent Auction** will also be held—please consider bringing a donation to support CFMS!

On **Saturday, May 11**, the **Directors Meeting** will be held:

- **New Director Orientation** begins at **8:00 AM**.
- The full meeting starts at **9:00 AM**.

As with all CFMS conventions, there's plenty to **learn, share, and enjoy**—all while connecting with fellow rockhounds from across the Federation. Don't miss it!

For the full Show Schedule and updates, visit the [CFMS Website](#).



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

As you well know, I've been bugging you all year long to donate items and to purchase tickets for the annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle. The fund helps support several good programs, including the AFMS Youth Program and its AFMS/FRA badges that are available free to all local societies holding a Federation affiliation. Well, now for the results!

Here are CFMS members who won raffle prizes when tickets were drawn at the AFMS Show & Convention in Hickory, North Carolina:

- Fred Ott (El Dorado Gold 1848) – Murano pearl necklace with earrings
- Robert Seaton (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) – a fine pendant of Ocean Jasper cabochon set in sterling silver
- Nick Hughes (Peninsula Gem & Geology Society) – my very own handcrafted pure silver ammonite pendant with chain
- Karin Solomon (Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society) – a large green fluorite specimen from Morocco
- Devin Rodrick – a quartz crystal plate

I'm in the process of contacting our lucky winners and getting their goodies to them. Meanwhile, thank you to all who helped support the fund—and I'm accepting item donations and selling tickets for the 2026 raffle....Call me!

SHARING INNOVATIONS FROM CFMS

By Diane Cook, 1st VP

During my report to the AFMS, I highlighted a recent success story from my home club, the **Ventura Gem & Mineral Society**—our adoption of a new nonprofit fundraising tool called **Zeffy**.

Zeffy is a 100% free fundraising platform designed specifically for nonprofits. It accepts multiple payment methods **without charging any transaction fees**—a huge benefit for budget-conscious organizations. Since implementing it, our club has already saved **over \$924 in fees**. The platform is user-friendly, offers robust features for event registrations and donations, and is backed by excellent customer support.

Looking Toward the Future

Finally, I want to emphasize how crucial it is for us to engage **younger generations—Millennials, Gen Z, and beyond**—in our shared passion for gems, minerals, fossils, and Earth sciences. These future leaders and enthusiasts will carry the torch for our Federations. By adapting our outreach, education, and programming, we can inspire them to get involved and keep our legacy alive for generations to come.

Together, through innovation and inclusivity, we can ensure a vibrant future for our hobby, our science, and our community.

INSURANCE

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chair

If your society owns a trailer, a separate insurance policy covering its 'physical damage' (such as theft, fire, collision damage) must be purchased from a local insurance agency/brokerage. Invariably, the premium for such coverage can be relatively inexpensive. Such 'trailer policies' are issued by the insurance company which lists your society as the 'named insured' and does not need to provide liability insurance protection since most car/truck insurance policies automatically extend liability coverage to any trailer being towed by such vehicles (the exception could be to a very large trailer being towed by a commercially-rated truck). Under all circumstances, be sure to have a conversation with your insurance agent/broker.

On another subject: several years ago, a CFMS society needed to rent a vehicle to move some society-owned equipment. Unfortunately, the society member who was tasked to coordinate the rental agreement failed to let everyone know that he did not personally own a vehicle. The result? The 'rented vehicle' was involved in an accident for which there wasn't any liability nor physical damage coverage. Such coverages can be automatically provided as an 'extension of coverage' only when the operator has his/her own car/truck insurance policy. Again, be sure to have a conversation with your insurance agent/broker.



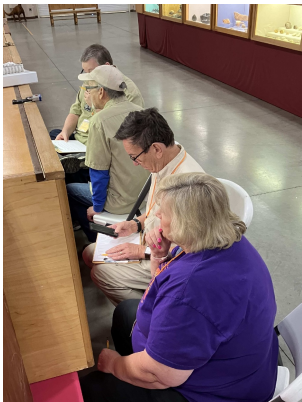
CFMS CONVENTION

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Rules Committee

Have Exhibits; Seeking Judges!

