



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #10

November 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

Happy Fall Everyone! Great Rockhounding weather! This year is sure moving along swiftly. It is hard to believe there are only a couple of months left in 2025.

The CFMS annual meeting in Visalia is just around the corner. More information about the annual meeting can be found here in the CFMS newsletter. We will be voting on the 2026 CFMS Executive Board, and other current CFMS business. Information on the nominations can be found here in this month's newsletter. I look forward to seeing Directors in attendance from all of our CFMS Clubs.

We are still looking for a Club/Society to host future CFMS Conventions. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me or any of the CFMS Executive Board Members.

Don't forget to have your junior members participate in the Junior Achievement Award. The application can be found on the CFMS website.

The CFMS Scholarship Committee: There is still time to nominate an outstanding nominee for recognition, with an opportunity to select Scholarship Awardees.

Don't forget to turn in your Club's Rockhound of the Year, for recognition to Chris Ward.

Serpentine California's State Rock



California has a greater number of minerals and a wider variety of rock types than does any other state. Serpentine, a shiny, green and blue rock found throughout California, was named the official State Rock in 1965. It contains the state's principal deposits of chromite, magnesite, and cinnabar. California was the first state to designate a State Rock.

Susan Chaisson-Walblom



On the Inside

Mark Your Calendar.....	2
CFMS Insurance & Website Contacts.	2
Donations.	2
Wanted: Future Show Hosts.....	2
Fall Business Meeting.	3
Junior Activities	3
CFMS Cab Cases Available for Display. ...	4
2025 Nominating Committee Report.	4
Together We Shine.....	5
Rockhound of the Year.....	5
New CFMS Director? This is for You.....	6
A Thank You to Mike Havsted	6
Safety Matters-Why Rock Safety.....	7
AFMS Newsletter going Digital.....	7
Rockhound Classified Ads-58 Years Ago...	8
Somebody-Who & Where is He?.	8
Show Dates.....	9-10
All American Club Award-2025.....	10
Officer/Chairmen Roster.	11

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

nOV 5- Deadline for Dec Newsletter
Nov 7-9. Fall Business Meeting–Visalia
Dec 5. Deadline for Jan Newsletter

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

CFMS Newsletter is published 11 times a year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Subscription: \$10 per year, January through December if you wish to receive a hard copy. Newsletters are currently emailed. Newsletters are also available for download on the CFMS website. No password required.

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.

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!

CFMS FALL BUSINESS MEETING

By Pat LaRue, Exec Sec/Treas

The annual Fall Business Meeting and election of 2026 Officers will be held November 7-9, 2025 at the Wyndham-Visalia, off Hwy 198 in Visalia, CA. For those who have not been to this location in the past, take Hwy 198 exit east from Hwy 99. You will see the hotel located just south of the first off ramp past the airport.

Room reservations can be made by phone at **(559) 651-5000**. To receive the special CFMS rate of \$105+tax per night, tell them you are with CFMS. Cut-off date for this price is **October 27, 2025**. The group code is 110725CFM. The first night's deposit or guarantee by credit card must accompany your reservation. Do not make reservations through the website; call them directly.

An informal **Cracker Barrel** will be held **Friday** evening at **7:30 p.m.** As in the past, hotel policy forbids our bringing snack foods to any of the meetings. The **Business Meeting** will be called to order on Saturday, **November 8 at 9 a.m.** Join us at the **Banquet** that Saturday evening. The incoming president will have a brief meeting of the 2026 committees Sunday morning. Time to be announced.

Banquet Menu **Lemon Pepper Chicken**

Marinated and Grilled 6 Oz Breast of Chicken Served in a White Wine Sauce with Lemon, Shallots and Peppercorns
Roasted Red Potatoes
Baby Carrots
Mixed Baby Greens Salad
Dinner Rolls with Butter
New York Style Cheesecake

\$45 tax and gratuity included.

Vegetarian option available upon request.

A cocktail server will be available to take your drink orders and deliver them to the room.

Make banquet reservations by November 1, 2025.

Mail your check **payable to CFMS** to:

CFMS
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

Reward the Outstanding Kids in Your Society!

As I reported last month, it's time again to encourage outstanding kids within your club to apply for our 6th Annual CFMS Junior Achievement Awards. Here's the process. Please share this article with parents and kids in your club.

