



# CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #4

April 2026



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

[DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com](mailto:DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com)

### Sharing Ideas to Strengthen Our Shows

Our gem and mineral shows are one of the most important things our clubs do each year. They introduce the public to our hobby, provide educational opportunities for families and children, and often serve as an important fundraiser that helps support club activities throughout the year.

To help our clubs continue to grow and succeed, CFMS will be hosting a **Zoom Roundtable Discussion on Gem & Mineral Shows**. This will be an open and informal conversation where club representatives can share ideas, ask questions, and learn how other clubs approach different aspects of their shows.

Topics may include things such as working with vendors, advertising and promotion, organizing volunteers, youth activities, exhibits, and the many other details that go into producing a successful show. Every club does things a little differently, and this roundtable will give us the opportunity to learn from each other and exchange ideas that may help make our shows even stronger.

Whether your club has been hosting a show for decades or is newer to the process, we encourage you to join the conversation. Your experiences and ideas can help other clubs, and you may come away with a few new ideas of your own. Please email me at [dianecook.cfms@gmail.com](mailto:dianecook.cfms@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Also, a reminder that we are gathering input from clubs regarding interest in a **Southern California camp**. If your club has not yet completed the survey, please take a few minutes to do so. The **deadline to return the survey is May 1**, and your feedback will help guide our planning. Please email the survey to [dianecook.cfms@gmail.com](mailto:dianecook.cfms@gmail.com) or use this link: <https://forms.gle/4WTbNdtNXmKFNKnd9>

The strength of CFMS has always been the willingness of our clubs to share knowledge and support one another. By working together and exchanging ideas, we can continue to keep our shows vibrant and our hobby growing.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the Zoom discussion.

Together We Shine!

*Diane Cook*

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Apr 5. . . . . Deadline for May Newsletter  
May 5. . . . . Deadline for June Newsletter  
Mar 15. . . . . Camp Paradise registration begins

**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](mailto:pmcdaniel@mcd-ins.com)  
Web Site: [www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com](http://www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com)

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

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**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.

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**CFMS WEBSITE**

The CFMS website is accessible at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)  
Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this website. Be sure to cite the source.

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**NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

The deadline for the newsletter is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be sent to the editor at [bplarue@earthlink.net](mailto: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.

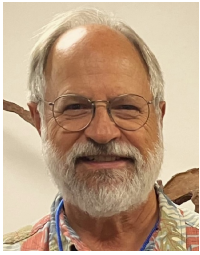
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**DUES ARE DUE**

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. 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

**The 2026 CFMS Junior  
Achievement Awards:**  
*A second plea: Can you help  
judge?*

Our CFMS Junior Achievement Awards acknowledge and reward especially active club kids in two age groups: under 12 and ages 12-to-18. Kids submit applications and winners earn a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100. I'm happy to note that we have four applicants this year, two in each age group.

I'm not so happy to note that we still have no judges! Rules call for members from three different CFMS clubs to serve as judges so as to avoid bias in evaluating applicants. One of this year's applicants is from my own Ventura club, so I need to recuse myself. Can you help? If interested in serving as a judge for the 2026 CFMS Junior Achievement Awards, please contact me: [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com). Given that this year's show takes place relatively late in the year, toward the end of September, you'll be given ample time for judging. Let's all join together to recognize and honor the outstanding kids within our ranks! Please take time to contact me today to volunteer your help.



## 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!



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## 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. PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!!

## A PUBLIC RELATIONS HODGEPODGE

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS PR Chair

In my last two columns, I shared comments from a December roundtable that brought together participants from several clubs and federations via Zoom to share experiences on public relations. Here's a final installment summarizing the many great points that came up. While the last two articles had themes, this one is more of a hodgepodge of miscellaneous topics floated during the roundtable. So, in no particular order, here goes!

**The importance of having a PR Chair.** While most clubs that host an annual show have a person designated to conduct show publicity, only half our participants' clubs have a person designated to conduct PR year-round to publicize and promote all club activities, not just the show. For instance, is anyone contacting local newspapers and community websites to make sure your monthly meetings are posted under "Ongoing Events" and inviting the general public to attend? If your club awards a scholarship, is anyone sending out a press release?

