



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #1

January 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TOGETHER WE SHINE

By Diane Cook

Happy New Year, CFMS Family!

I'm honored to begin my year as CFMS President and excited for all that 2026 will bring. My theme this year is "Together We Shine!"—because everything we accomplish happens through teamwork, shared knowledge, and the passion each of you brings to your clubs and to the Federation.

As we start the year, I want you to feel invited to participate. **Your ideas and suggestions are truly welcome.** If there's something you'd like to see CFMS offer, improve, or explore, please reach out—I want to hear from you.

We will also be hosting several **informational Zoom sessions** throughout the year, led by CFMS specialists. Topics will include insurance and club protection, kids programs, show planning, and more. If there's a subject you'd like added, let us know so we can tailor these sessions to your needs.

I'm also pleased to share that the **2026 CFMS Show & Convention is officially scheduled!** The Reno Gem & Mineral Society will host their show alongside the CFMS events, making this a special year for all of us.

Thank you for everything you do for your clubs and for the Federation. I look forward to a year of learning, sharing, and shining—**together!**

Warm regards,

Diane Cook

2026 CFMS President



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 5. Deadline for Jan Newsletter
Jan 5-9. Deadline for Feb 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.

DUES ARE DUE

By Pat LaRue, Executive Sec/Treas

It’s that time of year again. Societies/clubs are reminded that payment of the CFMS dues and club share of the public liability insurance is due January 1 and delinquent after March 1. The cost is the same as last year—\$10 per member (including juniors). The updated forms are available on the CFMS website and are included with this newsletter as separate attachments. This includes the officer change form.

Please be sure to pass this information on to your treasurer. New to the job? Don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions. Do not send payments to McDaniel Insurance Services. All CFMS dues/insurance payments are mailed to CFMS, PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

CFMS Junior Achievement Award 2026: One Last Call!

**Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior
Activities Chair**

As we enter 2026, here's one last plug for the CFMS Junior Achievement Awards. Kids in two age groups (11 & under; 12-18) submit applications outlining accomplishments in four areas: hobby, education, community, and work. Kids' age as of December 31, 2025 determines the age group, and they will be reporting on activities they did over the course of calendar year 2025.

Winners in each group earn a certificate and \$100. I'm accepting applications for the 2026 award. The due date is March 1, 2026. The application form is included in this issue of the CFMS Newsletter. (It also appeared in the October 2025 newsletter and is posted on the CFMS website.)

**Please share this with parents in your local club.
Then encourage their outstanding kids to go for it!**

CAMP PARADISE

By Jill Atkins, Co-Chair

And so it starts...I'm already on it for Camp Paradise 2026!

Our new contract specifies that the last day of camp will be Friday, August 28 at 2 pm. We agreed to this because the camp was wanting to increase our fee by 25%. This compromise allows to continue to offer great value to our students without compromising class time.

There will be a slight schedule change but class time will be equal both weeks. Of course there will still be hijinx and shenanigans both weeks! Our classes will be the same high quality with the same wonderful teachers.

Tell all your family, tell all your friends, Camp Paradise is going to be better than ever.

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!



OFFICER CHANGE FORMS NEEDED

By Pat LaRue, Executive Sec/Treas

Does your society/club have new officers for 2026? Did you have a change of address, different contact information? Please take a few moments to complete the officer change form which you will find with this newsletter or on the CFMS website. What do I do with this information?

The information provided on the form is used to create the Society Roster which is distributed to your group's representative at the Convention meeting. Since this year's Convention meeting will be later in the year, I will be emailing the document to whomever you designate as the person to receive CFMS mail. Usually this is the Director or secretary. Please be sure to provide the email addresses of those persons who should receive the CFMS Newsletter. A personal email address is preferred. My email provider tends to reject mailings to addresses linked to club websites.

