

CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #6

July 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

The 2025 CFMS Convention Was a Great Success!

Thank you to "Everyone" that helped make it run so smoothly. Thank you to the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club for providing us the space to hold our annual convention. Thank you to all of the Clubs/Societies that had their representatives attend the meeting.

There were awesome cases in competition. I hope you were able to attend and see them. At the Banquet there were a lot of awards handed out. Also handed out at the Banquet were the awards for the All-American Club, Bulletin Aids, AFMS & CFMS Scholarship Honorees & The Golden Bear Award! (The recipients should be listed here in the CFMS Newsletter).

Trailer Details:

- Make/Model: 2012 Haulmark 16' Dual-Axle Trailer
- Unladen Weight: 2,606 pounds
- Condition: Good
- Brand-New Tires: 4 brand-new tires recently installed!
- Tags Paid Until: November 2025

You can contact me if you are interested.

Welcome to summer! Stay safe out there "Rockhounding" in the hotter weather. There are CFMS Club Shows to see and treasurers to find. Have a Great Summer! Susan



We still have the CFMS Zzyzx Trailer for Sale
2012 Haulmark 16' Dual-Axle Trailer

Don't miss this opportunity to bid on a well-maintained trailer! Perfect for hauling equipment, supplies, motor cycles, side-by-side or personal use.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 5. Deadline for Aug Newsletter
Aug 5. Deadline for Sept newsletter
Aug 17-Aug30. Camp Paradise
Nov 7-9. Fall Business Meeting–Visalia

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 blplarue@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.

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FUTURE CFMS SHOW?

By Diane Cook, 1st VP

If your club is interested in hosting a future CFMS Show and Convention, we’d love to hear from you! The Federation is eager to work more closely with our member clubs, rebuild connections, and support you every step of the way.

Hosting a show is a rewarding opportunity to showcase your community, share your club’s passion, and help shape the future of CFMS.

Let’s come together to make our shows stronger than ever — reach out if you’re ready to explore the possibilities!



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr.
Activities Chair

CFMS Junior Achievement Awards: 2025 Results

The CFMS Junior Achievement Awards recognize excellence across four areas: our hobby, educational achievement, community involvement, and work (volunteer and/or paid). Kids submit formal applications with a write-up of their achievements from the previous year to compete for these awards. One is given to a Pebble Pup (under age 12) and another to a Junior Member (ages 12-18). Winners earn a certificate and \$100. For our fifth annual go-around, a great group of five kids participated, and here are the results:

Ages 11 & Under:

- 1st place: Valerie Churchill, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
2nd place: Skyla Zuniga, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ages 12-18:

- 1st place: Lucia Hetrick, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
2nd place: Theo Gallegos, Sacramento Mineral Society
3rd place: Sofia Hansen, Sacramento Mineral Society

Congratulations to all five kids, and here's to encouraging Skyla, Theo, and Sofia to try again next year. Our judges reported just how difficult it was to pick just two winners from such an outstanding group.

Speaking of those judges, thank you to our 2025 panel: Tony and Sandie Fender (Pasadena Lapidary Society), Kelly Plumb (Antioch Lapidary Club and Contra Costa Gem & Mineral Society), and Yvonne Mack (Hi Desert Gold Diggers).

Kids excelled in other ways, as well, at our 2025 CFMS Convention. See my article highlighting those who won honors with their fine competitive exhibits. May each of us in each CFMS-affiliated society encourage our pebble pups and junior members in pursuing their interests within our hobby!



Jim Brace-Thompson, Skyla Zuniga, Valerie Churchill, JC Moore, Susan Chaisson-Walblom

EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES—CAMP PARADISE

By Jill Atkins, Co-Chair

Hello again from Camp Paradise! Everyday we get more and more people signing up for Camp Paradise. DON'T let this wonderful opportunity pass you by. It is a one or two week opportunity to engage in something you love to do with like minded individuals.