**Using rock-related holidays as themes to key into.** You probably aren't aware of most, but every month there are rock-related holidays you can key into with other community groups. For instance, I was invited by a children's librarian to give a talk on International Rock Day as part of their summer reading program. And my club was invited to have a booth at a natural history museum last October as part of events they were sponsoring for Earth Science Week. Johan Maertons' club in Ohio really plugs into Earth Science Week, noting that its sponsors provide lots of materials, resources, advertising, etc., that you can latch onto and merge into your club's events. In a future column, I'll provide a list of all such holidays I've discovered. They're fun!

**Emphasize the hands-on fun to be had in a rock club.** While everyone always says we're in an online, social media age, there's still a thirst for coming together for hands-on events, "maker-spaces," field trips, kids' activities, and more. Parents of young kids especially seek in-person, hands-on activities and field trips. Along these lines, in your publicity and outreach, emphasize you're not just a "rock" club. Highlight the jewelry aspect. Most people don't consider themselves rock collectors, yet they have a collection they enjoy hanging on their necks, wrists, ears, and fingers every

day. Showing them how jewelry is made—and that it's something they can do via relatively simple lapidary and jewelry arts your club teaches—can be a big draw. Don't have a club workshop space? Approach your local parks and rec department to see about partnership opportunities that you might open to the general public.

**Work alongside neighboring clubs.** We have three rock clubs within our county and, with varying success, we've worked together in order to tap into and offer more field trip opportunities. And don't stop there! Work together to promote each other's shows and other activities, to share leads for good speakers on high-interest topics, and more.

**Get to know your newer members—and follow their interests.** Robin Lazerle (Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, CA) notes they've started getting folks in their 40s interested in faceting. What are people looking for? What are their interests? You need to talk with them. Their interests aren't necessarily what the older members are interested in. For a club to thrive and grow, it needs to embrace change and follow current trends and interests.

**Make a professional appearance.** If, heaven forbid, you still use a mimeograph machine to produce your show flyers, it may be time to consider an upgrade. While that may sound facetious, many clubs are still doing pretty basic show flyers in black-and-white. Whether your material is in print or online, you want it to look professional and convincing. If you have members with graphic design experience, latch onto them! (Also, did you know Chat GPT does graphics?) And don't nickel-and-dime your promotional materials. In this day-and-age, it doesn't cost much to produce colorfully slick club flyers, posters, and show cards that attract attention. Make it professional. Make it attractive. Make it so folks want to join your fun!



## A REMINDER: ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION TO EXPLORE PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS PR Chair

### *You're Invited!*

As noted last month, I've been given time to host a roundtable session at the upcoming MWF/AFMS Show & Convention taking place in St. Charles a short month from now. If you'll be there, here's your invitation to take part! The title? "Maximizing Public Relations for Your Club: An Open Roundtable Exploring Methods."

**Date, time & place:** Friday, May 22, immediately following the AFMS Annual Meeting and the AFMS Scholarship Meeting in the upstairs meeting room of the Prairie Arts Building at the Kane County Fairgrounds. The annual meeting starts at 1:00 PM, so I anticipate the roundtable starting late afternoon and running perhaps an hour.

This won't be an academic lecture, but rather an informal give-and-take session to share and to question. What's working well within your local club and regional federation regarding efforts at public relations and publicity? What's not working? What questions do you have that fellow attendees might help you with? How might both regional and the national federations help? There's a great wealth of knowledge out there. Here's hoping to bring it all together in one room with the goal of helping one another.

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## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR KIDS TO SHINE IN SAN DIEGO!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

Anne Schafer, Past-President of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, has alerted me to a great opportunity for kids to shine in the sunny climes of SoCal. The San Diego County Fair has had a fantastic Gems, Minerals, and Jewelry division for nearly three-quarters of a century now, but it's always been confined to adult exhibitors. Per Anne (who is Coordinator for the Gems & Minerals Department) starting this year, that has changed. Youth Entries are now accepted! But hurry! The entry deadline is Thursday, April 30, by 7:59 PM.

Full details are on their website: <https://www.sdfair.com/p/participate/entry/gems-minerals>. Entry in the Gems & Minerals Dept. is not limited to residents of San Diego County; people and folks from all over are welcome to enter. (While rare, they've seen entries from residents of northern California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Texas, and even Mexico!)