The **CFMS Junior Achievement Award** requires a formal application from the junior member that will be scored against other applications. At the CFMS Show & Convention Awards Banquet, winners receive a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100.

Membership Requirement & Age Groups. Applicants must be in a CFMS-affiliated society and will fall within two age groups. Group 1 (Pebble Pups): ages 11 and under. Group 2 (Juniors): 12-18. The child's age as of December 31, 2025 determines the group. If a child won in the past year, that child needs to wait out a year to enter again UNLESS s/he has moved up from Group 1 to Group 2.

Application & Deadline. The 2026 Application form will be distributed at the CFMS Directors Meeting in Visalia and will be posted to the CFMS website. After completing the Application, kids need signatures of two representatives from their society (for instance, President, Fed. Director, Membership Chair, Juniors Leader). They then mail or email their Applications to the CFMS Junior Activities Chair, i.e., me. Questions? I'm happy to field them! (Phone 805-659-3577; email jbraceth@roadrunner.com). The deadline is March 1, 2026.

Areas Evaluated. The following areas are considered: 1) hobby, 2) educational achievement, 3) community involvement, and 4) work related. For each area, kids should provide as much detail as possible covering the full preceding year (2025).

Cover Letter. Applications should be accompanied by a short cover letter written by the child or dictated to a parent highlighting any info or accomplishments to which s/he wishes to draw special attention. Basically, "in your own words, tell us where you really shine."

Scoring. Applications will be evaluated by at least 3 CFMS representatives selected by the Junior Activities Chair from different societies to minimize bias. Scores will be averaged to determine the winner in each age group. To earn the Award, juniors must achieve a minimum averaged score of 80. The Chair has discretion to break any tied scores.

Notification. Top winners will be notified by letter, text, email or other method within 2 months of the deadline, as will entrants who did not win. (They will receive runner-up certificates.) Notice of the winners, with brief descriptions of accomplishments, will be posted in the CFMS Newsletter, and they will be honored at the CFMS Show & Convention Awards Banquet. If winners are unable to attend, certificates and checks will be mailed or passed along in trust to an affiliated club member in attendance.

Let's all help our outstanding kids! Please share this info today with parents and kids within your society!

CFMS CAB CASES AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY AT LOCAL SHOWS

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Public Relations

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!



2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dick White, CFMS Nominating Committee Chair

The 2025 CFMS Nominating Committee has been searching for possible nominees for the 2026 CFMS Executive Board. The following are recommended as nominees for the 2026 CFMS Executive Board. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow.

Treasurer: I am aware that an individual has expressed interest in this position and the nominating letter is being submitted by the person's society. (Editor's note)

Secretary: Incumbent, Laura Driskell (2025 CFMS Secretary)

2nd Vice President: Bob Papac (2025 CFMS Treasurer)

1st Vice President: Frank Van Hecke (2025 CFMS 2nd Vice President)

President: Diane Cook (2025 1st Vice President/President-elect)

Again, additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow. Societies wishing to submit a potential nominee for any office must submit nominees name with their qualifications, experience and club affiliation. Member Societies may send names and qualifications of candidates any time prior to thirty (30) days before the Convention Meeting. The nominations must be approved by the Member Society and signed by a sitting elected officer.

Send nominations to Dick White CFMS Nominating Committee Chair. Email: rich_phil@msn.com



TOGETHER WE SHINE

By Diane Cook, 1st VP/President Elect

Opportunities to Serve CFMS in 2026

As many of you know, I will be installed as President of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) this November and will officially take office in January 2026. My theme for the year is “Together We Shine”—because it truly takes all of us, working side by side, to make CFMS stronger and to facilitate positive change.

One of my first responsibilities is filling CFMS committee chair positions for 2026. Some of these roles have not been filled in recent years, and bringing them back to life is part of how we can grow together.

Serving as a CFMS chair is more than a title—it’s a chance to share your skills, connect with others across the Federation, and help shape the future of our hobby and our organization. Whatever your talents or interests—whether behind the scenes, out in the field, or working directly with people—there’s a role where you can shine.

I encourage you to be part of the team that makes a difference. If you are interested in volunteering—or even just curious about what’s involved—I would love to hear from you. Together, we can build a strong leadership team for 2026 and beyond.

Remember, Together We Shine—and it takes every one of us to make CFMS shine its brightest.

