



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #8

August 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com

Summer is moving quickly, and so is the excitement for our **2026 CFMS Convention and the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's "Jackpot of Gems"**

Show! I hope many of you are planning to join us in Reno this September for what promises to be a wonderful weekend of exhibits, learning, fellowship, and fun.

If you've been thinking about entering a **Competitive Exhibit**, now is the time to get started! The **entry deadline is August 1, 2026**, so don't wait. Whether you're an experienced exhibitor or entering for the very first time, I encourage you to give it a try. Our recent Zoom workshop was designed to help answer questions, and remember—you don't have to be an expert to participate. We all started somewhere!

Registration forms, banquet reservations, exhibit information, hotel details, and all convention forms are available on the **CFMS website**. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm happy to help.

Be sure to join us on **Friday evening** for our Welcome Reception and Silent Auction. It's a relaxed evening to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones from around the Federation, and perhaps take home a few special treasures from the auction. Our **Saturday Banquet** is another highlight of the weekend, so be sure to reserve your tickets before registration closes.

One of the goals of CFMS is to provide educational opportunities for our clubs and members. We appreciate everyone who participated in our Competitive Exhibits Zoom and are already thinking about future presentations. I'd love to hear from you! Are there topics your club would like to learn more about? Club shows?

Judging? Lapidary techniques? Leadership? Please send me your ideas so we can continue offering programs that benefit all of our member societies.

Finally, don't forget about **CFMS Camp Paradise!** With **more than a dozen classes** offered in a beautiful setting,

it's a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills, meet fellow rockhounds, and enjoy time with friends. Be sure to visit the CFMS website for class information and registration details.

I hope to see many of you in Reno this September. Together we'll celebrate our shared love of the earth sciences, learn from one another, and make new memories.

Until next month... Together We Shine!

Diane Cook



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Aug 5. Deadline for Sept Newsletter
Aug 16-22. Camp Paradise wk 1
Aug 23-28. Camp Paradise Wk 2
Sept 5. Deadline for Oct Newsletter
Sept 18-20. CFMS Show and Convention
Nov 13-15. 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. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I’m once again asking the various committee chairs to send an occasional item for the newsletter.

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.

NOTICE TO ALL POTENTIAL EXHIBITORS

By Pat LaRue, Rules Committee

Still thinking about taking the plunge into exhibit case competition. The deadline to submit your application was extended to August 30. That gives all of you more time to prepare your display for the upcoming show in Reno. Still not sure you want to do it? That’s okay too. You have the opportunity to enter your display as non-competitive and have it evaluated so you will find out where possible improvements could be made so you’ll be ready to jump in next time.

If you have questions or concerns don’t hesitate to contact Colleen McGann or me and we’ll be happy to answer any rules related questions.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

Continuing to Seek Responses for a Survey on Clubs with Kids

As I noted the past two months, the Juniors Program committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is doing a survey of all seven regional federations to get a handle on youth involvement within our ranks. The survey involves just four simple questions, but so far I've only heard back from a handful of CFMS-affiliated societies. Can you please email me your answers to the following?

1. What is the name of your society?
2. Do you have kids under the age of 18 formally signed up within your society?
3. Do you have an active program for those kids with a designated youth leader?
4. Do you utilize the AFMS/FRA badge program or the other free resources provided by the AFMS Youth Program?

Easy-peasy! Send your answers to jbraceth@roadrunner.com, and thank you!!

Junior Achievement Entries Now Being Judged!

Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Junior Activities Chair

After several pleas within these pages seeking judges for the CFMS Junior Achievement Awards, I'm very happy to report that judging is under way! We needed a minimum of three, and we've happily ended up with five judges. My sincere thanks to Susan Chaisson-Walblom (Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club), Laura Driskell (Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society), Michelle Coleman (San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society), Debra Gilmore (San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society, celebrating its 91st anniversary this year – impressive!), and Lee Elliott (Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Club).