When I sat down to write this column last month, we had only 4 competitive exhibits registered for our upcoming CFMS Convention, and I made a desperate plea for more. I guess someone was listening because, as the minutes and seconds ticked by on the very last day for exhibitor applications to be accepted, I was suddenly swamped! They came in via the U.S. postal service. They came in via email. They came in as photos texted to my cell phone. And some were even hand-delivered to my door, where a few brave folks learned that my dog is all bark and no bite.

Thank you to all who responded to the call. I was thinking we'd be lucky to get 10 exhibits, but we've ended up with two dozen. Which brings up another issue...



Judges! We need judges! Competitive exhibits will be installed on Friday, May 9 between Noon and 6:00 PM, with judging to immediately commence at that time. If you can help, please contact me (jbraceth@roadrunner.com), Pat LaRue, or Colleen McGann. This also applies to anyone interested in assisting as a judge's clerk. Help is needed and valued. See you

at the Convention, where it looks like we'll have a lot of great eye candy in the display cases!

WATCH WHAT YOU CLICK!!

The "phishers" are out there and seem to be getting better and better at what they do. In the past few days I've gotten "emails" supposedly from Susan, Bob Papac, and some AFMS people wanting me to pay a bill, send a wire transfer, etc. and that's just the federation phishing. Don't get fooled into responding to them. If in doubt contact the person whose email is being spoofed at their real email address to find out if they contacted you. Delete the phony email.

NOTES FROM A ZOOM PR ROUNDTABLE

And an invitation to another!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Public Relations Chair

Shortly before Thanksgiving, I held a Zoom roundtable on public relations with 12 members of societies spread across 3 of our regional federations. Although I had sent topics in advance to prime the pump, folks came ready to talk on all manner of things. In true roundtable fashion, there was no problem keeping the conversation going, although it did range a little far afield of the specific topic of PR on occasion. (I guess I'm not a good moderator?) For instance, at one point we fell into an extended discussion of field trips, which raised substantive issues but didn't really involve public relations, per se.

While the conversation ranged broadly, one central thread spun throughout revolved around new media and new technologies and the need to be flexible and nimble and to embrace the new rather than remain stuck in old ways, whether it be for conducting public relations, running a meeting, or maintaining communication both within your club and beyond. For instance, does your club still insist on new members filling out a paper form and paying with cash or check? The up-and-coming generation would much prefer being able to submit a membership application directly online via a single click on a website and making an electronic payment via something like **Zeffy**, **PayPal**, or **Membership Works**. Following is a little glossary of sorts of some other electronic tools and apps brought up during the roundtable. If you don't recognize these terms, it's time to learn about them!

For holding meetings, **Zoom** is now old hat and helped keep many clubs together during the COVID pandemic. While most clubs have returned to in-person membership meetings, many now embrace Zoom for Board meetings where everyone joins in from home. Alternatively, some host hybrid membership meetings where most members attend in-person but those who can't are able to attend from a distance. Others mentioned recording your meetings on Zoom, especially any programs or presentations, and then posting them to a club **YouTube** channel accessible to both club members and interested outside parties.

Two other tools that are now old hat are **Facebook** and **Instagram** for sending out posts, messages, photos, and video. Other means of messaging include **X** (formerly

Twitter) and **Bluesky**. Because X is algorithm-driven and often pushes undesired content your way, many are turning to Bluesky, which allows you to better create and manage your own community rather than having people and stuff “pushed” your way. **Slack** was also noted as a good communication tool for posting messages to club members (plus, nonprofits can access it for free!). It’s apparently popular with younger folks and allows you to specify special interest channels so that you can have one specifically dedicated to field trips, one for club workshops etc. My own Ventura club’s youth program uses the **Band** app as a communication channel confined just to our kids and their parents.

Want to hold online rock sales or auctions that reach beyond your club? Folks noted the free **32 Auctions** service, as well as **Facebook Live**. I don’t know about your club, but when my club holds its annual election of officers at an in-person meeting, we’re lucky to have even a quarter of our membership present. To give everyone their fair vote, try using **Election Runner**. Because I’m already running long on this article, I’ll end here by simply listing a few other programs and apps that were discussed and leave it as a homework assignment for you to ask Siri about them: **Xpo Press**, **Star Chapter**, **Wikido**, **Constant Contact**, and **My Emma**.