The newly established Youth Entries are for kids ages 12 to 17, and there are four classes: one standard cabochon, one piece of wearable jewelry, one mineral specimen (max: 5" x 5" x 5"), and one fossil specimen. Each youth exhibitor may enter up to two entries in each class. This is a great opportunity for kids to shine in front of 860,000 visitors come June 10 to July 5 during the Fair's 20-day run. It's one of the largest such events in Southern California. Encourage kids in your club to be a part of it!



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## EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES CAMPS

The registration materials for Camp Paradise are now available on the CFMS website [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org). The form will not be published in the newsletter this time around. You can type your information directly on the form and as was the case last year have the option of online submission and payment by credit card or mailing the completed application with your check payable to CFMS.

You are reminded that Diane Cook is reminding everyone to take a few minutes and return the SoCal camp interest survey by May 1. A link to the form is included in here President's Message on page 1.

## APPROACHES TO SAFETY

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Perhaps you have seen, while traveling America's highways and byways, a big, red, octagon sign featuring the word "STOP" across its face. The operator of the vehicle approaching such a sign is required to bring their vehicle to a stop, assess the traffic situation, and properly enter the intersection controlled by the stop sign.

That is the law — to bring the vehicle to a stop. There are legal repercussions if one does not stop. This is the first approach to safety: make it a law. A second approach to safety is a reaction to circumstances. Say there is a roadway intersection of a primary and two secondary roads controlled by stop signs on the secondary roads. I know of one such instance where the primary road crests a hill and is at a curve in the road as well. Needless to say, there were numerous accidents at that intersection. After many years of accidents at the intersection a traffic control light (red, yellow and green) was installed with a resulting reduction in accidents at the intersection.

The last approach to safety is predictive. This is where no accident has been had as yet but, as a just-in-case, a safety rule is devised and applied. In such instances a town, state, governing board, or committee uses advisors to create a set of rules, laws or guidelines for such things as use of a facility by the public. Such instances might be at public buildings, parks, playgrounds, public pools, or other public places.

The above instances were utilized as a common frame of reference. Most of our regular safety interactions are a mixture of approaches. Look both ways before crossing the road. Use pot holders to carry a hot cooking pot. Use the handrails when climbing stairs.

In rock and mineral club activities there are also those mixed approaches to the rules. Public access building codes require emergency exits and stairs to be kept clear in case of an emergency at our shows. Yet part of that hall might have a raised area to use as a stage. If the stage is used for displays or dealers tables, and the public has access to that stage, what measures are used to keep attendees from tripping and falling off the stage? What rules apply? Does that hall have rules for use of the stage area? Are fall prevention barriers needed, or recommended, or not addressed? Do club members just need to be aware of the risks and take their own precautions?

All through the rock and mineral clubs in our shared hobbies there are rules, guidelines, safety procedures, and common sense areas of safety concern. Some of those rules and guidelines may be unique to their club, their meeting hall, their club lapidary shop, their show facility, their field trips and so on. Some rules are law, some are practical guidelines, some common sense wisdom, and some — while sounding reasonable — may need to be, at times, questioned.

What is a club to do in a world not necessarily obsessed with safety but surely concerned with being safe? A club might have a dedicated safety person for their show, their lapidary shop, and their field trip, but most clubs appear (for example) to have the field trip chair also be their field trip safety chair, and so on. However, there is much more to a club than shows, workshops and field trips. There are also meetings, special programs, picnics, swaps and more. In addition, clubs also have their official keeper of the club's first responder kit with a basic emergency medical supplies. Associated with that responsibility comes training and familiarity with use of those supplies. The sheer amount of safety information needed for a club may make it difficult to have a safety chairperson to oversee each area where there are matters of safety. In smaller clubs it maybe difficult to find any person to chair a separate safety committee, let alone have dedicated people for specific concerns.