For those of you who don't know about Camp Paradise, let introduce you to its wonders. Your fee of \$550 pays for your room, meals and all the classes you want to experience. This year's line-up is 3 silversmithing courses—basic, intermediate and advanced; 3 lapidary classes—basic, hard stone carving and intarsia; enameling, beading, wire wrapping, casting, gem trees, chain making, dichroic glass and cold connections. The cold connections class allows ou to secure yhour finished cabochon on a piece of metal with the use of a torch.

In addition to the wonderful classes offered, you will meet with jewelry and rock enthusiasts to share ideas and have fun. We look forward to meeting you in this unique setting.

For more information go to www.cfmsinc.org and scroll down to Camp Paradise. There is a section about our wonderful instructors. Application and payment can be made online. You can also download the application and make payment by check.

See you at camp. **Please note that week one is full but there are opening for week 2 August 24-30.**

CFMS 2025 CONVENTION – A ROCKIN’ SUCCESS IN LANCASTER!

By Diane Cook, CFMS 1st Vice President

The **2025 CFMS Convention**, held **May 9–11** at the **Antelope Valley Fairgrounds in Lancaster, California**, was a weekend filled with energy, education, and enthusiasm! Hosted in conjunction with the **Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club’s annual show**, this year’s convention brought together rockhounds, club leaders, vendors, and hobbyists from across the state — and beyond.

From the moment the doors opened, the show floor buzzed with excitement. Visitors enjoyed dazzling exhibits, hands-on demos, and shopping opportunities featuring rough and finished stones, jewelry, fossils, and lapidary tools. The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club did a fantastic job creating a warm and welcoming environment for all.

Convention highlights included:

- The annual Directors’ Meeting, where CFMS officers and delegates discussed important updates, upcoming events, and organizational goals for the year ahead.
- **The Cracker Barrel**, a fun meet and greet with a Silent auction. A special thank-you goes to everyone who helped make the banquet a joyful and memorable celebration.
- **Awards presentations**, including recognition of All American Club winners, Exhibitor Case Awards, Golden Bear, and Bulletin Editor Awards were presented.
- Both **competitive and non-competitive displays** showcased the incredible talent and dedication of our Federation club members — they were truly a sight to see!

Behind the scenes, the collaboration between the **CFMS Executive Committee**, the **Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club**, and all the **volunteers** was key to this successful event. A huge thank-you to everyone who contributed their time, creativity, and elbow grease to make it happen!

If you missed this year’s convention, we hope to see you in **2026**, where we’ll continue to celebrate the spirit of the hobby and the strong bonds of our CFMS community. Rock on!

2025 CFMS CONVENTION

By Jim Brace-Thompson

Thank You for Silent Auction Donations & Bids!

To raise funds for the Federation, we hosted a silent auction during our Cracker Barrel on Friday evening of the 2025 CFMS Convention in Lancaster. 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 thought we’d go really big with it. My sincere thanks to all who generously pitched in with donations of rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, lapidary and jewelry items, and rock-related books. We ended up with a great selection! My thanks, as well, to those who bid.



(Except my wife, Nancy, who bought that big bucket of slabs I told her not to buy...Well, okay. Thanks to Nancy, too!) Bob Papac tells me we brought in \$363 for the Federation. Thank you, one and all!

CFMS CAB CASES AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY AT LOCAL SHOWS

By Jim Brace-Thompson

Looking to add a special element to your next club show? CFMS has cases displaying cabochons that have been crafted and donated by all affiliated clubs over the years. These attractive cases are available for loan to be displayed at local club shows. Three committee members house these cases: Cab Cases-North, Cab Cases-Central, and Cab Cases-South. So wherever you are across California, a cab case is readily available near you. Check the directory at the end of this newsletter and make arrangements for a case to be on display at your next club show!



ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

By Diane Cook, CFMS All American Club Chair

I'm thrilled to share the results of the **2025 All American Club Award** — and what a year it has been for CFMS clubs!

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. earned **1st Place** and a **Gold Award** at the **CFMS level** for their excellent All American Book entry. Their detailed documentation highlighted an impressive year of educational outreach, community service, and club engagement.

