



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #9

September 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com

One of the greatest privileges of serving as your CFMS President has been visiting clubs throughout the Federation and seeing firsthand the dedication, enthusiasm, and friendships that make our organization so special. Our annual convention is where all of those friendships come together, and I can't think of a better place to celebrate them than in Reno."

As summer begins to wind down, our attention now turns to one of the highlights of the CFMS year—our Annual Convention held in conjunction with the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's **Jackpot of Gems** Show, September 18–20, 2026.

I hope many of you are making plans to join us for a weekend filled with beautiful exhibits, outstanding dealers, educational programs, and, most importantly, the opportunity to spend time with friends from clubs throughout California and neighboring states. One of the greatest strengths of our Federation is the friendships we build and the ideas we share, and there is no better place to do that than at our conventions.

The weekend begins Friday evening with our always-popular Cracker Barrel, where we'll enjoy good conversation, great fellowship, and a wonderful Silent Auction. Saturday morning brings the CFMS Directors Meeting, where your club representatives help shape the future of our Federation, followed by our Annual Banquet on Saturday evening—a time to celebrate accomplishments, recognize outstanding members, and simply enjoy being together.

If you've been considering entering a Competitive Exhibit, there's still time! The entry deadline has been extended to **August 31, 2026**. Whether you're an experienced exhibitor or entering for the first time, I encourage you to participate and share your talents with everyone attending. The banquet reservation deadline has also been extended to **August 30, 2026**, so don't miss your opportunity to join us for this special

evening. All the entry and registration forms are on our website cfmsinc.org.

The Reno Gem & Mineral Society has been working incredibly hard to host an outstanding convention and show, and I know they are looking forward to welcoming all of us. Their **Jackpot of Gems** Show is always a favorite, offering something for every member of the family.

I hope you'll make plans to attend, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and come home inspired with fresh ideas to share with your clubs. Together, we continue to strengthen our Federation and demonstrate that **Together We Shine!**

I look forward to seeing each of you in Reno for what promises to be a memorable weekend.

Diane Cook

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Aug 16-22. Camp Paradise wk 1
Aug 23-28. Camp Paradise Wk 2
Sept 18-20. CFMS Show and Convention
October 5. Deadline for November newsletter
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

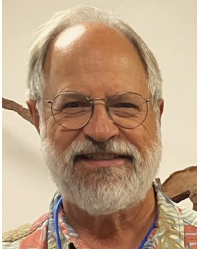
Receipts and any supporting documents will be forwarded on to the committee member responsible for acknowledgment. Please make all checks payable to CFMS or AFMS as appropriate and note the fund in the memo section.

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 31. 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've been noting, the AFMS Juniors Program committee 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? Even if the answer is "no" to all questions, we need that info!

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 jbrace@roadrunner.com, and thank you!

Here's to Seeing Kids at the Big Show!

Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Junior Activities Chair

As I write this article in early August, our 2026 CFMS Convention quickly approaches. It approaches even more quickly by the time you read this.

We've seen our Junior Achievement Awards applications judged and scored, and I look forward to presenting two deserving kids with \$100 and certificates at the September 19 Awards Banquet. I also understand some kids have submitted exhibitor applications, so I also look forward to working with the Show Chair to select the best youth case (competitive or noncompetitive) for another \$100 right out of my own pocket, a certificate, and a nice gem or fossil donated by Susan Chaisson-Walblom.

Here's to seeing you and your club kids come September 18-20 at the Jackpot of Gems Show sponsored by the Reno Gem & Mineral Society!

CFMS CAB CASES AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY AT LOCAL SHOWS

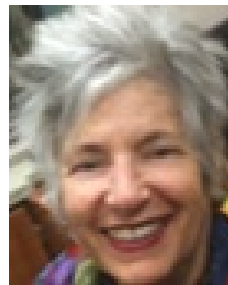
By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Public Relations

Looking to add a special element to your next club show? CFMS has cases displaying cabochons that have been crafted and donated by all affiliated clubs over the years. These attractive cases are available for loan to be displayed at local club shows. Three committee members house these cases: Cab Cases-North, Cab Cases-Central, and Cab Cases-South. So wherever you are across California, a cab case is readily available near you. Check the directory at the end of this newsletter and make arrangements for a case to be on display at your next club show!



CFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Sharon Rogow, Chair



Well here we are barely a month before the 2026 CFMS Convention, Cracker Barrel, business meeting, Jackpot of Gems Show and Saturday eve banquet.

Hopefully you have made your hotel reservations and banquet reservations, have planned your itinerary and are ready to enjoy the events from September 18th through the 20th.

The Endowment Fund is a potential backup source of money to help cover CFMS unexpected expenses some of which have been insurance payments, Camp Paradise and other projects. No principal is used; these are restricted funds. Only investment income is used.

The silent auction at the Cracker Barrel on Friday evening will include many desirable items. Donations of \$50+ valuation are being sought.

**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

CFMS WEB UPDATE

Terry Wilson, CFMS Webmaster

Keep your club listing updated! On the CFMS website, our directory lists all member clubs, including a variety of information, some of which changes periodically. While your club meeting time and location is usually pretty stable, information such as contact and director info, and maybe even website address, changes from time to time. In order for the website to be updated, you must submit the Club Update form. The paperwork you submit for your annual dues is completely separate from what happens at the website. It doesn't even ask the same questions. So please, check over your club's info and update anything that has changed.

New mailing system! We are pulling together all of the email addresses we send to so you don't get duplication of emails, and you can keep your information current. Stay tuned for an email blast from me to explain the new system and some of the special email groups we plan to start (think newsletter editors, field trip leaders, etc). If you are reading this and did not recently get added to the Groups.io mailing list, please reach out to me (Contact form for Webmaster at the website). Tell me who you are and what mailings you expect to receive (like this newsletter), and I'll get you on board.

CFMS FALL BUSINESS MEETING

By Pat LaRue, Exec Sec/Treas

The annual Fall Business Meeting and election of 2026 Officers will be held November 13-15, 2026 at the Wyndham-Visalia, off Hwy 198 in Visalia, CA. For those who have not been to this location in the past, take Hwy 198 exit east from Hwy 99. You will see the hotel located just south of the first off ramp past the airport.

Room reservations can be made by phone at **(559) 651-5000**. To receive the special CFMS rate of \$105+tax per night, tell them you are with CFMS. Cut-off date for this price is **October 31, 2026**. The group code is 111326CFM. A refundable deposit of \$50 per night will be added to your credit card. This is a new fee many hotels now impose in the event room items “disappear” or damage is done to the room.

An informal **Cracker Barrel** will be held **Friday** evening at **7:30 p.m.** As in the past, hotel policy forbids our bringing snack foods to any of the meetings. The **Business Meeting** will be called to order on Saturday, **November 14 at 9 a.m.** Join us at the **Banquet** that Saturday evening. The incoming president will have a brief meeting of the 2027 committees Sunday morning. Time to be announced.

Banquet Menu Lemon Pepper Chicken

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

\$45 tax and gratuity included.

Vegetarian option available upon request.

A cocktail server will be available to take your drink orders and deliver them to the room. Cost increases for both entrees and dessert items increased this year so I made the decision to omit the dessert item in order to keep the cost to \$45.

Make banquet reservations by November 7, 2026.

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

CFMS
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

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.

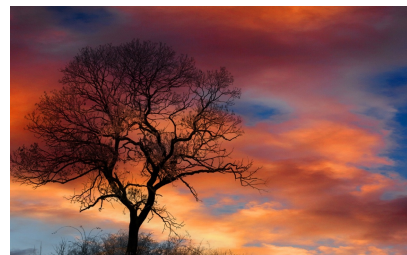
Also consider bringing material for Sharon Rogow to sell in the CFMS Endowment Fund booth during the show. Let's all pitch in for the common good!