There are many way to address concerns of safety in clubs. A club may offer regular talks by professionals devoted to some aspect of safety so that safety becomes a shared club member responsibility. A club may offer to their members a yearly class for first responder/aid knowledge. Club members may be asked (or assigned) a safety topic and required to give a short talk on the matter before the club. Safety articles might be included in periodic editions of club newsletters. A club may offer a brief safety refresher talk before heading into each dig. A club may require safety lessons to each person using the club lapidary or jewelry shop. As a club sets up for a show the volunteers may be offered a safety talk of specific show activities (such as being cautious with folding table leg pinch points). A club may offer its own safety guideline book to new members. A club may decide to encode safety requirements into its by-laws (such as for age limits (if any) for participation in club field trips).

As each and every club has its own uniqueness - there are often times when its uniqueness in safety matters need to be addressed. When there are questions or concerns there is a plethora of sources of reliable safety information on the internet and most libraries. Please take matters of safety as a serious matter and use discretion. Sharpening a pencil in a pencil sharpener probably does not need safety glasses in order to keep one's eyes safe. Sharpening a rock chisel on a metal grinding machine is a very different matter, one where it is a good idea to wear safety glasses.

Just like rules of the road, safety matters concern us all. Please be safe — your safety matters!

From *AFMS Newsletter*, March 2026



**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](http://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**

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**2026**

**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: [marylandoriole@gmail.com](mailto:marylandoriole@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](mailto:lemooregemandmineralclub@gmail.com)  
Website:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

**March 28-29, 2026 – Angels Camp, CA**  
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 2465 Gun Club  
Rd., Angels Camp, CA 95222  
Hours: sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact:  
[calaverasgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:calaverasgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://calaverasgemandmineral.net>

**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](mailto:mcmc@sti.net)  
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

**April 11-12, 2026 – Placerville, CA**  
El Dorado County MGS  
Placerville Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville  
Dr., Placerville, CA  
Contact: (530) 676-2472,  
[office@edcmgs.org](mailto:office@edcmgs.org)  
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

**April 18-19, 2026 – Thousand Oaks, CA**  
Canejo Gem and Mineral Club  
Borchard Community Center, 190 N.  
Reino Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Website: [www.cgamc.org](http://www.cgamc.org)

**April 25-26, 2026 – Anaheim, CA**  
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W.  
Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30  
Contact: [anaheimsearchers@gmail.com](mailto:anaheimsearchers@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

**April 24-26, 2026 – Paradise, CA**  
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](mailto:paradisegemmineral@gmail.com)  
Website:  
<http://www.paradisegemmineral.com>

**April 25-26, 2026 – Atascadero, CA**  
Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Atascadero Colony Park Community  
Center, 5599 Traffic Way, Atascadero,  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: (805) 610-0603,  
[slrockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:slrockhounds@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://slrockhounds.org>

**May 1-2, 2026 – Yucaipa, CA**  
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Located on Yucaipa Blvd, Yucaipa, CA  
Hours: Fri Noon-9, Sat 6pm-10pm  
Contact: [djvintage57@gmail.com](mailto:djvintage57@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.yvgms.com>

**May 1-3, 2026 – Vista, CA**  
Vista Gem and Mineral Society  
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum  
2040 North Santa Fe, Vista, CA 92083  
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: [info@vistarock.org](mailto:info@vistarock.org)  
Website: <http://vistarocks.org>

**June 27-28, 2026 – Culver City, CA**  
Culver City Rock & Mineral Society  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117  
Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230  
Hours: Sat 10=6, Sun 10-5  
Contact: [culvercityrocks35@gmail.com](mailto:culvercityrocks35@gmail.com)  
Website:  
<http://culvercityrocks.org/.fiesta/>

**July 31-August 2, 2026 – Nipomo, CA**  
Orcutt Mineral Society  
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson  
Rd., Nipomo, CA 93444  
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: [nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com](mailto:nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com),  
(805) 929-2783  
Website: <https://oms-inc.org>

**August 22-23, 2026 – Escondido, CA**  
Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
California Center for the Arts, The  
Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.,  
Escondido, CA  
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
Contact: [pgmshow@gmail.com](mailto:pgmshow@gmail.com)  
Website: [palomargem.org](http://palomargem.org)

**September 18-20, 2026 – Reno, NV**  
**Reno Gem & Mineral Society**  
**CFMS Annual Show & Convention**  
**Reno Convention Center, Reno, NV,**  
**Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4**  
**Contact:**  
[showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org](mailto:showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org)  
**Website: <https://renogms.org>**