Email: Dianecook.cfms@gmail.com



ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, CFMS Chairman
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies have more 'Rockhounds of the Year' recipients for 2025. You too, could get your special members awarded this prestigious recognition. It's 100% free! So act today! I hope to hear from more of you soon! Send your emails to me today!

Cliff & Elethea Brewen - Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Cliff and Elethea Brewen have been members of our club for decades. They are an integral part of our club. Cliff has a wealth of knowledge and has many skills related to lapidary. He will find and purchase equipment, then take it home and fix it up with his own money and get it running. He will then give it or sell it to others in the club who want to learn the trade. He has opened his garage on many occasions, teaching others throughout the years how to use the equipment safely. He has a lot of patience and is very good at sharing his knowledge with others. One of the things that has been extremely helpful is that they let the club use a large storage space on their property. The club pays a nominal fee, and it is invaluable to have access to this space year-round, especially for our annual Rock and Gem Show, which takes place in April. Both Cliff and Elethea have been vendors and exhibitors at our annual Rock and Gem Show for many years. Cliff specializes in making spheres and has a large sphere machine that can make several at a time. He has displayed them in our annual shows often. Some of them have been donated to the Paso Robles Pioneer Museum, where our club has a large display area. Elethea specializes in wire-wrapping jewelry. She also teaches classes to help others learn this skill. Both of these long-standing members bring so much to our club, and we believe they would be great recipients as Rockhounds of the Year.

Submitted by: Jannine Kennedy - Federation Director
Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Robert Knox - Del Air Rockhounds. Robert (Bob) Knox has been a member of the Del-Air Rockhounds since 2006. In that time, he has held board positions as President for multiple years and currently is our Federation Director, also for multiple years. He is an active member of our Education Outreach Team and has helped develop Earth Science programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes. He is a wealth of information when it comes to mineral identification and has been a program

presenter countless times over the years. He has generously donated the use of his home to host our annual rough rock sale event. Bob has proven himself to be an invaluable member of the Del Air Rockhounds and is deserving of this recognition of Rockhound of the Year.

Submitted By: Jeff Dengrove - President
Del-Air Rockhounds Club

Dennis McMahon - Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society. The Santa Rosa Mineral and Gem Society is recognizing Dennis McMahon for the 2025 Rockhound of the Year. Dennis has been an active member of SRMGS for more than 10 years. He has been a shop steward for many of these years, providing leadership in the running of the shop for all members. When SRMGS lost our workshop space of fifty years, Dennis worked tirelessly to take down and store our saws and equipment. For over two years Dennis was instrumental in the search to find and vet new spaces that were affordable and would fit the club's needs. When the new space was finally leased, Dennis organized work crews to move and install equipment. Dennis made certain each of the pieces of equipment were fully functioning and repaired and rebuilt as each piece was reassembled and placed. Dennis has managed the schedule and recruited and trained new shop foremen and women to oversee daily usage. He has educated new members on how to use the equipment. The SRMGS' new shop is reinvigorating the club and its 'rebirth' has brought new members and energy to the club. Without Dennis' efforts to rebuild the shop, our club would not be able to provide the full experience of membership we all enjoy.

Submitted by: Sarah Fuerstenau, Federation Director

NEW FEDERATION DIRECTOR?

Are you a first time CFMS Director getting ready to represent your club at the upcoming meeting in Visalia? Wondering what this Federation stuff is all about? If your answer to either is Yes, this special program is for you.

Fred Ott, past CFMS President and current Insurance Chair, will be holding a new Director's orientation for all interested persons prior to the the Directors Meeting, Saturday, November 8, at 8am. All are welcome even if you've been coming to this for years. See you there!