INSURANCE INFO YOU MAY NOT KNOW

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chair

Replacement Cost versus Actual Cash Value

If your society has purchased Optional Additional Insurance coverage through the McDaniel Insurance Agency that includes coverage for ‘business personal property’ (such as equipment, furnishings, computers, etc.) owned by your society, it’s important to understand the concept of replacement cost. For decades, insurance policies (such as homeowners, renters and business insurance policies) provided coverage for ‘property’ on the basis of Actual Cash Value. What that means is that, in the event of a covered loss (such as fire or theft)....and subject to the policy’s deductible....payment by the insurance company would be settled based upon the depreciated ‘value’ of the items claimed (that is, what they were worth, not what it would cost to replace the items with ‘brand new’ ones). Then, around 1980, through free-market capitalism (not government mandate), a new ‘loss settlement’ concept called Replacement Cost Coverage was created by the insurance industry as a ‘competitive advantage’ and today most insurance policies automatically settle claims based upon this concept. In the event of ‘covered loss’ (and still subject to the policy deductible), payments to a policyholder would be settled on the full cost to replace items on a ‘brand new’ basis (that is, no depreciation). However, there are several important ‘conditions’ of this improved benefit, the most important of which is that full replacement cost is paid only after the item has been replaced. Until such time, and subject to a time-limit following the covered loss (such as 12 or 24 months), payment would be made based solely upon the ‘actual cash value/depreciated value’.

Now that the Federation’s insurance policy automatically covers up to \$50,000 of ‘business personal property’ for each CFMS society at no additional premium, each society should conduct an inventory of all of their belongings based upon their full cost to be repaired or replaced. If higher limits are needed, that is the time to submit a request for Optional Additional Insurance coverage through McDaniel Insurance Agency. Just go to www.cfmsinc.org and click on Insurance Program for the appropriate form.

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair

As of the end of October, the following had been honored by their societies as Rockhounds of the Year.

Lake County Rockhounds - Tim Darnell
Roseville Rock Rollers - Isaac Harback - Junior member
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society - Donovan Hamanaka Jr - Junior member
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society - Steve & Debbie Erbeck
San Gorgonio Mineral Society - Adriana Hammack - Junior member
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society - Bob & Debra Tanner
Santa Lucia Rockhounds - Cliff & Elethea Brewen
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society - Dennis McMahon
Del-Air Rockhounds Club - Robert Knox

These submissions were received between the months of May and October of 2025. Expenses for the program this year were limited to postage costs only and totaled \$21.24. A reminder to all CFMS clubs and societies, this program is 100 percent free to your club and it is a great way to recognize those members who go above and beyond in their service to your clubs. Submissions can be made at any time during the year.

Chris Ward
2025 Chair
CFMS Rockhound of the Year Program

Editor’s note: Chris’s report was not included in the packet of reports distributed at the Visalia meeting so it it’s included here.



ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is pleased to announce another inductee in our Rockhound of the Year hall of fame. 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!

Maggie Dragna - Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

It is with great honor that the Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society names Maggie Dragna as our 2025 Rockhound of the Year for her tireless efforts to make our club a better place. Maggie joined the club in 2010 and has filled multiple roles over the past 15 years. She currently serves as our Board Secretary. Recently when the need arose, she took on the role of Interim Treasurer. In addition to holding two board positions, she is also responsible for Club Membership and Correspondence. For many years she took on the monumental task of Chairing both VGMS fund raisers - the Gem Show and the Solano County Fair Open House. Recently she has spent time sharing her knowledge of the club and these roles as she trains others to take them on. Maggie is responsible for much of what happens behind the scenes in keeping VGMS running and fills in the gaps whenever necessary. She is the historical reference, a relationship builder, a problem solver, the voice of reason, and the one that everyone goes to when they have a question. She is a "Lifetime Member" and a real asset to our club. We are grateful for her dedication, engagement, and leadership.

Submitted by: Suzanne Elliott, Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society



PUBLIC RELATIONS IN ACTION

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

Effective Examples from Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

A while back I asked what public relations and publicity efforts have been working for you, the local clubs making up CFMS. Robin Larzelere, President of Searchers Gem & Mineral Society in Anaheim, sent the following examples working for them.

1) **Advertising ALL rock-related events in the area (not just our own) on our website and in our newsletter.** Your show is good news for us. Site traffic increases on our website. We allow other clubs to publicize our field trips, which are free, and we publicize theirs.

2) **A donation to the Anaheim City Library, mobile library.** The library staff put together geology kits that kids can check out and use. Our donation goes toward refreshing the material in the kits. Since the time of the donation, the Anaheim City Library has invited us three times for teen events and senior events—small gatherings for us to “show off” rock demonstrations and thereby promote our club.

