



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #10

November 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com

What a wonderful time we had in Reno! The CFMS Convention held alongside the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's "Jackpot of Gems" show gave us so much to enjoy and celebrate. Beautiful exhibits, talented dealers, familiar faces, and new friendships made it a weekend to remember.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Reno Gem & Mineral Society and all the volunteers who worked so hard to bring the show and convention together. Events like these take months of planning and many helping hands. Please know how much your efforts are appreciated!

From the welcome reception, silent auction, and Mineral Bingo to our meetings and awards banquet, there were opportunities to share ideas, recognize accomplishments, and simply enjoy being together. Seeing members from different clubs connect and support one another brought my theme, "**Together We Shine!**", to life.

Reno also helped us look ahead. CFMS has a new approach to holding our conventions alongside club shows, allowing us to bring our Federation activities together with the wonderful events our clubs already organize. It is an opportunity to welcome visiting rockhounds, showcase a host club, and strengthen connections throughout CFMS.

We are looking for a club to partner with us for the 2027 CFMS Convention. If your club is interested in holding the convention alongside its show, please reach out to me. You do not need to have all the answers before starting the conversation! I would be happy to explain the new approach, discuss what is involved, and explore the possibilities with you.

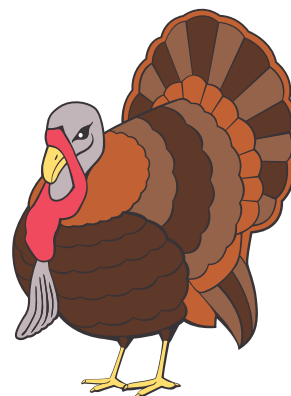
As my year as President begins to wind down, I find myself especially grateful for the people who make this Federation what it is. There is still work to do and more to share before my term ends, but November feels like a good time to pause and say thank you—to our officers, committee chairs, club leaders, and every member who gives their time and enthusiasm.

During this season of Thanksgiving, I hope you will also take a moment to thank someone who helps your own club shine. Whether they teach a workshop, welcome a new member, organize a field trip, or stay to clean up after a meeting, their contribution matters.

Let's carry the warmth and excitement of Reno into the months ahead and keep building opportunities for our clubs to come together.

Together We Shine!

Diane Cook



On the Inside

Mark Your Calendar.....	2
CFMS Insurance & Website Contacts.....	2
CFMS Fall Business Meeting.....	3
Junior Activities.....	3-4
AFMS EF Raffle Rides Again.....	5
Camp Paradise Recap-2026.....	5
Public Relations.....	6
Competitive Exhibit Awards.....	6
Important Insurance Information.....	7
CFMS All American Club Award.....	8
Focus on Eye Protection.....	8
Show Dates.....	9-10
How to Kill an Organization.....	10
Officer/Chairmen Roster.....	insert

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 31. Committee for Visalis due
November 5. . . Deadline for December newsletter
November 13-15. Fall Business
December 5. . . . Deadline for January newsletter

CFMS INSURANCE CONTACTS

McDaniel Insurance Services
PO Box 1294, Ojai, CA 93024
Tel (805) 646-9948
Fax (805) 646-9976; email: pmcdaniel@mcd-ins.com
Web Site: www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com

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

CFMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

CFMS Newsletter is published 11 times a year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Subscription: \$10 per year, January through December if you wish to receive a hard copy. Newsletters are currently emailed. Newsletters are also available for download on the CFMS website. No password required.

CFMS WEBSITE

The CFMS website is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org
Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this website. Be sure to cite the source.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the newsletter is the 5th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be sent to the editor at bplarue@earthlink.net. "Snail mail"? Please send to the CFMS PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Articles without a byline are written by the editor. 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

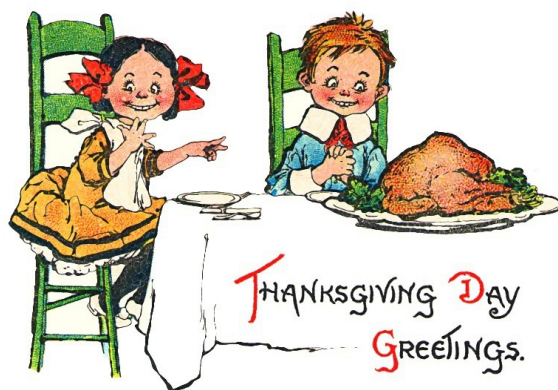
Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3). Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return. If a personal donation is \$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.