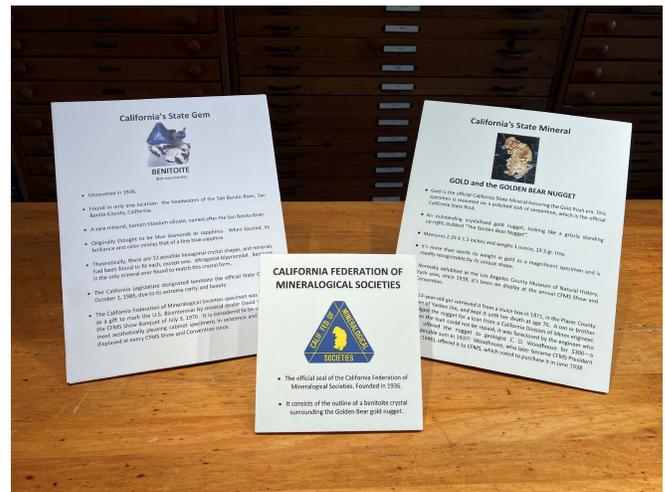
A THANK-YOU TO MIKE HAVSTAD

By Jim Brace-Thompson

It's become a hallowed CFMS tradition. Every year at our Federation's show and convention, a designated courier visits the Museum of Natural History of Los Angeles County to meet with the mineral curator and to pick up and transport two items: the CFMS Golden Bear gold nugget and the stunning CFMS benitoite specimen. These are then prominently displayed at the show.

That display just got a nice upgrade courtesy of Mike Havstad of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society. Mike has graphic design experience in his background and always crafts great, informative labels and signage whenever he displays his minerals, meteorites, or fluorescent specimens at shows, the county fair, and elsewhere. Well, he's put that background and experience to good use in service of the Federation. As shown in the accompanying photo, he's crafted signage that will now enhance our annual display of the CFMS Golden Bear gold nugget and benitoite specimens.

Look for this enhanced display at our 2026 CFMS Show & Convention—and give thanks to Mike Havstad!



SEE YOU IN VISALIA!!

SAFETY MATTERS—WHY ROCK SAFETY?

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Why Rock Safety? It's not a long story, but it does take some background. Safety concerns abound in most everything we do. Take breakfast for example - we want our foods to be safe. We are careful not to touch the hot cooking surfaces. We try to cook the foods the correct way. We use special caution when fishing the toast out of the uncooperative toaster. We carefully wash the eating utensils afterward. We may not think excessively about making sure breakfast is safe, but we do want it to be a safe and healthy activity.

All around us are activities that are in need of constant safety interaction. We get in an airplane, and we receive safety instruction. People who work in an automobile repair shop are reprimanded if their effort does not follow safety protocols. Where would we be if no drivers followed the safety rules of the road? Many people who are employed in grocery stores are schooled in how to safely lift heavy loads. Even working in an office has its safety concerns - using scissors, office machinery safe operation, being careful of pinch points, break room health safety, and so on. A great many of the products we purchase come with a set of operating instructions, and those invariably begin with a set of safety guidelines. Yes, the manufacturers of those products want you to be safe and have a great user experience with their product. Safety matters abound.

People engage in an astoundingly diverse number of hobby interests and activities - every one of which has its own safety concerns. Being a race car driver, rock climber, quilter, bee keeper, oil painter, you name it, and there are, no doubt, safety concerns. Even stamp collectors have matters of safety in their activities. The rock, mineral, fossil, bead, lapidary and jewelry activities are no exception to having safety matters of concern to us.

In the rock and mineral hobby we engage in numerous and very different kinds of activities, each with its own safety concerns. Here is a short list of our major activities: driving to our events, collecting, working in rock quarries and mines, putting on shows, mineral cleaning, stone cutting, jewelry work, working with ultraviolet light, lapidary effort, rock trimming, and lots and lots of lifting.

All of these activities have a laundry list of safety

concerns unique to the activity. Lest one be discouraged from participating in the mineral hobby due to too much concern with matters of safety, being safe can be as simple as:

- Try not to not work on something while one is tired — take a break if tired
- Pay attention to what one is doing
- Have sufficient lighting
- Ask for help if a project needs an extra set of hands or opinions
- Read the directions for proper use of machinery and chemistry
- Think before acting

*** That's TTPHART for short! These and more are the essence of being safe in most any activity. Future safety articles are planned for fire safety, chemical safety, collecting safety, pet safety, show safety, meeting safety, mineral cleaning safety, vision safety, and more in our hobby related activities. Ours is a great hobby with a rich variety of activities. Encouraging people to be safe in all we do within those hobby activities is the goal of these safety matters articles. Please make matters of safety your concern as well

Please take safety matters to heart because your safety matters.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, September 2025

AFMS NEWSLETTER GOES DIGITAL FEBRUARY 2026!

By Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor

When February 2026 rolls around the AFMS Newsletter will be completely digital. There will be no hard copies mailed from AFMS. As always, the newsletter will be posted on the AFMS website.

The newsletter or the hotlink directly to the newsletter on the website will be emailed to each of the regional federation editors for them to forward to the clubs in their federation. Each club would then email (forward) the same email or hotlink to their club members. Clubs can print the newsletter for their members who do not use email. See the September *AFMS Newsletter* for more information about the decision to go digital.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, October, 2025

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS FOR
ROCKHOUNDS
BACK IN THE DAY, 58 YEARS AGO**

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

1. Puzzled? - Mineral identification by graduate mineralogist. Send \$3.00 and small sample. *Well, postage has gone way up, and three bucks won't get you a cup of coffee and a piece of pie these days.*
2. Spectrographic Analysis - Only an analysis will tell you the metals present in a specimen. More than 55 detectable elements. Reported in percentage ranges. 24-hour service \$6. (20% discount for four or more samples). There are now eighty plus, metallic and metalloid elements that can be detected by spectrograph technology.
3. Indian Relics - Good arrowheads \$4.00 per dozen; bird points \$7.50 per dozen; large stone elbow pipe \$7.50. *Ok, we all know what's wrong with this now. It is illegal today.*
4. Attention Rockhounds Attention - Go rock hunting in Texas by mail. I'll send you a genuine Texas rock \$1.00 each postpaid. *Again, unfortunately postage probably won't get that rock very far for \$1.00 today.*
5. Dendritic Silver Ore for Slabs and Cabs - \$6.00 per 1/2lb. This is a bargain in fine rare Canadian cutting material. *Oh boy, I wish we still had those prices today, because it is beautiful historic material.*
6. Make Your Hobby Known - New plastic zip strip bumper sign 3" x 11 1/2". Red with white "ROCKHOUND." 50 cents each. *Still a great idea for your club!*
7. Adirondack Mts. - In the Spring- Will disclose garnet, labradorite, tourmaline, augite, vesuvianite, apatite xls. Trout fishing too! *Now that sounds like a fun camping trip!*
8. Rockhounds for Sale - They are cute and different and are part of a menagerie assembled from uncut quartz crystals. *Those sound sweet and clever, anyone have any of these?*
9. Open Your Own Keokuk Geode - We will send one 3-inch diameter geode properly opened, and one 3-inch diameter geode not opened with opening instructions for \$4.50. It is the quality that is outstanding. *These are still popular today, and prices seem to be up and down and all around, except their enjoyment has always stayed the same.*
10. Locate Gold - Four different rocks containing fine gold, \$1.00. Instructions, 10 cents. Powerful microscope, \$2.00. *I would pay for that!*
11. Start Sand Collection - 50 different sands, many States, nifty collection, 3 dr. envelopes. \$5.00 postpaid. *That's a lot of different kinds of sand to have fun with all at once, and it saves on traveling expenses.*
12. So You Want to Start a Rock Shop - Vital and essential information about starting and opening a small hobby type business. \$2.00 book, postpaid. *I'm sure a lot of you could add to that book. Rock shops are great places to be in.*

From AFMS Newsletter, October 2025

ANOTHER OLDIE BUT GOODIE!

SOMEBODY—WHO IS HE? WHERE IS HE?

By George Brown, past SCFMS President

All you future club presidents need to be aware of this. All of you current club presidents can relate to this and all of you former presidents know where I am coming from. What am I talking about? I am talking about SOMEBODY.

I can't count all of the times that I have been asked: Why don't you get "somebody" to do this? Or why don't you get "somebody" to take care of that? I have also been told and sometimes demanded to get "somebody" to do some project. So what is the problem? The problem is that I don't know who "somebody" is. I have looked at every directory and roster and I cannot find anyone who is named "somebody",..boy-o-boy, is that sucker ever going to get dumped on. I am going to have so many questions, projects and problems for them to answer, accomplish and solve that they probably won't live long enough to handle a third of them.

So what is the point of all of this babble? The point is your president doesn't have a group of "somebodies" or even a single "somebody" to do all the things that you feel should be done. Therefore, don't saddle him or her with the impossible task of finding a person that doesn't exist. Try a different and more productive approach, VOLUNTEER! That's right—the big "v" word. It means get involved. After all, you are the one that wanted the question answered, the facts gathered, or the project accomplished. If you didn't want these things you wouldn't be suggesting, asking or demanding that they be done.