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE CFMS CRACKER BARREL SILENT AUCTION

By Diane Cook, CFMS President

Help make this year's CFMS Cracker Barrel Welcome Reception even more exciting by donating an item to our Silent Auction! We welcome rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary creations, jewelry, books, gift baskets, club memorabilia, or any other fun and unique items.

If you have something you'd like to donate, please contact our Silent Auction Coordinator Debby Brooks or myself. Thank you for your generosity and for helping make this a fun and successful event for everyone!



NOTES ON PUBLIC RELATIONS FROM THE AFMS CONVENTION

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS PR Chair

Earlier this year, I noted I'd be hosting a PR roundtable session at the MWF/AFMS Show & Convention in St. Charles, Illinois, a give-and-take session to share and to question. It took place May 22 with 15 participants from 5 of our 7 regional federations. In no particular order, here are points that stood out to me as I struggled to take notes while participating in the session.

The importance of frequency. Whether promoting a club show, seeking competitive exhibits for a Federation show, getting word out to your community about your club and inviting the general public to your meetings, a single message is not enough. Messaging needs to start early and go out often. For instance, don't expect a ton of competitive exhibits if you only put one message in one newsletter article one or two months before the show. As one participant put it, "It's not one-and-done!" Start ridiculously early and build with more and more details as you go, and, whenever possible, utilize multiple avenues: newsletter articles, email blasts to any group lists you and your society maintains, social media posts, website postings, etc.

Visual impact. It's said we live in an age of short attention spans. In such an age, a single strong visual is literally worth a thousand words, so support your messaging with a photo. Seeking to promote your educational outreach program? Show happy kids having fun while learning. Clubs have also found that brief TikTok style videos are a strong draw to pull eyes to your website, Facebook and Instagram accounts, Pinterest, etc. In my own club, one member periodically goes around the floor during our club shows to shoot brief clips of different stations (kids booth, raffle, demonstrators, exhibits) for immediate posting to social media. Why use dense paragraphs to tell people they can have fun at your show when you can actually show people having fun? Another club found that posting brief and original how-to videos is a terrific draw to their social media and websites, videos heavy on how-to techniques: how to make a particular jewelry project, how to clean jewelry, how to shop for faceted stones or crystals, etc.

Partnering: adding value to your community. Don't be a hidden gem within your community. To raise the visibility and value of your local society, reach out and partner! What existing community organizations have

needs and objectives aligning with yours? Our attendees mentioned city and county parks and rec departments, homeschool associations, school district science teachers, local science museums, libraries, and arts associations. Do you have a direct contact with movers-and-shakers in such groups within your town and county? Also partner with your show vendors by promoting them as sources of supplies and knowledge, and they'll often support you, for instance, distributing your show flyers at the many shows they attend.

Does your club have a PR Chair? My club does not. I've informally assumed such a position to better get word out about us (sending press releases when we award our annual scholarship, posting clips about our special events and monthly meeting in the "Events" section of our local media, etc.). But so much more could be accomplished if we had a formally established position, a committee chair with a true committee—a team where one person focuses on social media, another on traditional media, another with community contacts, etc., all presenting a consistent and uniform message.

Bonterra. Finally, one attendee mentioned Bonterra. Bon-whata? It's a group that bills itself as "technology for social good," and they apparently have free resources for nonprofits, including a "Bonterra Academy" offering webinars, classes, and trainings. They say they're used by 170,000 nonprofits. I've only skimmed their website, but I saw enough to come away thoroughly intrigued. I definitely plan to dig deeper. (Watch for a future article on it.) It's tidbits like this that make our PR roundtables so valuable, and I offer my sincere thanks to all who attended and shared in St. Charles!