I'm awaiting score sheets so that I can make a tally and a final determination for our winners in both age groups. Who will they be? Come to the Awards Banquet September 19 in Reno to find out!

CFMS CAB CASES AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY AT LOCAL SHOWS

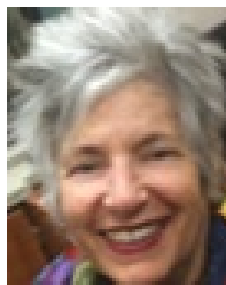
By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Public Relations

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!



CFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Sharon Rogow, Chair



Just a shot message to remind everyone about the importance of the Endowment Fund and how much we need everyone's help to keep the donations coming. As one of the backbone entities of CFMS, we suggest contributions of dollars or rock related items to be made in honor of, in memory of, in commemoration for or just because you want to. We will have our tables set up at the convention as usual in September in Reno for fundraising and sales to benefit the Federation. You can even make last minute donations at the business meeting and at the show. It is time to make hotel and banquet reservations if you haven't already. We can always use help at the fundraising table and hope to see you there. Wishing all a pleasant summer. See you in September!

SEEKING SILENT AUCTION ITEMS—AND BIDDERS

By Jim Brace-Thompson

As has become customary, we'll be having a silent auction during our Cracker Barrel at the CFMS convention being held in coordination with the Reno Jackpot of Gems Show. When you pack your bags to attend the show, be sure to make room for several primo items (rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, lapidary or jewelry items, rock-related books, etc.) to help generate as much income as possible from those in attendance to benefit the CFMS Endowment Fund. When I say "primo" items, I mean items you yourself would want to bid for, so don't look at this as an opportunity to prune junk from your home rock pile. Go primo! In addition, we need bidders, so please bring a wallet full of good old-fashioned cash.

Also consider bringing material for Sharon Rogow to sell in the CFMS Endowment Fund booth during the show. Let's all pitch in for the common good!

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, CFMS ROTY Chair
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is proud to welcome our newest inductee into the Rockhound of the Year program. We have one member from the Santa Lucia Rockhounds joining our prestigious ranks. Please send me your honorees so, they too, can be bestowed this honor from your society and the CFMS.

Caleb Willis - Santa Lucia Rockhounds. Caleb Willis came to us about a decade ago having been a lone wolf rockhound and aspiring lapidary artist. It's been a pleasure watching him grow as a man and an intrepid rockhound and highly-skilled lapidary artist. Over the course of recent years he has effectively served our club in a variety of ways. From being on the club board as Senior Director and Junior Director to being our Silent Auctioneer to being an important member of our rock show board overseeing the showroom layout and coordinating demonstrators and show presenters. Caleb has been integral to reorganizing our club storage unit which is an important once-a-decade project. Caleb also often processes donations to our club. Caleb created Freeform Lapidary accounts on various social media platforms showing laymen and fellow lapidary artists his processes and sometimes even the rockhounding stage all the way through to finished stone artwork.

Submitted by: Kim Noyes - President - Santa Lucia Rockhounds

A "CO-OP MEMBER" and "CFMS" FIELD TRIP TO HAWTHORNE & MINA, NV AREAS

Sponsored By Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society

- This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- The use of intoxicating substances during the effective hours of this field trip are expressly prohibited.

TRIP LOCATION: Hawthorne, Mina region in Nevada.

TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING: Trip will require a High Clearance Vehicle at the least, a 4x4 would be desirable for access on poorly maintained and rutted roads. Vehicles should be equipped with good tires and a good spare tire, jack, and recovery equipment. This is NOT a dude ranch, This not a casual day in the park trip. This is some serious travel into remote desert locations, with long drives from site to site. If your vehicle is not reliable, this may not be the trip to take with it.