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



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

Reponses to Our Survey on Engaging Kids in Rock Clubs

In the pages of the June CFMS Newsletter, I noted the AFMS Juniors Program committee wished to survey the 7 regional federations to get a handle on youth involvement within our ranks. The survey involved giving your society name then answering just 3 yes/no questions. Do you have kids under the age of 18 formally signed up within your society? If so, do you have an active program for those kids with a designated youth leader? Do you utilize the AFMS/FRA badge program or the other free resources provided by the AFMS Youth Program? I posted those questions in the June, July, August, and September newsletters and then distributed the questionnaire at the CFMS Convention's Directors Meeting.

After four months posting, then routing a paper questionnaire in-person, we ended up with a 28% response rate. Given that it's said 10-30% is considered a “good” response to a general survey, I may just be grumpy, but I find it disappointing that less than a third of our clubs could take the time to reply to such a simple survey. With that off my grumpy chest, here are the results.

Per those clubs participating in the survey, 85% report having kids under age 18, but only 44% then have an active kids program with an assigned leader, and only 37% take advantage of the free resources provided via the AFMS Youth Program, such as the Badge Program.

From what I gather in reading comments folks included with their yes/no responses, clubs are fully aware of Federation resources, but the big thing holding them back from establishing a vibrant kids program is a lack of volunteers willing to take on that task, or a perception that having “just” 1, 2, or 3 kids isn't enough. As I've noted many times in the past, the AFMS Badge Program is accessible online on the AFMS website, <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/fra-badge-program>. Kids only need to complete 3 tasks to earn any of the 21 available badges, and there are back-up pages to assist a junior leader—or a parent. Can't get a volunteer willing to lead a formal youth group in your club, or don't think you have enough kids? Encourage parents with eager kids to embark on home-

study via the Badge Program, then contact the AFMS Junior Programs leader (Lora Hall, youth@amfed.org) to receive badges as a reward. They're entirely free to CFMS-affiliated club members! Steer parents in your club to the site and offer encouragement (and resources, like rocks and minerals) to them and their kids.

So far as addressing the lack of willing volunteers, perhaps a Zoom meeting is in order? A Zoom that includes clubs with active and successful youth programs and clubs struggling to get a volunteer willing to get one off the ground. If you fall into either camp and would be interested in participating in such a Zoom, please let me know: jbraceth@roadrunner.com. I promise to be helpful, not grumpy!

Results of our 2026 CFMS Junior Achievement Awards

Congratulations, Gracie & Skyla!

Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Junior Activities Chair

Four outstanding young members submitted applications for our Junior Achievement Awards this year: Skyla Lynn Zuniga (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) and Daniel Nishimura (Pasadena Lapidary Society) in the Under 12 age group and Gracie Grow (Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society) and Adalyn Rivera (Pasadena Lapidary Society) in the 12-18 group. The winners in each group received certificates and \$100 cash and were announced at the September 19 Awards Banquet of the CFMS Convention in Reno. Congratulations go to Skyla and Gracie! I was happy to present Gracie with her award in-person, and while Skyla couldn't attend due to a conflicting school event that weekend, I was happy to present her award in a backyard ceremony during a recent VGMS club event.

After averaging scores from our judges, all candidates received 95 or above, and competition was close. Indeed, just a single point separated our winner from our runner-up in the Under 12 group. My congratulations go to our runner-ups as well as our winners. All are winners in my book! Many of our judges concurred, noting how difficult selection was this year.