Since these things are important to you, why don't you ask if you can look into the situation, help with the project, or help find someone to do the task. In other words, don't be a part of the problem; be a part of the solution.

The strange or weird thing about the SOMEBODY syndrome is that I have never met anyone who truthfully wanted to be known as a nobody. The very best way to avoid being a nobody is to do something—get involved—then you become what you really want to be—a SOMEBODY!

Originally published in the SCFMS Newsletter, Sept 1997



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

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: barnettecelia53@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 18, 2025 – Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
The Downtown Community Center,
250 E. Center Ave., Anaheim, CA
Hours: 9-2
Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

October 25-26, 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,
gemsow@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>

November 1-2, 2025 – Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Ridgecrest Desert Empire Fairgrounds
Field trip on Sunday
Hours: Sat & Sun 9 AM – 5 PM
Website: iwgms.org

November 8-9, 2025 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: www.ccmgsclub.com

November 15, 2025 – Cabazon, CA
San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society
50171 Ramona St., Cabazon, CA
Hours: 9-3
Contact: (951) 963-6751,
peggyrichard@yahoo.com
Website: <http://sgmgs.org>

November 22-23, 2025 – Lakeside, CA
El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society
El Cajon Valley Annual Rock and Gem
Round-Up
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584
Mapleview St., Lakeside, CA 92040
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: (619) 729-7904, or
palmer.taskerud@cox.net
Website: <http://ecvngms.org>

2026

**February 28-March 1, 2026 – Vallejo,
CA**
Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
McCormic Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive
(Solano County Fairgrounds), Vallejo, CA
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: (707) 644-9764,
vgms01@yahoo.com
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

March 15, 2026 – Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA
Hours: 12-3
Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

April 11-12, 2026, Mariposa, CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007
Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

**National/Regional
Shows:**

***California Federation
TBA***

***Eastern Federation
TBA***

***Midwest Federation
AFMS***

***May 23-24, 2026
St. Charles, IL***

***Northwest Federation
TBA***

***Rocky Mountain Federation
July 9-12, 2026
Tulsa, OK***

***South Central Federation
TBA***

***Southeast Federation
TBA***

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.



ALL AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS – 2025

By Diane Cook, 1st VP, All American Chair

The **All American Club Award** recognizes a club's yearbook that best highlights its activities and achievements over the past year. Each entry should showcase what makes your club active and vibrant—club meetings, workshops, shows, community outreach, and individual member participation. Credit is given for attending regional and national shows, serving as officers or committee members, and engaging in educational or public service efforts.

Awards are given at the **bronze, silver, and gold levels**, with an overall **First Place Gold Award** for the top entry. These yearbooks take effort and teamwork, but they are a wonderful way to preserve your club's history and celebrate your members' accomplishments.

Now is the perfect time to form a committee and start gathering materials for your 2025 yearbook. Think about what your club has achieved this year—and give credit where credit is due! The more members who contribute, the more complete and meaningful your yearbook will be. It's not just a contest entry; it's a lasting record of your club's story and a great way to inspire new members.

Be sure to **collect photos, flyers, newsletters, and letters**—anything that documents your club's year. Filling in those little gaps can make the difference between a good entry and a great one!

If you have any questions or need guidance, feel free to reach out—I'm always happy to help!

SEE YOU IN VISALIA!!

Be sure to join us at the banquet to see incoming President Diane Cook and the rest of the 2026 Executive Committee installed. Come and enjoy dinner and experience the purely social side of CFMS.

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, Chair	See Second VP	
	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
CFMS Newsletter Editor:	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
CFMS Rep to AFMS:	Gary & Jill Atkins	(775) 232-6626	atkinsdesign at gmail.com
Earth Science Studies:	Frank Van Hecke	See Second VP	
	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
Elec Communications:	Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)	(702) 499-0272	sharonrr at cox.net
Endowment Fund–CFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson (Nancy)	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Endowment Fund–AFMS:	OPEN		
Facilities Fund:	Jim Barton (Darlene)	(916) 847-7321	geologist1 at surewest.net
Field Trips North:	OPEN		
Field Trips South:	Fred Ott (Susan)	(530) 677-8440	fred.ott at att.net
Financial Adv Comm:	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