3) **Instagram images, posted frequently.** Younger people are coming into our workshop because they saw photos of fun and interesting activities in the workshop on Instagram. Workshop times and location are posted on Instagram.

4) **Sharing small-event advertising and volunteers with other clubs.** SGMS shares event advertising and volunteers with the American Opal Society, the Santa Ana Gem & Mineral Society, and the South Orange County Gem & Mineral Society. Smaller events targeted to a specific audience (for instance, a Turquoise Day, a Jade Day) are not nearly the work of a big annual club show and prove to be quite a bit of fun for everyone involved. Money is made, as well!

Thank you, Robin, for these great examples. May they provide inspiration for other clubs within our Federation! I welcome more examples from each of our clubs that we all might learn from.

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

As I've noted many a time, 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 jbrace@roadrunner.com.) The raffle will take place at the AFMS/Midwestern Federation Show & Convention in May.

My thanks to several folks who have already made the donations pictured here. David Springer (VGMS) collected, crafted, and donated a sphere of fluorescent Deedeeite in a brecciated rhyolite matrix from Avila Beach, California, valued at \$150. Phyllis White (VGMS) crafted a pendant featuring a Bumblebee Agate cabochon in a sterling silver wire-wrap setting, valued at \$120. Susan Chaisson-Walblom (AVGMC & our CFMS Immediate Past-President) donated a dinosaur bone pendant in sterling silver valued at \$75. Diane Cook (VGMS & our new CFMS President) donated a rhodochrosite pendant in gold-filled wire-wrap setting valued at \$150. And I myself (VGMS) used precious metal clay to craft a 99.9 Fine Silver sand dollar pendant with chain, valued at \$90.



We welcome similar items, but you don't have to craft them yourself. Jewelry you've purchased is just as good, as are fine specimens of minerals, crystals, or fossils. The more mouth-watering delights we can drum up and provide, the better the raffle will be!

Finally, my thanks to all who have purchased raffle tickets at the last two Directors Meetings and to Erin Valenzuela and Pebble Pup Valerie who twisted arms for me in Visalia in November. (We found it helps to have a sweet 10-year-old beg money from Rockhounds.) Everyone's generosity is appreciated!

"I" SAFETY--SAFETY MATTERS

By Ellory Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Yes, "I" safety. There are a great many published articles concerning the wisdom of using goggles to protect one's eyes from the hazards in our hobby. So, this article will focus on the "I". The "I" as in you, me, us, and we.

Here is a short story to illustrate the point: I have a friend who pilots a helicopter. She has an excellent, first-rate mechanic tending to her flying machine. She feels comfortable with her mechanic's service and completely trusts his work in keeping her machine in tip top condition. That said, prior to each and every flight she "pre-flights" the helicopter. Prior to each of her helicopter flights, she examines the machine and checks to look at dozens and dozens of conditions including: weeping lubrication here, a grease spot that shouldn't be there, a control surface that does not look right, "play" in moving parts that should be just right - not too loose, not too tight, and so on. In other words, while she trusts her helicopter's mechanic, she double checks for herself before she flies.

There are comparable situations to "pre-flying" an aircraft in everyday life. Take food safety for example. Before consuming any food, whether fresh or refrigerated, we typically take note of our food. Even though most of our food is checked multiple times before we get it, we also check it before eating it. Milk, for example, before consumption does it smell fresh? Is it lumpy as we pour it? Does its color look right? What might be its expiration date? Milk, as in all our foods, must pass our checks before eating it.

Double checking should also be performed in our rock and mineral hobby. If your club is fortunate enough to have its own workshop, there is no doubt a person or committee of dedicated people ensuring the safety of everything in the workshop. There is a wisdom in us to double check things for sake of our personal safety. Might an equipment guard have come loose the last time the equipment was used? Might there be a new spill on the floor? Might an electric cord have shifted into a dangerous position? Yes, we trust the safety efforts of others, but we also want to put the "I" in safety as being ultimately responsible for our own safety... and in helping with the safety of others.