In her cover letter accompanying her application, 10-year-old Skyla notes she's been a Pebble Pup going all the way back to 2023, and "while I do love science, I love many more things, too!" Her application shows her active involvement in those many other things, from helping others in school as a peer math advisor,

participating in team sand soccer and beach clean-up, to Girl Scout participation since her days as a kindergartner. Gracie reports an interest in gems and minerals for 12 of her 14 years, an interest which has lead to "my dream to become a geologist." And not just any geologist. Her "big goal is to graduate with a Ph.D. in geology" focused on mineralogy. Her outstanding academic achievement to date (4.0 GPA and multiple awards for academic excellence) bodes well for achieving that goal, and I see a candidate for both CFMS and AFMS scholarships down the road! Just as Skyla participates in Girl Scouts, Gracie dedicates time outside of rockhounding in her local 4-H club and many other activities.

I had an unusually hard time getting judges this year, but in the end five heroes stepped forward even though we only required three. My thanks to Susan Chaisson-Walblom (Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club), Michelle Coleman (San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society), Laura Driskell (Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society), Lee Elliot (San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society), and Debra Gilmore (Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Club).



Gracie Grow receiving her Junior Achievement Award in Reno, adorned in her sash with the many AFMS badges she's earned over the years.



Skyla Lynn Zuniga receiving her Junior Achievement Award in Ventura.

THE AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE RIDES AGAIN!

Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

The AFMS Endowment Fund supports new programs, the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badges available free to local societies, and more. One way it raises funds is a raffle conducted during the annual AFMS Show & Convention. In 2026, CFMS led the way among the 7 regional federations by raising \$800 in ticket sales and donating 6 of the items raffled off. Let's do even better this year!

My goal? A cool \$1,000 in ticket sales and 10 items for the raffle. But to get there, I need your help. The 2027 AFMS Show & Convention doesn't take place until October of next year, but CFMS is already off to a great start. At our recent CFMS Convention in Reno, we sold \$300 in raffle tickets before my supply ran out. (Don't worry. I've been re-supplied!) Plus, we've already received two items for the raffle—a magnesite and turquoise bead necklace crafted by Joyce Watanabe of the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club and a pure silver sand dollar pendant crafted by yours truly.

How can you help? First, purchase raffle tickets! It's \$5 for one or \$20 for five. Second, make a specimen donation! We invite hobby-related items such as gem, mineral or fossils specimens, metal work, jewelry, beadwork, etc. Items should weigh less than 5 pounds and have a minimum value of \$75. How to arrange to purchase tickets or to donate items? It's easy. Call (805-659-3577) or email me (jbraceth@roadrunner.com), and/or see me at the upcoming Fall Directors Meeting in Visalia. Also, please spread the word within your club by reprinting this article in your club newsletter or making announcements at your club meetings. If you'll be going to Camp Paradise in 2027, I hope to be there and will gladly sell tickets and take donated items in-person there, as well.

Thank you to all within CFMS who contributed to the success of this year's 2026 raffle with your item donations and ticket purchases. Here's to doing even better in 2027! Tickets will be drawn at the 2027 SFMS-AFMS Show & Convention October 8-10 in Huntsville, Alabama.



Here are the first two items donated to the raffle



CAMP PARADISE RECAP–2026

By Jill Atkins, ESS Co-Chair

Camp Paradise has become so important to so many people and without your support it cannot survive. Thank you!

Camp Paradise 2026 had a total of 130 students and 15 instructors. Week one had 64 students with 25 first timers to Camp Paradise. Week two had 66 students with 33 being first timers to camp. Week two had a total of 5 cancellations with 3 for illness. This year we had campers from Arizona, Utah, Washington, Michigan and New York as well as Nevada and California.

The evaluations were very positive. Many first timers declared that they will return for two weeks in 2027! There were several suggestions for new classes and we will try to accommodate but I think a camp fire and songs in the evening will not be on the list.

For the first time classes were held on Sunday after dinner the second week. This was so well received that we will include it in the coming year for both weeks. It gave the students an opportunity to see "the barn", meet instructors and sign up for the next day.