**September 19-20, 2026 – Chico, CA**  
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society  
Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St.,  
Chico, CA 95928  
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4  
Contact: [shows@featherriverrocks.org](mailto:shows@featherriverrocks.org)  
Website: <https://featherriverrocks.org/show-2/>

**September 19-20, 2026 – Monterey, CA**  
Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds  
Rd., Monterey, CA 93940  
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5  
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

**September 26-27, 2026 – San Luis Obispo, CA**  
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club  
Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna  
Rd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5  
Contact: [2026show@slogem.org](mailto:2026show@slogem.org)  
Website: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea>

**National/Regional  
Shows:**

***California Federation***  
***September 18-20, 2026***  
***Reno, NV***

*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](http://www.cfmsinc.org/shows)**

**REMINDER**

**Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!**

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

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

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

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

**THE TRADITION OF OUR TRADITIONS**

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

If you have been a recipient of an award or have been a participant in deciding who will receive an award, you know our Earth Science and Lapidary Arts & Crafts awards are always something unique and special to all of us. We cherish these annual awards and look forward to celebrating the awards with the people who receive them.

There are certain things we do as a Society, a Federation and the AFMS that are traditions and a big part of who we are. We've been doing them for generations, and it is a part of our heritage that makes us who we are apart from other types of organizations. From the first time I met one of our rock and gem societies, I've always felt together we are something very special. It is our traditions that are still such an important part of us.

We value our Robert's Rules of Order and our bylaws, to guide us in our meetings and throughout the year. We have our committee chairmen, officers and our membership who are very valuable so there's always room for lots of fun and order. We have the AFMS Code of Ethics, which makes us stand apart in our good outdoor manners, adding to the stature and public image of AFMS rockhounds everywhere.

At the monthly society meetings, along with the normal business, some have a potluck or refreshment time. There are silent auctions, and some give a door prize for one of their club members, a guest and a junior. One club I know of gives a five-gallon bucket of rocks to welcome each new member in. Some clubs invite neighboring clubs to a field trip or their annual BBQ or Christmas Dinner. Some help their neighboring society with the work of putting on their annual show, and providing skilled members for the demonstration section of the show. Some societies have included selling plants for rock gardens, which has been very successful for them.

Most societies sew up grab bags for the kids section of the shows, and some even have a sewing contest for who can sew up the most bags for their annual show. I've even heard of a member who loves sewing grab bags so much that she makes more than the club can use each year and gives them to other clubs. We have the tumbler people who help provide the rocks for the bags, and the members who bring in donations for the various auction tables. We have fun show-and-tells, programs and wonderful field trips. We have the lunches, cracker barrels, breakfasts, and banquets at the Federation and AFMS annual events, and we do those as times to celebrate enjoying being together, honoring other's contributions and to say a heartfelt thank you. Last but not least, we carry on the skills we have learned from each other in the Lapidary Arts and Crafts. We are quite the wonderful bunch of people, sharing what we enjoy celebrating and working together, which makes what we do all year so worthwhile. So, keep up the good work, because longtime traditions and even adding new ones has always been an important key for our legacy into the future.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, April 24

## THE INUREMENT CLAUSE CLARIFIED

By Linda Nelson, CPA

The statutory prohibition against inurement of net earnings first appeared in 1894, and current IRS regulations are continually being updated and standards created by court decisions. What were once narrowly defined definitions have been expanded and adapted to meet today's needs.

Can a member of a club or society that is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under the IRS 501(c)(3) rules sell items at an event sponsored by that organization? What about at a club's annual show? Can the individual member profit from selling surplus items at a special "boutique" event? The short answers are **Yes**, they can sell at society events without violating IRS rules. If they do so, is the society in risk of losing its tax-exempt status? The answer is **No**, not from allowing its members to sell and profit from an event sponsored by the organization that is, in some way, aligned to the stated interests of the organization.

There has been some misunderstanding about what a tax-exempt non-profit entity can and cannot do with regard to its members profiting from the club's activities. Once we have the basic idea of what sort of activities constitute inurement, the answers are easy to understand and accept. The discussion revolves around the Inurement Clause of the IRS Regulations which states that an "organization must not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests, such as the creator or the creator's family, shareholders of the organization, other designated individuals" and that "No part of the net earnings of a section 501(c)(3) organization may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual."