Reno Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. also received a **1st Place** and a **Silver Award** at the **CFMS level**, with a strong, well-organized entry showcasing their dedication to the hobby and community involvement.

Both entries advanced to the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)** level — and we're proud to announce that **both clubs received 1st Place Gold Awards at the national level!**

These books were top-notch — professional, inspiring, and a great example of how to preserve and promote your club's history and service.

As I've said before, the All American Club Award is more than a competition — it's an opportunity to reflect on what your club has accomplished, to share ideas, and to inspire others. Start documenting your activities now for next year's entry — newsletters, photos, community events, youth programs, and outreach all count!

Let's keep celebrating and showcasing the amazing work being done across CFMS. Have questions or ready to get started for next year? Reach out to me — I'm happy to help!



ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair

chris_ward678@yahoo.com

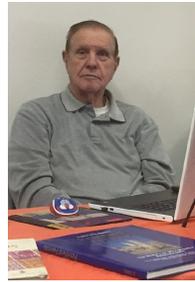
The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is proud to present the following inductee into our 'Rockhound of the Year' program. Please know, you do not need to wait until the end of the year to make your submissions. Avoid the end of the year rush and send them to me now. It's 100% free and a great way to acknowledge that special someone in your club. I hope to hear from more of you soon.!

Tim Darnell - Lake County Rockhounds. Tim Darnell's service to his local club is outstanding! His dedication to the mission has been through his active, on-going participation as an officer, a leader, setting up speakers, field trips, speaking at local organizations like the Rotary, as an instructor in working with rocks, being a greeter, handling hospitality at events and making sure we all have rockhound cards and stickers for our vehicles.

He is our liaison to the Lake County Museum and attends and participates in rock and mineral shows. He is a man of great wisdom and shares his knowledge with all of us. A worthy recipient of the Rockhound of the Year award!

Submitted by: Ilene Dumont - Member Lake County Rockhounds

IN MEMORIAM



We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Don Ogden, long time member of the Whittier and North Orange Co Societies at the age of 94. A Golden Bear recipient in 2008, Don's lasting legacy to CFMS is the creation of our first website in 1999. He served as the webmaster for many years until

health issues began taking their toll.

He was an Air Force veteran, serving as a navigational airman on the B-36 Peacemaker and B-52 Stratofortress bomber. As a civilian he worked for Lockheed-Martin as a team member of the Skunk Works for the SR-71 Blackbird.

Don is survived by his wife Loretta and five children.

Submitted by Pat LaRue with input from Armondo Pedroza

GOLDEN BEAR RECIPENTS—2025

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Chair

Nancy Brace-Thompson



Diane Cook-Nancy Brace-Thompson-Dick White-
Susan Chaisson-Walblom

Nancy has contributed to the CFMS for more than 25 years. She has served on the Nominating Committee, as well as the By-Laws Committee. Nancy has been active at many CFMS Shows where she has held such positions as Treasurer and Hospitality Chair, among others. She has been very active behind the scenes helping her husband (Jim) with the CFMS and AFMS Junior Programs from the very beginning of the AFMS Badge Program and has been a driving force at two AFMS Shows that took place in her home town of Ventura and at too many CFMS shows to count!

Tony & Sandie Fender



Diane Cook-Sandie Fender-Tony Fender-Dick White

Sandie has served on several CFMS Committees and has volunteered as a CFMS Judge of competitive exhibits for many years. She has played an important role in the installation of many CFMS Officers. She holds the position of Chairman of the AFMS Scholarship Committee and works with CFMS each year to ensure we have Scholarship recipients. Along with her husband, Sandie served several years as the CFMS Earth Science Studies Co-Chair.

Tony has served CFMS for many years, as well. He is currently the CFMS Parliamentarian and represents

CFMS as the 2nd VP of AFMS. Along with his wife, Tony served as the Earth Science Studies Co-Chair for several years, and they also store, maintain, and bring the CFMS Past-Presidents cases to all CFMS Shows & Conventions. (Not only that, Tony built the cases!) Tony held the position of CFMS President in 2019 and has filled in on behalf of CFMS as a delegate at many AFMS meetings when the CFMS President was unable to attend.