As you can see, our roundtable seemed to evolve around new media in general and as applicable to a broad range of club functions, not just PR. I hope to host another Zoom. This time, I’ll likely propose a couple specific topics for a focused conversation confined specifically to public relations. If you’d like to participate, send me your contact info (send to jbraceth@roadrunner.com) and a topic you’d like to discuss. During the last Zoom, one participant suggested we establish a “PR group” on a social media platform like Bluesky in order to keep a conversation going all year long. If you might be interested in that, as well, I’m all ears! But when it comes to social media, I must warn you: I’m all thumbs....

My thanks to all who participated in that Thanksgiving Zoom with great ideas, wise experience, and much enthusiasm. Here’s to continuing the conversation!



GOLDEN BEAR AWARD

For Outstanding Service to CFMS
By Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Chair

The Golden Bear Committee is seeking your help in offering a special award. The CFMS Golden Bear Award acknowledges especially outstanding service to the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Established in 1961, it is presented to a person or couple who is a member of a CFMS-affiliated society and whom the CFMS wishes to honor by conveying public appreciation and recognition. In short, it’s sort of like a life-time achievement or hall-of-fame award, and most past awardees have generously offered years of sustained and committed service to the Federation.

The Golden Bear Committee welcomes your nominations. Nominations may come from the CFMS Executive Committee, Federation Directors of member societies/clubs, and/or a CFMS Committee Chair, and more than one person may receive the award in any given year. Within the ranks of CFMS, who has captured your attention and respect over the years? Please note that nominee(s) should not be informed of their nomination. It should come as a pleasant surprise and honor during the Awards Banquet at our Annual Show & Convention. Only CFMS service is considered for the Golden Bear Award. In other words, this is not to honor service to an individual member Society. (For that, we have the Rockhound of the Year award program.) Simple documentation must accompany the nomination outlining the nominee’s service and contributions. The deadline for nomination is April 30. Please submit your nomination to the Golden Bear Committee members:

Susan Chaisson-Walblom, slchaisson@yahoo.com
Sharon Rogow, sharonrr@cox.net
Bural LaRue, bplarue@earthlink.net
Marcia Goetz (CFMS Past-President),
marciagoetz195@gmail.com

Please email your nomination letter to Susan Chaisson-Walblom with a cc to all members of the committee. We look forward to honoring an outstanding member of our CFMS community at the Annual Show & Convention taking place May 10-11 in Lancaster, California, but to do so, we need your help. Thank you in advance!

2025 CFMS

SHOW DATES

Shows and Events

Sponsored by

CFMS Clubs & Societies!

Please submit your

*Show or Event as soon as possible
to receive maximum advertising value!*

Email to:

SHOW DATES

Use the Online Show Form

at www.cfmsinc.org

(click on Shows)

*You should receive a confirmation
within 5 days after submitting your
Show Date information!*

**CLUB/SOCIETY SHOWS
ARE LISTED HERE**

2025

April 26-27, 2025 – Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center 2271 W. Crescent
Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30
Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

April 26-27, 2025 – Santa Cruz, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church St.,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: scrzmgms@gmail.com
Website: <https://scrockngem.org>

April 26-27, 2025 - Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W.
Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30
Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

April 26-27, 2025 – Paradise, CA
Paradise Gem and Mineral Club
Paradise Gem and Mineral Club, 475 Pearson
Rd., Paradise CA 95969
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: paradisegemmineral@gmail.com,
(530) 701-5447
Website: <http://paradisegemmineral.com>

May 2-3, 2025 – Yucaipa, CA
Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Yucaipa Blvd and Adams St., Yucaipa
Hours: Fri 5-10, Sat noon-9
Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com
Website: <http://yvgms.org>

**May 10-11, 2025 – Lancaster, CA
(also CFMS Convention)**
Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W.
Ave H, Lancaster, CA
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Website: <http://avgem.weebly.com>