Some examples:

- When setting up for a show, are the folding table legs in the locked position?
- Did we check the truck motor oil level before going on an extended collecting trip?
- Are the equipment guards secure on our lapidary machines?
- Are soldering fumes collected and safely ventilated as we work?
- Is there sufficient task lighting so we are not squinting and causing eye strain?
- Are we sure of the rocks a bit over where we are collecting?

These and numerous other situations remind us of the "I" in safety. We are the person ultimately responsible for our and our family's safety. That helicopter pilot - well, it's her hands on the collective and cyclic controls, it's her shoes on the pedals. It's her decision whether she feels safe in flying that day. Please make sure you feel safe in all you do in this great and wonderful hobby of ours. Be as safe as you can and enjoy it to the max. Your safety matters and so does your enjoyment.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, December 2025

AFMS HISTORIAN REQUEST

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

As I've mentioned for the last couple of years, I have a bundle of creative projects I would love to do for you as special projects. These are going to take some time pulling together, but it will be well worth the time and effort that goes into them. These projects when they are completed, will be able to be given to the Federations for their clubs to use in their newsletters, and as club programs.

One of the projects will be a collection of vintage cartoons going back to our early days when the generations of rockhounds before us were creating wonderful original cartoons for their bulletins all the time. I haven't given up hope there are current members in your federations and clubs who are creating fun cartoons for your newsletters, so I'd like to accept these new ones too, to put into the archive of the collection.

Another project will be a collection of all those wonderful poems, again from vintage bulletins, and

current too. I've been going through some I currently have, and they are so creative and fun. They so express the love and joy for our hobby, and are such gifts to bring out and enjoy again for today. Plus, they are such an inspiration for those of you inclined to create your own poems.

One other project is for creating a special edition of articles dedicated to telling the true stories of how rockhounds with their skilled talents in lapidary and geology, helped in the war effort during WWII. I have a couple of these stories already, and they are meant to be told. One of these involves a copy of an old Navy report I was able to hunt down that would also make a fantastic program for our clubs, along with the rock specimens to go with it.

So wonderful things are in store for you. I am one of those people who enjoys creative chaos, so I can work on all these projects at once as I find more of what I am looking for. I could really use your help in making these projects become a reality.

I know many of you have boxes of older club bulletins in which to find the early cartoons and poems. Please look for them and let me know what you've found. I wish to borrow them and will return them to you, or you can scan them to forward them to me. Contact me, and we'll work out the details. And of course, I will give the author, your club, credit. I will of course pay for the postage "to and from" if the things need to be mailed.

Sometimes these vintage poems and cartoons were in a bulletin or just typed out on a piece of paper without an author's or club's name on them, some are very faded almost hard to read or see. I can still use these and will most likely be able to bring them back to life, and I will give you the credit for bringing them to my attention.

We have so much to celebrate as rockhounds. Help me celebrate the delights and the honor of being AFMS affiliated rockhounds not only from our past but also of today.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, December 2025



2026 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**

2026

January 17-18, 2026 – Exeter, CA
Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter Mineral Building, 324 N. Kaweah Ave.,
Exeter, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: ebcalpoly@aol.com
Website: <http://tulegem.com>

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>

February 12-March 1, 2026 – Indio, CA
San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society
Riverside County Fairgrounds, 46350 Arabia St.,
Indio, CA 92201
Hours: Thu-Fri (12-13th, 19-20th, 26-27th) 3 pm-
10 pm. Sat-Mon (14th-16th) 10 am-10 pm and
Sat-Sun (21-22nd, 28th-March 1) 10 am-10 pm.
Contact: (951) 963-6751,
peggyrichard@yahoo.com
Website: <http://sgmgs.org>

February 28-March 1, 2026 – Newark, CA
East Bay Mineral and Lapidary Club
The Newark Pavillion, 6430 Thorton Ave.,
Newark
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (510) 353-3787, info@ebml.club
Website: <http://ebml.club>

March 7-8, 2026 – Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor
Blvd., Ventura, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 13-15, 2026 – Apple Valley, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
7 Miles down Stoddard Wells Rd., Apple
Valley, CA
Hours: 9-5
Contact: (760) 490-8401
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

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>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lancaster, CA
Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W Ave
H, Lancaster, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: marylandoriola@gmail.com
Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lemoore, CA
Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore,
CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact:
lemooregemandmineralclub@gmail.com
Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

