



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #9

October 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

I hope everyone is finding a way to stay cool during the summer. If you do venture out on Field Trips this time of year, please make sure you take extra

precautions from the heat!

Our Nomination Committee is currently looking for volunteers to run for positions on the 2026 CFMS Executive Board. If you are interested in running for a position, or would like more information about the job descriptions contact our 2025 Nomination Chairman, Dick White (rich_phil@msn.com).

You will find information here in this Newsletter about the CFMS Fall Meeting held in Visalia on November 8th. If you have any questions about Visalia, please contact Pat LaRue (bplarue@earthlink.net).

If your Club/Society is interested in hosting a future CFMS Show & Convention, or would like more information, please contact me (slchaisson@yahoo.com).

This month for Educational, the California State Gem:
Benitoite (ben-EE-toe-ite)



A rare blue barium titanium silicate mineral, found in hydrothermally altered serpentinite. Benitoite fluoresces under short wave ultraviolet light, appearing bright blue to bluish white in color. The more rarely seen clear to white benitoite crystals fluoresce red under long-wave UV light. It was first described in 1907 by George D. Louderback,

who named it benitoite for its occurrence near the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County, California . Benitoite occurs in a number of sites, but gemstone quality material has only been found in California.

Susan Chaisson-Walblom

Note: reprinted from September



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
CFMS Scholarship.....	5
Reports are Due.	5
Join a ZOOM PR–Community Involvement .	6
Rockhound of the Year.....	6
Seeking Donations–AFMS EF.....	7
Fall Directors Meeting–Silent Auction.....	7
Show Dates.....	8-9
Officer/Chairmen Roster.	10
Junior Achievement Application.	insert

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct 5- Deadline for Nov Newsletter
Nov 5. Deadline for Dec Newsletter
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

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, will be posted to the CFMS website, and is included in this month's newsletter. 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: Currently we are still searching for a nominee for this position. Nominations can be submitted by any Society and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November Directors Meeting in Visalia.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE DUE

By Pat LaRue, Executive Sec/Treas

The annual Fall Business Meeting of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies at Visalia is fast approaching. Committee reports for the meeting information packet are due October 25. This will allow time for any necessary reformatting and duplication prior to my travel to the meeting. Please submit your reports in Word or Wordperfect if possible. If submitting a report in .pdf format, please do not include photos or other images as these may not be converted to the Wordperfect program I use. Any photos must be in .jpg format. Thank you.

CFMS SCHOLARSHIP

By Frank Van Hecke, 2nd VP

Did you know that the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) offers an outstanding scholarship opportunity every year? Better yet, one of your club members has the chance to play a pivotal role in nominating and awarding this scholarship to a deserving student in your community!

This is a fantastic opportunity for us, as a community of rock and mineral enthusiasts, to reach out and make a difference in a student's life. If there's a standout member in your club who has gone above and beyond, whether through volunteer work, board service, or representing CFMS as a federation director, why not honor them with the opportunity to give back?

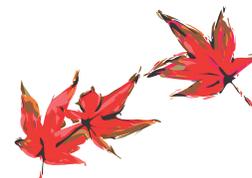
The process is simple. All you need to do is submit a letter outlining the remarkable contributions of your chosen member (the Honoree) to the club and CFMS. Send the letter to Frank Van Hecke, and the CFMS Scholarship Committee will carefully review the submissions. The committee will then select the Honoree who will have the unique privilege of choosing a college student to receive the \$2,000 scholarship.

This scholarship is not just about financial support; it's a way to acknowledge and reward the efforts of individuals who have made a significant impact on our community. It's about fostering a connection between our passionate rockhounding community and the promising minds studying Earth Science.

For those interested, there are guidelines for scholarship recipients, including a focus on Earth Science, Lapidary/Jewelry studies, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and entering their Junior or Senior year. If you have any questions or need more details, feel free to reach out to me.

Let's come together to celebrate and support the future of Earth Science! Your nominations and participation make a real difference.

Looking forward to seeing some nominations from the clubs!



JOIN A ZOOM ON PR THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS Public
Relations Chair

In the past two years, I've held an annual Zoom seminar open to members of all 7 regional federations comprising the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The first was on "Practicing Public Relations in the Age of Social Media." The second focused on "Sharing Best Practices in Public Relations." I'd like to continue the tradition with a third Zoom this coming November focused on the topic of "Public Relations through Community Involvement."

Public Relations is about more than advertising or posting your club events. It's about engaging with your community in ways that are mutually rewarding and beneficial, for instance, sharing your club's knowledge, resources, and volunteers to enhance a local school science night. Your local school and its students benefit from your knowledge and experience while your club benefits by raising its profile within the community and, potentially, attracting new family members and/or science teachers.

In what ways has your club endeavored to raise its profile through community action and involvement? Here's a chance to share your success stories and to learn from other clubs from across our varied regional federations. If you would like to join in on such a Zoom seminar, please contact me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com or (805) 659-3577, and I'll keep you posted when a date is scheduled.



CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies has another 'Rockhound Couple of the Year' recipient 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!

Bob & Debra Tanner - Searchers Gem & Mineral Society. The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society nominate Bob and Debra Tanner as our Rockhounds of the year. They found us through a local gold mining club, Route 66, while working at their booth at the Searchers annual show. Whenever they went out gold prospecting, it seemed more fun to collect rocks, so they were thrilled finding us so welcoming. They joined right there and have been in the Searchers for 15 years.