2027 instructor line up will look a little different. We are in need of a hard stone carving instructor. Please contact Jill Atkins (atkinsdesign@gmail.com). The intermediate silver instructor will get an assistant and we have a lamp work instructor. Ann Marie has been doing double duty as the registrar as well as intarsia. Nanette Mentz will take over intarsia and Ann Marie will teach metal clay.

I would also like to send a special shout out to Diane Cook and Jim and Nancy Brace Thompson. Our president has been so very supportive and Jim writes about Camp Paradise in the Rock and Gem Magazine. THANK YOU!

Next year the dates for Camp Paradise are August 15-28, 2027. Registration opens March 15, 2027. Online registration and Zeffy payment was a big success. There were very few who could not use that service.

To everyone who contributed to the silent auction either by donating or buying.... THANK YOU. You make Camp Paradise the wonderful experience it is!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS Chair

“The Courtesy of a Response is Appreciated”

I had a question for a local society, but I had no email address or phone number for any of their members. So I turned to their website. No emails or phone numbers to be found, but I happily came upon a “Contact Us” page. “Great!” I thought to myself. “I’ll jot a quick note, and I’ll be talking to someone tomorrow.” In fact, I even received an immediate and courteous auto-response: “Thank you for your message. We will get in touch with you soon.”

Well, that was well over two weeks ago, and I have yet to hear from anyone. I guess “soon” is relative? I’ve written about this before, but it bears repeating. If your club or society is registered as a 501(c)(3) or other formal sort of organization, make no mistake about it. You are a business. Not an informal social group meeting up for morning walks and talks at the dog park. A business. If you wish to display a good face to the public, act like a business one would wish to engage with.

A contact page offers outsiders a portal into your club, an invitation to engage. And how you respond reflects on the club as a whole. Per the old stock phrase, “the courtesy of a response is appreciated.” Simply being ignored, on the other hand, is infuriating. I have to wonder if this is what happens to someone seeking info on how to join that club or asking about an upcoming show or event. This is very basic stuff. “Public Relations 101.”

Certainly, we’re all guilty of it. As other demands on our time pile up, we’ve all let an email or phone message languish for days and longer, especially messages of a more casual nature. But that doesn’t make it any less rude. If you are super-busy, how much time, really, does it take to pen a quick note along the lines of “Thank you for your email. I’ll have a chance to really dig into this and give it some thought next Wednesday.” That acknowledges the person, lets them know their

message has been received and is valued, and holds promise of a fuller response by a definite date. At a “Contact Us” portal, exercise courtesy and professionalism when someone actually strives to make contact. It speaks volumes about who you are as an organization.

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT AWARDS

By Pat LaRue, Rules Committee

Although the turnout was small compared to some years, the displays in competition at the Reno show were outstanding. There were three broad categories of exhibits on display—minerals, cabochons and educational. It is hoped that all who participated learned from the experience and we see you again at a future show.

CFMS trophies judged under the AFMS rules were:

Trophy 2—Unlimited minerals—Paul Otto—
Roseville Rock Rollers

Trophy 4—Cabinet minerals—Robert Seaton—
Ventura GMS

Trophy 6—Miniature Minerals—Robert Seaton—
Ventura GMS

Trophy 17Jr—Traditional Cabochons—Valerie Churchill—
Ventura GMS

Trophy 27Jr Society—Educational general audience—
Ventura GMS Pebble Pups

Trophy 30—Educational informed audience concept—
Jim Brace-Thompson—Ventura GMS

Supplemental Awards:

Special award for an advanced exhibitor—Erin Valenzuela of the Ventura GMS for her educational case.

Novice award sponsored by Ventura GMS—Christina Rosakranze of the Reno GMS for her cabochon display.

Sweepstakes Trohpy—Ventura GMS

I do not have the name of the Bob & Jeane Stultz Mineral Trophy.



Christine Rosakranze with her cabochon display.

Competitive Exhibits cont...



Once again, Ventura GMS was the winner of the Sweepstakes Trophy for their combined efforts at the show. From Left–Jim Brace-Thompson, Valerie Churchill, Erin Valenzuela, Robert Seaton.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE AND AN ADDITIONAL INSURED ENDORSEMENT

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chair

From time to time, you may be required to provide proof of liability insurance coverage to a 'third party' (such as to a fairgrounds Or Other venue at which your society will be hosting a rock and gem show) as a condition of your rental contract for the event.