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: mcmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 11-12, 2026 – Placerville, CA
El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society
Placerville Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr.,
Placerville, CA
Contact: (530) 676-2472, office@edcmgs.org
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

April 24-26, 2026 – Paradise Gem & Mineral Club
Mechoopda Event Center, 149 Openshaw
Rd., Butte Valley, CA
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: paradisegemmineral@gmail.com
Website:
<http://www.paradisegemmineral.com>

National/Regional Shows:

*California Federation
TBA*

*Eastern Federation
October 18-20, 2026
Charleston, WV*

*Midwest Federation
AFMS
May 23-24, 2026
St. Charles, IL*

*Northwest Federation
March 20-22, 2026
Missoula, MT*

*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**

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

left blank so application can be removed if needed.

2026 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	dianecook.cfms at gmail.com
First VP:	Frank VanHecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vanclouk.cfms at att.net
Second VP:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at cssurfers.net
Secretary:	Laura Driskell	(805) 218-5160	driskellmom at gmail.com
Treasurer:	Madison Vazquez	(714) 290-7103	Madva5333 at gmail.com
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bplarue at earthlink.net
<hr/>			
All American Club:	Diane Cook (John)	See President	
Bulletin Aids	Celia Churchill (Chris)	(734) 635-2524	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 2 nd VP	
Cab Cases–South	Robert Seaton	(805) 535-9488	launchxps at gmail.com
CFMS Directors to AFMS:	Diane Cook	See President	
	Frank VanHecke	See First VP	
CFMS Jury of Awards:	Bob Papac, Chair	See Second VP	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See Long Range	
	Diane Cook	See President	
CFMS Newsletter Editor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treas	
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
	Bob Papac	See Second VP	
Elec Communications:	Marcia Goetz (Joe)	(626) 260-7239	marciagoetz195 at gmail.com
Endowment Fund–CFMS:	Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)	(702) 499-0272	sharonrr at cox.net
Endowment Fund–AFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson (Nancy)	(805) 659-3577	jbraceth 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
	Diane Cook	See President	
	Frank VanHecke	See 1 st VP	
Golden Bear:	Sharon Rogow, Chair	See CFMS Endowment Fund	
	Bural LaRue	(909) 644-5004	bplarue at earthlink.net
	TBD		
Historian:	Susy Martin (John), Chair	(661) 433-9833	cfms.historian at amlands.org
	Sandie Fender (Tony)	Past Presidents Cases	
	Susy Martin	Memorabilia	
Internet/Website:	Terry Wilson	(609) 744-6364	Terry at terryfic.com
Insurance	Fred Ott	(530) 558-5387	fred.ott at att.net
Junior Activities:	Jim Brace-Thompson	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Legal Advisor:	OPEN		
Long Range Planning:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-0143	slchaisson at yahoo.com
	All living past presidents		
	2026 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	
	Erin Valenzuela	Colleen McGann	Carol Santana
	Jim Barton	Debbie Brooks, 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)	(661) 433-4216	john.martin at amlands.org
	Bernie Bentsen	(661) 496-7393	bentsenbab at gmail.com
Public Relations:	Jim Brace-Thompson	See Jr. Activites	
Rockhound of the Year:	Chris Ward	(818) 439-0217	chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Rules Committee:	Colleen McGann, Chair	(831) 212-1951	kmcgann at gmail.com
	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treas	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See Long Range Planning	
Safety:	Bart Solomon (Sharon Rogow)	(702) 499-0272	bssolomon at aol.com
Scholarship–AFMS:	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treas	
Scholarship–CFMS	Bob Papac	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 Electronic Communications	
Tax Advisor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treas	
Trophy Coordinator:	Frank Mullaney	(408) 691-2656	rockyfv at gmail.com
Visual Programs:	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Website Contest:	Terry Wilson	See Internet	

CFMS NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1657
Rialto CA 92377-1657

Pat LaRue, Editor

Return Service Requested



Happy
New Year!

A graphic featuring the text "Happy New Year!" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "Happy" on the top line and "New Year!" on the bottom line. The letters are surrounded by numerous colorful, ribbon-like confetti pieces in shades of green, purple, pink, brown, yellow, and blue, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.