Here are some of Debra's own words - "Over the years, we've really enjoyed the field trips. While working, the short weekends and after retirement, more long hauls. Mountains, deserts, mine claims, canyons, riverbeds, petrified forests, fossil beds, crystal deposits, well, we've collected more memories (and rocks) than we can count."

It wasn't long before they got more involved. Debra was Membership Chair for 13 years and they both joined the show committee. She helped with advertisements and securing the catering truck and Bob took on renting and driving the big truck we needed to move the show materials and rocks to & from storage. At the show they have manned shifts at security, wheels of fortune, grab bags, geode cutting, hospitality table, raffle, food sales, and Searchers sales table. It is our honor to have them in our club.

Submitted by: Nancy Bird, Federation Director Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

Editor's note: Unfortunately the photo submitted with the writeup could not be included due to formatting issues. All photos must be submitted in .jpg file format. This is an issue which occurs most often when submissions are made using Google Chrome. Despite spending a fair amount of time trying to figure this out, I finally gave up. If someone out there can share a solution, let me know. Google Chrome computers seem to not operate in the same way other PCs do as far as their operating system is concerned.

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE— AND RAFFLE TICKET PURCHASES!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

As I noted last month, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies hosts an annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle to support worthy causes like the AFMS Youth Program and its AFMS/FRA badges that are available free to all local societies. The better the items, the more likely folks will purchase raffle tickets, so I'm reaching out to *you!* I seek donations of raffle items with a minimum value of \$75. Items can be anything rock related – rock or mineral specimens, fossils, jewelry, metalwork, etc. Call or email me to offer a donation. (Phone 805-659-3577; email jbraceth@roadrunner.com.) I'll also be at the Fall Directors Meeting in Visalia this November and can pick up items there.



CFMS members are already proving generous this early in the game. Phyllis White (Ventura and Conejo clubs) has donated a bright wire-wrapped bumblebee agate pendant, and I've donated my usual silver sand dollar pendant. In addition to seeking donated items, I'll also be selling raffle tickets. Get yours in Visalia!



FALL DIRECTORS MEETING

By Jim Brace-Thompson

Seeking Silent Auction Items—and Bidders!

As has become custom the past several years, once again we'll hold a silent auction to raise funds for CFMS at our next big gathering, namely, during the Cracker Barrel at the Fall Directors Meeting in Visalia on Friday evening, November 7. We ask anyone planning to attend to please bring several primo items (rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, lapidary or jewelry items, rock-related books, etc.) to 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!! We'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!



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

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

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
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, CA
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 4, 2025 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Rd. Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10-4
Contact: (909) 208-6956,
berylman50@aol.com

October 4-5, 2025 – Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228
McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95949
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (530) 273-0871, jan.2@att.net
Website: <https://www.ncgms.org>

October 11-12, 2025 – Redwood City
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 11-12, 2025 – Signal Hill, CA
Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society
1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (562) 253-1390,
lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.lbmineralgem.org>

October 23, 2025 Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alverado St., Fallbrook, CA
Hours: Sunday only 9-4
Contact (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.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 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,
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>

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 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

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.

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS!!

This space is reserved for you! Remember those reports and articles you said you were going to submit from time to time? The membership is waiting to hear from you. Never forget, YOU are the face of the Federation and can help answer that time honored question of "what does CFMS do for me?" by letting everyone know what your committee is doing for them. "I'm not a writer" is not a valid reason for not stepping up to the plate. I'm happy to help you, if asked, to edit or flesh out a piece you want to include. **YOU CAN DO IT!!**

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

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 JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD APPLICATION, 2026

Name: _____ Age (as of 12/31/2025): _____

Mailing address: _____
street address or P.O. Box

city, state, zip code

Email address of parent/guardian: _____

Phone number: _____

Name of your local club: _____

Signatures of 2 officers in your club: _____

Instructions: Provide info requested above & accompany this application with full responses to all sections/subsections listed below. Info should be provided for the past calendar year (2025). Also include a brief cover note highlighting accomplishment/s to which you wish to draw special attention where you feel you really shine. Mail or email this application with your responses to:

Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Junior Activities Chair
7319 Eisenhower Street
Ventura, CA 93003
Email address: jbraceth@roadrunner.com

All entries should be postmarked by March 1, 2026 (if sent by mail) or should be received via email not later than March 1, 2026. Should you have questions, call or email Jim at (805) 659-3577, jbraceth@roadrunner.com. Winners will be announced at the 2026 CFMS Show & Convention. Kids who won 1st Place last year in the 2 age groups need to sit out a year **UNLESS** they are moving from Age Group 1 (under 12 years old) to Age Group 2 (ages 12-18).

Section I. HOBBY RELATED (Possible 45 points)

- A. Club involvement (field trips, committees, show participation, etc.). 20 points
- B. Hobby/Craft involvement (faceting, lapidary, metalwork, beading, collecting, etc.). 20 points
- C. Competitive involvement (displays, articles in competition, awards, etc.). 5 points

Section II. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (Possible 25 points)

- A. Scholastic (GPA, honor roll, advanced classes, improvement of grades, etc.). 15 points
- B. Extracurricular (sports, drama, debate, drill team, music, school clubs, etc.). 10 points

Section III. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & ACHIEVEMENT (Possible 20 points)

- A. Events involvement (charity, volunteer, donation programs, etc.). 10 points
- B. Scouts, Campfire, 4H, church, or other community or youth groups. 10 points

Section IV. WORK RELATED (Possible 10 points)

- A. Employment, home chores, neighborhood work, sidewalk or beach clean-up, etc. 10 points

CFMS NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1657

Rialto CA 92377-1657

Pat LaRue, Editor