2025 CFMS CONVENTION

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Rules Chair

Congrats to All Competitive Exhibitors!

Both the weather and the competition were hot, hot, hot in the desert clime of Lancaster during our 2025 CFMS Convention. I'm happy to announce that lots of prizes were earned by those entering competitive exhibits. We had 20 entries and awarded 12 trophies, 2 Advanced plaques, and 1 Novice first-place ribbon to individuals from four different clubs:

- Trophy 1 – Open Division/Project, Junior – Skyla Zuniga, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 2 – Minerals – Robert Seaton, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 3 – Minerals of One Type – Robin Tan, Ventura G&MS
- Advanced Award – Thumbnail Minerals – Jonathan Yao, Peninsula G&GS
- Trophy 14 – Meteorites – Mike Havstad, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 15 – Lapidary, Self-Collected Material – Ron Wise, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 16 – Lapidary/Carvings – Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Antelope Valley G&MC
- Trophy 21 – Specialized Lapidary/Contour Polish – Diane Cook, Ventura G&MS
- Advanced Award – Educational/Concept – Erin Valenzuela, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 28 – Educational/Concept, Junior – Valerie Churchill, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 28 – Educational/Concept – Julie Cox, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 28 – Educational/Concept, Junior Society – Ventura G&MS Pebble Pups
- 1st Place Novice – Educational/Concept – Sue Dekany, Pasadena Lapidary Society
- Trophy 30 – Educational/Informed Audience – David Springer, Ventura G&MS
- Trophy 39 – Fluorescent Minerals – Mike Havstad, Ventura G&MS

In addition to these standard Federation awards, CFMS has several Supplemental Trophies, some sponsored by the Federation, others sponsored by a local club or an individual. A “Sweepstakes Award” goes to the society earning the most points in competition, and the winner was pretty obvious this year: Ventura Gem & Mineral Society.

The Conejo Gem & Mineral Club sponsors the “Bob & Jeane Stultz Mineral Trophy.” It’s named in memory of two CFMS stalwarts and goes to the exhibit deemed by CGMC members to be the best individual case of minerals entered into competition. This year’s awardee was Robin Tan (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society). Her exhibit of pyrite minerals proved truly golden.

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society sponsors the “Novice Best of Show Trophy” selected from all exhibits entered at the Novice level. The beginning exhibit deemed best this year by VGMS members was constructed by Pasadena Lapidary Society member Sue Dekany. This is a lady with true grit. Although she lost her home in the Eaton Fire just four months earlier, Sue persevered and rose like a phoenix from the ashes, providing a display of the remains of her collection. Sue: your resilience and perseverance are inspiring!

I myself sponsor a “Show Chair’s Award for Outstanding Junior Exhibit,” with the winner selected from among both competitive and noncompetitive exhibits entered by kids under age 18. Show Chair Susan Chaisson-Walblom selected Skyla Zuniga’s “Borax, Borates, Slime & Science...OH MY!” Skyla (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) walked away with bragging rights, a certificate, and a crisp hundred dollar bill right out of my pocket.

Last but not least, the Federation sponsors the “CFMS President’s Award for Best of Show.” CFMS President Susan Chaisson-Walblom agreed with the assessment of the Ventura club, selecting Sue Dekany of the Pasadena Lapidary Society.