A certificate of insurance is the agent's attestation (confirmation/verification) of the coverage currently in force..It does not add or change coverage. By itself, it does not automatically extend any protection (liability coverage) to the third party (called a Certificate Holder). This is the reason that almost all rental agreements require the addition of the 'third party' as an actual 'insured' should a claim occur.

As the CFMS maintains a \$1 Million per occurrence General Liability Insurance policy as well as an additional \$1 Million Umbrella Liability policy through the McDaniel Insurance Services LLC insurance agency, the first step is to complete the appropriate 'request form' entitled: Certificate Endorsement Request which is found on the Federation's website (www.cfmsinc.org)

under the category labeled: Insurance Program. It is a 'fillable' form which means that you can complete the form on your Computer, and then just save the form then email it (which is the preferred method), fax it or mail it to: McDaniel Insurance Services LLC. (Saving the form preserves the fillable qualities which is Of assistance in efficient processing).

There are two very important tasks when requesting either (Or both) Of these documents:

1) Be sure to complete the form accurately and submit it to McDaniel Insurance Services with a copy of the lease/rental agreement/contract which clearly reflects the entire name of the Certificate Holder (that is, the 'third party') including wording pertaining entities such as "officers, directors, volunteers, etc".

2) Be sure to submit the form in a timely manner. As reflected on the Certificate Endorsement Request form, both the completed application and a copy of the rental/lease agreement need to be submitted to the McDaniel Insurance Services LLC as soon as possible. Some endorsements can take up to six weeks to process. Be aware that sometimes the contract may request coverages that are not available or may not request coverages that are expected. Additional time would be needed to try to find solutions.

One final reminder: the Federation's Insurance Program covers events with fewer than 1,000 participants per day at no additional premium. However, if you anticipate that attendance at your event on at least one day may exceed 1,000 persons, you must complete a Special Event Questionnaire (which is also found in the Insurance Program portion of the CFMS website) and an additional premium (to be calculated by McDaniel Insurance Services) will be required



CFMS ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD

By Diane Cook, Chair

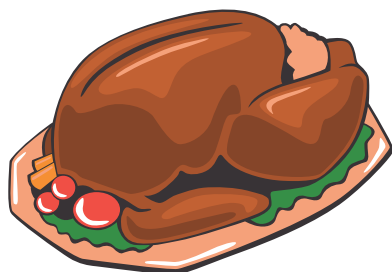
The All American Club Award recognizes clubs for their outstanding activities and accomplishments during the year. Through a club yearbook, members document the many ways their club supports its members, its community and the gem and mineral hobby.

Yearbooks may include club meetings and programs, workshops, field trips, shows, educational outreach, community service, junior programs, member achievements, participation in CFMS and AFMS activities, and service by members as officers or committee chairs. The award recognizes clubs at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, with an overall first-place Gold award. Unfortunately, CFMS did not receive any entries for the 2026 competition. I would like to encourage every club to begin preparing now for the 2027 All American Club Award.

Do not wait until the entry deadline to begin assembling your yearbook. Select a chairperson or small committee now and keep records throughout the year. Save newsletters, photographs, newspaper articles, flyers, programs and information about your club's activities and accomplishments. Ask members to take pictures and provide brief descriptions following each event.

Your club is probably already doing many of the activities included in the judging criteria. The yearbook gives you an opportunity to preserve that history, recognize your members and share your club's accomplishments with CFMS and AFMS.

I hope we will have several CFMS clubs represented in the 2027 competition. Please contact me if you have questions or would like assistance getting started.



FOCUS ON EYE PROTECTION

By Joe Goetz, 2019 Safety Chair

Eye protection is always important, whether at home or at the club workshop or any activity actually. If at the club shop and you're working with stone, there is the possibility of a stone chip or coolant spray hitting you in the face.