May 15-17, 2025 – Vista, CA
Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum,
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: info@vistarocks.org
Website: <https://vistarocks.org/events/>

May 17, 2025 – Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Tailgate at the Banner Grange parking lot,
(12629 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley,
CA 95945) just 1 mile past the Nevada
County Fairgrounds
Hours: 8 – 3
Contact: oominerals@gmail.com

May 30-June 1, 2025 – Reno, NV
Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Reno Town Mall, 4001 S. Virginia St.,
Reno, NV 89502
Hours: Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3
Contact: theresalanhans@yahoo.com
Website: <http://renogms.org>

May 31, 2025–Laguna Hills, CA
So Orange County GMS, Searchers
GMS, Laguna Woods Lapidary
Florence Sylvester Senior Center,
23721 Moulton Pkwy, Laguna Hills
Hours: Saturday–Presentation 10-11
Sales 11-5
Contact: (408) 718-0504
edupuy@me.com
websote: <http://socgems.com>

June 7-8, 2025 – Escondido, CA
Palomar Gem and mineral Club
The California Center for the Arts, The
Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.,
Escondido, CA 92035
Hours: Sat, 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (425) 281-6218,
tonifloyd41615@gmail.com
Website: <http://palomargem.org>

June 29-29,2025 – Culver City, CA
Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 4117
Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230
Hours: Sat 10*6, Sun 10-5
Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com
Website: <https://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/>

August 1-3, 2025 – Nipomo, CA
Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School., 525 N. Thompson
Ave., Nipomo CA 93444
Hours: Fri/Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com,
(805) 929-2783 www.oms-inc.org

September 13-14, 2025 – Reno, NV
Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Silver State Pavillion at the Grand Sierra
Resort, 2500 E. Second St., Reno, NV
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: (925) 785-4551, sabl@comcast.net
Website: <http://renogms.org>

September 20-21, 2025 – Pasadena, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd.,
Arcadia, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (626) 260-7239
Website: pasadenalapidary.org

September 20-21, 2025 – Monterey, CA
Carmel Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Monterey
Road, Monterey, CA
Hours: Sat and Sun 10-5
Contact: johnandjamiesmama@yahoo.com,
(831) 679-2896
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

September 20-21, 2025 – Chico, CA
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2357 Fair St.,
Chico, CA
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: shows@featherriverrocks.org
Vendors contact:
frlmsrocks2025@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.featherriverrocks.org>

September 27-28, 2025 – San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
San Luis Obispo Veteran's Memorial
Building, 802 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo
Hours: Sat-Sun 10-5
Contact: 2025show@slogem.org
Website: slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/

October 18-19, 2025 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (714) 501-9959, angeldragonofflight@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.opalsociety.org>

October 24-25, 2025 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 682-5819, gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Website: <https://sacgemshow.com>

National/Regional Shows:

*California Federation (Convention only)
in conjunction with Antelope Valley Gem
Show*

May 10-11, 2025

Lancaster, CA

Eastern Federation

March 27-30, 2025

Hickory, NC

Midwest Federation

April 5-6, 2025

Lincoln, NE

Northwest Federation

September 12-14, 2025

Walla Walla, WA

Rocky Mountain Federation

September 19-21, 2025

Grand Junction, CO

South Central Federation

October 17-19, 2025

Austin, TX

Southeast Federation

September 12-13, 2025

Norcross, GA

DON'T FORGET TO UP-DATE YOUR CLUB WEBSITE WITH YOUR NEW SHOW DATE

Check for show links at
www.cfmsinc.org/shows

REMINDER

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

- Local newspapers
- Current events sections!
- Local TV stations,
- Community calendars!
- Other Local Shows

Advertise your shows in the *Rock & Gem Magazine!*

[www.rockngem.com/
showdate-submissions/](http://www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/)