If your 2 WD truck does not have rear lockers you may find yourself sitting on the side of the road at some sites until we return. Loading heavy rocks into the bed of a pick up will help considerably with traction. No motorhomes, No trailers. Show up at the meet site with a full tank of gas, and plenty of food and water should you get lost or get stuck and require some hours of work to get "unstuck"! Some sites may require hiking up to waste piles on the sides of hills. Some collecting will be in and around loose rubble and old mine metal and trash. Scouting the larger area is encouraged but carry FRS radios as described below. I would caution folks to make any arrangements for ride sharing.... prior to the trip. It is rare that other participants have any room in

their vehicles for additional passengers and their gear on the morning of the trip.

WHEN: Saturday September 26th and September 27th, 2026

SPONSOR CLUB: Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society

LEADER & CONTACT INFO: James Hutchings and Gene Doyle, Roseville Rock Rollers. James Hutchings's contact information; (530) 367-5108 at home or (916) 995-7380 on the road. E-mail: jhutchings22@hotmail.com. Gene Doyle's contact information; (408) 605-9457 (cell, you can text), eugene.doyle@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBER'S GUESTS: Allowed

COLLECTION MATERIAL: Microcline Feldspar, Copper minerals, Black Quartz Crystals, Epidote, Epidote in Quartz, Epidote in Calcite, Grandradite and Grossular Garnet. Fossils, and possible petrified wood. The roads in Nevada have been thrashed in the last few years. The actual sites and available material will depend upon access issues determined just before the actual trip.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE: Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning in Hawthorne, NV. You may depart anytime on Sunday.

MEET: Saturday morning we will meet in the parking lot of the El Capitan Casino in downtown Hawthorne at 9 AM, depart at 9:15, (There is only one main casino in Hawthorne on SR 95, can't miss it!). Sunday meet at the Casino at 9:00 AM. depart at 9:15.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP: East Interstate 80 through Reno to SR 95 South to Hawthorne, Nevada, via Yerington or Fallon. Drive time from Roseville should be around six hours!

CAMP/FACILITIES: There are several hotels and motels in Hawthorne. The Best Western on the East end of town. The Desert Sands is a little less

expensive, the Casino Hotel which is a Travel Lodge across the street from the El Capitan, The Monarch. A few "low rent" motels are available. There is Whiskey Flats, an RV park for those wishing to tent or RV camp. There is plenty of BLM land in the area for those who are roughing it. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for Hotel and RV contact information.

TOOLS: Shovels, rock picks, hand sledges and cold chisels. Collection bags, goggles, pry bars. Zip lock bags and paper towels for delicate specimens should you find some!

SAFETY CONCERNS: This is tough and dirty rock hounding! Bugs, snakes, ticks, holes, mine shafts, nails, barb wire, and heaven knows what else is out there! This one is for the tough guys and gals, but it will be a great adventure. For safety and convoy coordination, we recommend you invest in the Family Radio Service radios (FRS). We will operate on channel 10, with no tone code (O). If you need help setting up your radio, bring it and fresh batteries to the meet site before 9 AM. We will have a safety briefing and drivers instruction for convoys at the meet site at 9 AM both days.

CLIMATE/WEATHER: Weather should be nice at this time of year. Rain or snow will limit our number of collections sites but should not shut us down. We could get a late season hot spell, so bring lots of extra water and check ACCU-WEATHER for long range and departure weather for "Hawthorne, Nevada"

CLOTHING: No flip flops or open toed shoes. Bring layered clothing with you, in the car, not in your hotel room.

OTHER REMARKS: We will NOT be entering old mine shafts or adits'. We will repeatedly warn you of the hazards of getting too close to adits' and pit edges. These are unstable, and dangerous. We will remind you that the Rockhound Ethics suggests that we take only

the best of the best of available material, for personal use, and maybe a little for sharing. We would want to make sure that these sites remain...collectable... for the next expedition.