There are three ways to protect yourself which are: safety glasses, goggles, and a face shield. Older style safety glasses were made of tempered glass and worked quite well. They also came in prescriptions, that way you didn't have to wear two pairs of glasses or goggles over the glasses you normally wore (that is if you needed glasses). Now, most safety glasses are made of a polycarbonate lenses. They too, can come in a prescription lens if needed. One thing more about polycarbonate is that it can filter out UV rays, thus protecting your eyes from cataracts as well. They can often replace regular sunglasses because they come in a darkened lens and wrap around your head protecting from light intrusion. Even if the lenses are clear the UV blocking still works. So they can be used on fieldtrips as well.

Goggles can be worn over your regular glasses (if needed) or alone. These are made with a polycarbonate lens, they block UV as well. There is the possibility that it may obstruct your vision. They are typically a bit cheaper than the safety glasses. Just looks a bit unusual when on a fieldtrip though.

Now if you don't like wearing goggles or safety glasses, you're in luck, there is a face shield which is as it sounds covers your face as well as your throat from a spray of coolant or house cleaning products which could irritate the skin. The cost is less than the most basic safety glasses and a bit more than goggles. They block UV and can come with an anti-fog coating so your breath doesn't fog the lens so you are blinded and walk into a wall. They also come with a frame that covers the neck and sides of your head protecting from sprays and flying debris.

The only thing you have to do is to decide what is right for you and your application.

Reprinted from *CFMS Newsletter*, March 2019

Source: OSHA materials

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

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
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,
gemshow@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

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@ccmgsclub.com
Website: <http://www.ccmgsclub.com>

November 21-22, 2026 – Santa Cruz, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
The Live Oak Grange, 1900 17th Ave,
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: scrzmgs@gmail.com
Website:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-cruz-rockin-gem-mineral-and-jewelry-holiday-show-tickets-2003175174872>

2027

February 20-21, 2027 – Antioch, CA
Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds,
1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA 94509
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: jennheath50@yahoo.com
Website: www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

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

March 13-14, 2027 – Turlock, CA
Mother Lode Mineral Society of California
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N.
Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380
Hours: 10-5
Contact: (209) 961-3942
show@mothelodemineralsociety.com
Website: <https://turlockgemshow.com>

March 19-21, 2027 – Barstow, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Slash X Ranch Café, 28040 Barstow Rd.,
Barstow, CA 92311
Hours: Sat & Sun 9-5
Contact: (760) 243-2330, rsvp@vvgmc.org
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 20-21, 2027 – San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully
Road, San Jose, CA 95111
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (408) 691-2656
inbox@scvgms.org
Website: <http://www.scvgms.org>

April 11-12, 2027 – Mariposa, CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007
Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: <https://mariposagemclub>

**National/Regional
Shows:**

***California Federation
TBA***

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

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

***Northwest Federation
April 16-18, 2027
Kennewick, WA***

***Rocky Mountain Federation
Logan, UT***

*South Central Federation
November 13-15, 2026
Humble, TX*

*Southeast Federation
AFMS
October 8-10, 2027
Huntsville, AL*

**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.***



HOW TO KILL AN ORGANIZATION

anonymous

- ▶ Don't come to meetings. If you do come, be late. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of coming.
- ▶ If you attend, find fault with the work of others.
- ▶ Never accept an office; it's easier to criticize.
- ▶ Be angry if you are not appointed to a committee.
- ▶ If your opinion is asked, say nothing.
- ▶ Afterward, tell everyone how it should have been done.
- ▶ Do no more than necessary. If a few people work tirelessly, complain that the group is being run by a clique.
- ▶ Don't tell the leader how the group can help you to achieve certain goals—but if it doesn't, quit coming.
- ▶ When you attend a meeting, vote for one thing then forget about it after you get home.
- ▶ Agree to everything at the meeting; disagree later.
- ▶ Get all the benefits your organization provides, but don't make a personal contribution.
- ▶ Talk about cooperation, but never practice it.

From *Pseudomorph*, 11/94

**SEE YOU IN
VISALIA.**

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
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	

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Pat LaRue, Editor

Return Service Requested