***Send the information in early so it's
published in
the magazine as well as online.***



2025 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-7239	slchaisson at yahoo..com
First VP:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	dianecook.cfms at gmail.com
Second VP:	Frank Van Hecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vanclan5 at att.net
Secretary:	Laura Driskell	(805) 218-5160	driskellmom at gmail.com
Treasurer:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at surfers.net
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bplarue at earthlink.net
<hr/>			
All American Club:	Diane Cook (John)	See Second VP	
Bulletin Aids	Celia Churchill (Chris)		cfmsbeac at gmail.com
Bylaws	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
Cab Cases--North	Nick Hughes	(650) 400-5095	wildphotonick at gmail.com
Cab Cases--Central	Bob Papac (Debbie)	See Treasurer	
Cab Cases--South	Bob Knox	(747) 206-8506	knoxrobert211 at gmail.com
CFMS Directors to AFMS:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
	Diane Cook	See First VP	
CFMS Jury of Awards:	Frank Van Hecke, Chai	See Second VP	
	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
CFMS Newsletter Editor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
CFMS Rep to AFMS:	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
Earth Science Studies:	Gary & Jill Atkins	(775) 232-6626	atkinsdesign at gmail.com
	Frank Van Hecke	See Second VP	
Elec Communications:	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
Endowment Fund--CFMS:	Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)	(702) 499-0272	sharonrr at cox.net
Endowment Fund--AFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson (Nancy)	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Facilities Fund:	OPEN		
Field Trips North:	Jim Barton (Darlene)	(916) 847-7321	geologist1 at surewest.net
Field Trips South:	Ellen Moe	(310) 462-7946	hmcx2 at aol.com
Financial Adv Comm:	Fred Ott (Susan)	(530) 677-8440	fred.ott at att.net
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
	Diane Cook (John)	See 1 st VP	
Golden Bear:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Chair	See President	
	Sharon Rogow	See CFMS Endowment Fund	
	Bural LaRue	(909) 644-5004	bplarue at earthlink.net
Historian:	Susy Martin (John), Chair	(611) 433-9833	cfms.historian at amlands.org
	Sandie Fender (Tony)	Past Presidents Cases	
	Susy Martin	Memorabilia	
Internet:	Nick Hughes	See Cab Cases North	
Insurance	Fred Ott	See Financial Adv Comm	
Junior Activities:	Jim Brace-Thompson	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Legal Advisor:	OPEN		
Long Range Planning:	Marcia Goetz (Joe))	(626) 260-7239	marciagoetz195 at gmail.com
	All living past presidents		
	2025 Executive Committee		
Membership:	Dick White (Phyllis)	(805) 404-7197	
	Fred Ott (Susan)	See Financial Adv Comm	
Museum Comm:	Frank Van Hecke	See 2 nd VP	
Nominating Comm:	Dick White, Chair	See Membership	
	Nancy Bird Bob Knox Celia Churchill		
	Sharon Rogow Anna Robertson (alternate)		
Parliamentarian:	Tony Fender	See Bylaws	
Program Aids:	Emmy Lam	(818) 297-7132	cfmsprogramaids at gmail.com
PLAC:	James May, Chair	(661) 912-3026	geojim9 at hotmail.com
	John Martin (Susy)	(611) 433-4216	john.martin at amlands.org
	Bernie Bentsen	(661) 496-7393	bentsenbab at gmail.com
Rockhound of the Year:	Chris Ward	(818) 439-0217	chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Rules Committee:	Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair	See Jr. Activities	
	Colleen McGann	(831) 212-1951	kmcgann at gmail.com
	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treas	
Safety:	Bart Solomon (Sharon Rogow)	See Endowment Fund--CFMS	
Scholarship--AFMS:	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Scholarship--CFMS	Frank Van Hecke	See Second VP	
	Executive Committee		
Show Consultant--South:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-0143	slchaisson at yahoo.com
Show Consultant--North:	OPEN		
Show Dates:	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
Tax Advisor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Trophy Coordinator:	Frank Mullaney	(408) 691-2656	rockyfiv at gmail.com
Visual Programs:	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund--CFMS	
Website Contest:	Merryan O'Neill	(530) 622-4229	logtown49 at gmail.com

CFMS NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1657

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Pat LaRue, Editor

Return Service Requested

CFMS CONVENTION

May 10 - 11, 2025

ANTELOPE VALLEY FAIR & EVENTS CENTER

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Lancaster, CA