This trip is not designed for the collection of Lapidary materials. It is primarily, an opportunity to locate and collect mineral specimens. We will stop at a few sites to better understand the geology of the area. Most importantly, we are out to commune with the rocks where they live, get to know their feeding habits, their hiding places, and identify the clues they leave behind! We hope to help folks understand the lay of the land and learn how the desert mining districts work. This should be a lot of fun, especially for folks just getting into the rock hound game.

Submitted by Jim Barton, Field Trips North

WEBSITE CONTEST DEADLINE ANNOUNCED

By Terry Wilson

The 2026 Website Contest is now open! The deadline is September 30, so there's plenty of time to get ready. This contest is actually an AFMS contest that starts regionally. Go to our website and you'll find a link to the AFMS page with all the forms and instructions. You will enter online and the AFMS contest chair will assign the judges.

The website contest is not about flash and awe, or how great your club is. It's about attracting new members and providing information for existing members. Read the guidelines for the critical components of a good website, like a contact form and meeting information. You can also see the 2025 winners on the AFMS page, and get an idea of what other clubs are doing.

CFMS SCHOLARSHIP

By Bob Papac, 2nd Vice President

I just wanted to send out a reminder to all of our Clubs, that the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) offers an outstanding scholarship opportunity every year, and possibly one of your club members can have the opportunity to play a major role in nominating a potential recipient in your community, as well as assisting in awarding this scholarship.

This is really an amazing opportunity for all of us, involved in our common interest in Rocks and Minerals, to participate in finding, and awarding this award, to a student which can make a huge difference in their life.

If there is a standout member in your club who has gone above and beyond the norm, whether through volunteer work, board service, or representing CFMS as a Federation Director, or in another capacity, why not submit their name, and resume, giving them the opportunity to give back?

The process is actually quite simple. All you would have 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 Robert L. Papac, and the CFMS Scholarship Committee, who will review all the submissions. The committee will then select the Honoree(s), who will have the unique privilege of choosing a college student to receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

This scholarship is multi purpose, in that it is about financial support, as well as acknowledging and rewarding the efforts of individuals who have made a substantial impact on our community. This is just another way that the CFMS is utilizing to foster and maintain a connection between our Rockhounding Community and promising students studying the Earth Sciences.

For those of you who might be interested, please review the following guidelines for potential scholarship recipients, which are: A course of study, including a major in Earth Science, Lapidary/Jewelry Arts, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and entering their Junior or Senior year. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. The selected student must be attending a university within the CFMS boundaries.

Please help us in this endeavor, and make a difference for both our Rockhound community, as well as the life and goal of one of our students.

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

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, (805)
929-2783
Website: <https://oms-inc.org>

August 15-16, 2026 – Tehachapi

Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East "F" Street,
Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: travis462@outlook.com
Website: <http://tvgems.net>

August 1-2, 2026 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
Roebbelen Center @ the Grounds, Placer County
Fairgrounds, 700 Event Center Dr., Roseville,
CA 95678
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 995-7380
Website: <https://rockrollers.com>

August 15-16, 2026 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East F St.,
Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: travis462@outlook.com
Website: tvgems.net

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
Website: palomargem.org

September 18-20, 2026 – Reno, NV
Reno Gem & Mineral Society
CFMS Annual Show & Convention
Reno Sparks Convention Center, Reno,
NV
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact:
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
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 19-20, 2026 – Arcadia, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd.,
Arcadia CA 91007
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (626) 260-7239,
marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com
Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

September 26-27, 2026 – San Luis Obispo
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
Website: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea>

October 3-4, 2026 – Anderson, CA
Shasta Gem and Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds, 1890 Briggs St.,
Anderson, CA 96007
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: sgmsrocksredding@gmail.com,
(530) 722-7133
Website: shastagemandmineral.org

October 10-11, 2026 – Redwood City, CA
Peninsula Gem & Geology Society and the
Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society
Community Activities Building, Redwood
City, CA 94061
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: impresciacconstruction@gmail.com
(650) 575-3144
Website: <http://pggs.org>