Rock and mineral clubs are not organized to "tend to the private interests of the creator". The IRS regulations state that "An individual is not entitled to unjustly enrich himself at the organization's expense". To understand how this is applied, consider one example of an action in court regarding the Wendy L. Parker Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc. (1986) – a foundation formed to aid coma victims, including a family member of the founders. Approximately 30% of the organization's net income was being used to aid the family's coma victim. The Court found that the family's coma victim was a substantial beneficiary of the foundation's funds. It also noted that such distributions relieved the family of the economic burden of providing medical and rehabilitation care for their family member and, therefore, constituted inurement to the benefit of private individuals and was not entitled to recognition of exemption.

Activities of rock and mineral clubs that permit their members to sell their surplus rocks and other creations at a club show or boutique sale do not involve a significant part of the net assets of the organization. The IRS further clarifies that "Benefits directed to an individual as a member of a charitable class do not constitute unjust enrichment." What this means is that the amount of private benefit that will be

permitted depends on the magnitude of the private benefit in relation to the public benefit derived from the organization's activities and whether the private benefit will help to effectuate the organization's exempt purpose.

The justification for allowing members to conduct sales under the umbrella of the club are easy to determine. Among the many reasons, certainly, are that members selling specimens and crafted items to the public provide increased public awareness and interest in earth science. Another could be that such activity will increase the member's interest in furthering his participation in the club and in the earth sciences.

Can a club pay for the expenses involved in making such a sale event possible? Yes. Take the example of Alive Fellowship of Harmonious Living vs the IRS Commissioner, referred to by the IRS as G.C.M. 38827 (1982). A portion of the church's income was given to needy church members in the form of food and lodging, valued from \$1,500 to \$7,500. The court found that the benefits received by the Fellowship's members could be viewed as quantitatively incidental. The organization had a conceded religious purpose, so the public benefit from its activities outweighed any individual benefit to members.

Does this mean that a club can use its profits to lavishly provide for its members? Not at all! Even a small amount of *private inurement* is fatal to exemption. In the case of the Spokane Motorcycle Club v. U.S., 222 F. Supp. 151 (E.D. Wash. 1963), net profits were found to inure to private individuals where refreshments, goods and services amounting to \$825 (representing some 8% of gross revenues) were furnished to members. More examples can be found in this IRS publication:

[www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopic90.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopic90.pdf)

In summary, the IRS regulations state that private benefit must be substantial in order to jeopardize exempt status. A rock and mineral club may allow its members to sell at its annual show or at any boutique or other sale sponsored by the club without jeopardizing its tax-exempt status.

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# THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES ENDOWMENT FUND

Founded June 28, 1987 by CFMS Directors in Convention, Turlock, CA

The CFMS Endowment Fund was formed to provide a stable source of income to financially assist the programs and services the CFMS provides to its members. All donations remain as principal and only earnings are available for distribution to the CFMS. The Fund is open to receive most types of assets. *(Non-cash items will be converted to cash as is prudent. Donating depreciated assets offers a charitable tax deduction with capital gains tax.)*

## Fund Categories:

Patron Society: A Society or club having donated \$100 plus \$1 per member is given special recognition on a Patron Honor Plaque that is on display during CFMS shows and other events.

Patron: A person (may be a couple) having donated \$100 or more. Also has name(s) posted on the Patron Honor Plaque and receives a Booster pin.

Booster: A person having donated \$25 to the Fund. The Booster pin, which was designed by the late Chuck Davis, is given to any person upon donating \$25 to the Fund.

The Endowment Fund benefits the now generation and generations to come. Join in and support the Earth Sciences by sending in your check or pledge in support of the CFMS Endowment Fund.



Here is my check to the CFMS Endowment Fund for:

\$5 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ or \$ \_\_\_

Pledge to donate \$ \_\_\_ by December 31, 2026 or \$ \_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Donation is \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_\_\_ A memorial for \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: CFMS  
PO Box 1657  
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

All gifts to the CFMS Endowment Fund are tax deductible as allowed by law.

**CFMS NEWSLETTER**

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Pat LaRue, Editor

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