Congratulations to all of our winners, with equal congratulations to those who entered great displays that didn’t earn a trophy. All won a place in the hearts of our guests at the show. Thank you to all who entered competition.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

By Fred Ott, CFMS Insurance Chair

As you know, we live in a very litigious society, particularly here in California. Rockhounding and other Earth Science activities have the potential of resulting in injuries (including death) and property damage which is the reason that our Federation maintains a very healthy Insurance program covering all members of CFMS societies. It’s important to understand the scope and benefits of the program...as well as those exposures that are not covered. Here are some key points:

- 1) The Federation’s policy is a general liability insurance policy. This means that, if the Federation or any of its Societies including their members are sued for allegedly causing bodily injury to someone else or causing damage to someone else’s property, the Federation’s policy will cover the cost of legal defense as well as up to \$1 Million if a judgement is rendered in favor of the plaintiff.
- 2) Are individual members covered if they get injured? No. The Federation’s insurance policy is a liability policy and not a medical payments insurance policy.
- 3) What are some of the ‘exposures’ that are not covered under the Federation’s liability insurance policy?
 - a) Directors and Officers Liability – anyone serving on the Board of Directors of a society as an officer or as a director is not covered should they be individually sued for any action or decision they make. As anyone who has served in such a capacity in a society that did not have D&O coverage can readily attest, their out-of-pocket expense to hire an attorney even if they were not held liable can be in the tens-of-thousands of dollars! Don’t run the risk! An entire year’s premium for all of the directors and officers of a CFMS society is only \$325.00 total!
 - b) Premises Liability: If a society owns, rents/leases or has a space provided for their exclusive use (such as a building, office, lapidary facility, easement or mining claim), additional liability coverage must be obtained through the McDaniel Insurance agency.
 - c) Property Coverages: If a society owns a building or business personal property (such as office contents, lapidary equipment, furniture, supplies, computers, merchandise for sale etc.) additional coverage must be obtained through the McDaniel Insurance agency.
 - d) Rock and Gem Show liability insurance: for any event that anticipates attendance by 1,000-or-more individuals over the entire ‘run’ of the event, additional liability coverage must be obtained through the McDaniel Insurance agency. Recommendation: go to the Federation’s website: www.cfmsinc.org and click on the Insurance Program for detailed information regarding these optional coverages.

**GETTING NOTICED IN YOUR
COMMUNITY:
PRACTICE PUBLIC RELATIONS YEAR-
ROUND**

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Public Relations Chair

Nearly every club hosting an annual show has a Publicity Chair, and that person pops up to promote your big one-time event. But what about the rest of the year? From what I've seen, most clubs lack a Public Relations Chair for promoting the club and its activities year-round. If you are only known within your community for your once-a-year show, you're missing out on opportunities to broadcast the many other things your club does that make for a valued member of a broader community.

My own Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is a case in point. In February, I was invited by our local Rotary Club to give a presentation focused on what our society does for the community. As I prepared a PowerPoint and gathered photos of our activities year-round, it really made me realize how we were missing out on letting the community know what an engaged partner they have. Everyone in Rotary knew about our gem show, but almost no one knew about our educational outreach to local schools, our participation in STEM science nights and the city-wide Earth Day fest, the college scholarships we award, our educational lectures open to the public, our youth program, our participation at several levels in the county fair, our little 2-room museum for classroom visits and home-schoolers, our hands-on activities for kids in YMCA summer camp, 4H, Scouts, the library's summer reading program, and more. Said one Rotary member at the conclusion of my talk, "You guys sure are busy!" And no one had a clue.

So, with no official position designated in our By-Law and Operating Regulations, I've deputized myself as self-appointed VGMS Public Relations Chair. (Just don't tell anyone on our Board a rogue member is going maverick on them!) As a start, I've written up and fired off a press release to our local newspapers (and to post to our club website and social media) to tell about the two college students we've awarded with \$1,000 scholarships this year. It took me only a half hour to write and fire it off as an email attachment, and I immediately got a response from the *Ventura Breeze* requesting a photo and letting me know an article would run. So far as I know, this may be the first time we've had one of our community efforts—beyond our annual show and our participation in the county fair—publicized to the broader Ventura community. Now that I'm on a roll, I'm looking around and thinking about what other press releases I might be

able to develop over the course of the year. As they said at Rotary, "You guys sure are busy!" It's time to let everyone know! As we highlight the full value we bring as engaged members of the community, who knows where it might lead?