October 17, 2026 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700
Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
Hours: Sat 10-5
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>

October 17-18, 2026 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Memorial Hall, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa
Rosa, CA 95404
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: vcommons@outlook.com,
(408) 691-7823
Website: srmgs.org

October 24-25, 2026 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
6151 H Street, Sacramento CA 95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 622-5819,
gemsshow@sacgemshow.com
Website: <http://sacgemshow.com>

October 24-25, 2026 – 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,
info@opalsociety.org
Website:
[http://opalsociety.org/Opal_Show_Current/
opal_show_current.htm](http://opalsociety.org/Opal_Show_Current/opal_show_current.htm)

September 26, 2026 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32113 Corydon Rd, Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10-4
Contact: (909) 208-6956,
berylman50@aol.com

November 7-8, 2026 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral and Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600
Laning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact: luannz@att.net
Website: <http://www.sdgm.org>

November 14-15, 2026 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: show@ccmgclub.com
Website: <http://www.ccmgsclub.com>

National/Regional Shows:

California Federation
September 18-20, 2026
Reno, NV

Eastern Federation
October 18-20, 2026
Charleston, WV

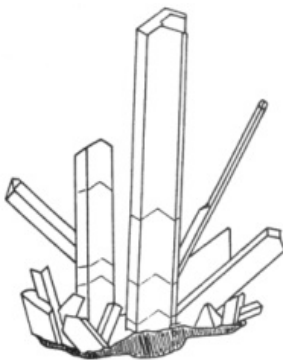
Midwest Federation
AFMS
May 23-24, 2026
St. Charles, IL

Northwest Federation
March 20-22, 2026
Missoula, MT

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

South Central Federation
Humble, TX
Nov 13-15, 2026

Southeast Federation
TBA



DON'T FORGET TO UP-DATE YOUR CLUB WEBSITE WITH YOUR NEW SHOW DATE

Check for show links at
www.cfmsinc.org/shows

REMINDER

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

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

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

www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR CONVENTION

By Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas

The 2026 Convention in Reno will be here before we know it. All committees are encouraged to prepare a report to be included in the information to be shared at the Directors Meeting. In order to prepare the material for distribution, I will need your reports no later than September 5.

If unable to meet that deadline, please bring 50 copies of your report for distribution at the meeting. As in past years, I will prepare 50 packets for distribution at the meeting. The increased cost of copies and the decreased copy cost discount available have made it necessary to better insure we do not have a surplus of unclaimed materials at the end of the meeting.

Thank you for your understanding.

2025 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	dianecook.cfms at gmail.com
First VP:	Frank VanHecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vanclook.cfms at att.net
Second VP:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at csurfers.net
Secretary:	Laura Driskell	(805) 218-5160	driskellmom at gmail.com
Treasurer:	Madison Vazquez	(714) 290-7103	Madvas333 at gmail.com
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bplarue at earthlink.net
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/Treasurer	
CFMS Rep to AFMS:	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
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	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	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
	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	(611) 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)	(611) 433-4216	john.martin at amlands.org
	Bernie Bentsen	(661) 496-7393	bentsenbab at gmail.com
Public Relations:	Jim Brace-Thompson	See Jr. Activities	
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/Treasurer	
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/Treasurer	
Trophy Coordinator:	Frank Mullaney	(408) 691-2656	rockyfiv at gmail.com
Visual Programs:	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund--CFMS	
Website Contest:	Terry Wilson	See Internet	

CFMS Newsletter
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Pat LaRue, Editor



Jackpot of Gems Show

Presented by Reno Gem & Mineral Society

September 18-20, 2026

Reno-Sparks Convention Center
4590 S Virginia St., Reno, NV



Dealers

Demonstrators

Speakers

Non-Competitive Exhibits

Competitive Exhibits

Friday 10-7

Saturday 10-7

Sunday 10-5