SOCIAL MEDIA

By Erin Valenzuela, Chair

Thank you to all the clubs/societies who have followed the CFMS Instagram and Facebook. There are still some clubs who haven't followed us... before the CFMS/Reno show is a great time to do so! Also please remind your members to follow us too! By the time you get this, the CFMS social media pages will have advertised the CFMS show. We'd appreciate if everyone could share, like and comment to help the CFMS/Reno show get more reach on our social media platforms. Feel free to share from our pages or DM (or email) me and I can send you some graphics! Follow us on Facebook-California Federation Of Mineralogical Societies and Instagram- cfmssinc

**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

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

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
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: srngs.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)

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 7-8, 2026 – Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S.
Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest CA 93555
Hours: 9-5
Contact: showchairman@iwgms.org
Website: <https://iwgms.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.ccmgclub.com>

2027

March 6-7, 2027 – Newark, CA
East Bay Mineral & Lapidary Club
Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Ave.,
Newark, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: info@ebml.club
(510) 353-3787
Website: <http://info@ebml.club>

March 6-7, 2027 - Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA
93001
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: info@vgms.org
Website: vgms.org

National/Regional Shows:

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

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

*Midwest Federation
West Bend, WI
March 5-7, 2027*

*Northwest Federation
TBA*

*Rocky Mountain Federation
Logan, UT
TBA*

*South Central Federation
Houston, TX
November 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/](http://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.

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, 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 and one junior member from the Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society joining our prestigious ranks. Please send me your honorees so, they too, can be bestowed this honor from your society, the CFMS and the AFMS.

Dan Coughlin - Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society is honored to present Dan Coughlin as our 2026 Rockhound of the Year. Dan's enthusiasm for rocks and all things rock hunting was ignited at age 12 when he successfully panned his first gold nugget. He realized later that rock hunting is easier than panning for gold. Gold panning put Dan on the international stage. He won a silver medal in the 2016 World Panning Championships as a member of the 5 person US panning team, with 24 nations competing. He was a member of the team from 2015 to 2017, competing in Spain, the USA and Scotland. He won first place medals in the 2014 and 2018 California State Championships and the 2014 National Championships. Dan was also a member of the Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society for 5 years and the El Dorado Gem & Mineral Society for 10 years. The last time he relocated, he moved 7 tons of rock. Now he says he's not collecting anymore, he's in remission! His favorite 'I'm not collecting anymore' is petrified wood. After retirement, he immediately got involved by taking on the responsibilities of Field Trip Chair. He sponsors and collaborates on field trips with the CO-OP. His trips include a variety of hounding sites. He loves to share his knowledge with other rock hounds. Dan takes the role of Field Trip Chair with a commitment to excellence and enthusiasm that creates a learning and fun environment for all the club members.

Submitted by: Debby Brooks - Federation Director
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Ricky Breidenstein - Junior Member Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

The Calaveras Junior Gem Hounds is pleased to recognize someone who is simultaneously one of the youngest and the 'oldest' member of our club. Ricky Breidenstein, at just 7 years of age, is one of our youngest members and one of our original junior club

members. She has attended more meetings, field trips and activities and volunteered more hours than any of our other junior members. In 2025 alone, she volunteered more than 66 hours for our club with more than 100 total hours served so far. Her passion for rocks began when she was just 3 years old. On one of her family's first rockhound field trips they went to Lake LaHontan for agate and to Wondertone Mountain in Fallon, Nevada for wonderstone. She spent the next half of her life hunting for other specimens including serpentine, obsidian, sunstone, jasper, quartz, petrified wood, fire agate and saffordite. Some of her favorites are red jasper, rose quartz and goldstone. Ricky helps set-up and clean up our meetings each month. She also helped prepare prizes for our shows and tailgate events. She also helps set-up booths for our events and worked at all six of our kids booths during our shows. She has exhibited her collections during our last three shows. For our 2026 show, she designated herself our sidewalk sweeper and regularly cleaned off our pathways to help keep visitors safe. One thing you're sure to hear from Ricky is 'Can I help with anything?' Ricky, you are being recognized for your willingness to participate, volunteer, and learn even when challenges arise. We appreciate your sweet, quiet and positive spirit, your reliability and your strength. You are a great reminder to all of us that size does not matter. You can still accomplish great things and make an impact on your community. Congratulations, Ricky! You are our Junior Rockhound of the Year for 2026.

Submitted by: Debby Brooks - Federation Director
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society



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	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
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	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
PO Box 1657
Rialto CA 92377-1657

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