**JUST WHEN YOU THROUGH IT WAS
SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE WATER...**

By Jim Brace Thompson, AFMS Endowment Funds

Help Support the AFMS Endowment Fund - Again!

Welcome to July! Ah, summer. The season of the movie *Jaws*! And, as with *Jaws*, just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water...it's time for this loan shark to hit you up!

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies hosts an annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle, which helps support several worthy programs, including the AFMS Youth Program and its AFMS/FRA badges that are available free to all local societies holding a Federation affiliation. We did well last year, with CFMS members donating seven of the raffle prizes and purchasing \$550 in tickets.

Thank you to all who helped support the fund! But as they say in business, what have you done for me lately?? According to Google AI, that phrase refers to "the need for continuous value and innovation to spur ever-greater advancements and improvements." And so, with that in mind, I'm accepting donations of raffle items (with a minimum value of \$75), and I'm selling tickets for the 2026 raffle. Call or email me to offer a donation and/or to purchase tickets! (Phone 805-659-3577; email jbraceth@roadrunner.com.)

The good news? Many folks have already proven generous. I hawked tickets at our recent CFMS Convention, where members generously donated \$260 in ticket purchases. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Tickets are drawn at each year's AFMS Show & Convention. That means winning tickets will be drawn May 23, 2026, in St. Charles, Illinois, and I'll be there to gather up prizes earned by CFMS members and bring them back for distribution here in California. I look forward to being Santa Claus and distributing many fine prizes. But to win a prize, ya gotta buy! Purchase your raffle tickets today!

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

June 29-30, 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
Website: www.oms-inc.org

August 2-3, 2025 – Roseville, CA
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society
Roebbelen Event Center @the Grounds, 700 Event Center Drive, Roseville, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5m, Sunday 10-4
Contact: (916) 216-1114, gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockrollers.com/pages/gem-mineral-show>

August 16-17, 2025, Tehachapi, CA
Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East “F” St., Tehachapi, CA
Hours 9-5 both days
Contact: (661) 972-1117, tehachapiVGMS@outlook.com
Website: <http://tvgms.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 4-5, 2025 – Anderson
Shasta Gem and Mineral Society
Shasta District Fair and Event Center, 1890 Biggs St., Anderson, CA
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: (530) 356-2378, miller3987@gmail.com
Website: <http://shastagemandmineral.org>

October 11-12, 2025 – Redwood City, CA
Peninsula Gem and Geology Society
Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA
Hours: 10-5 both days
Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net
Website: <http://pggs.org>

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 18, 2025 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills CA
Hours: 10-5
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: www.rockchippers.org

October 18-19, 2025 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
Contact: (707) 583-1824
Website: www.srmgs.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>

November 1-2, 2025 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA (in Point Loma)
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact: (858) 945-4762, benton.luannz@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.sdmg.org>

National/Regional Shows:

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/

Send the information in early so it's published in

the magazine as well as online.

STAY COMPLIANT: A HANDY CHECKLIST FOR YOUR 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT

Have you ever wished for a better way to keep track of your nonprofit's annual filing requirements? You're not alone — many club officers and board members find nonprofit compliance a bit overwhelming, especially when it comes to staying on top of both **state and federal** responsibilities.

Thankfully, **CalNonprofits** has created a **comprehensive annual compliance checklist** just for **501(c)(3) organizations**. It's an incredibly helpful resource that pulls everything together in one place — including direct links to the forms and agencies you'll need.

This tool is perfect for club treasurers, secretaries, presidents, or anyone who helps manage your organization's operations.

Check out the checklist here:

<https://calnonprofits.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CA-Compliance-Checklist-Revised-02-2024.pdf>

Whether you're newly incorporated or a long-established society, this resource can help ensure you're meeting all your obligations and keeping your nonprofit in good standing.

Please feel free to share this link with your club officers and board members!

Submitted by Diane Cook, CFMS 1st VP



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 csurfers.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:	OPEN		
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

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Pat LaRue, Editor

Return Service Requested

