

NFMS ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Friday, March 20th, 2026 – 2:00 pm Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, Montana

Zoom Link for the Meeting: <https://meet.google.com/tyb-ewfn-rns?pli=1>

Parliamentarian-Darrell Coyle

ORDER OF BUSINESS. . .

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance -Michael Rhodes, President

Introductions: Officers, Chairs-Michael Rhodes, President

Introduction of Past Presidents and VIPs-Jennifer Haley, 1st Vice President

Introduction of Attendees – Directors/Delegates-June Dorning, 2nd Vice President

Invocation-Evan Day

Moment of Silence for Those Lost-Michael Rhodes, President (See last page for list)

Credentials – Swearing in of Directors – Clara and Del Walker, Credentials

Committee Reports – Acknowledgements, additional information – Committee Chairpersons

Old Business

Endowment Fund Survey Results/Projects-Jim Brain

Additional Old Business

AFMS Endowment Fund Ticket Sales

Door Prize Drawing

Distribution of Directories - 1 Per Club and Committee Chair (additional \$5.00)

New Business

Adoption of Proposed Budget-Jennifer Haley

Rules and Awards Proposals-Larry Hulstrom

Introduction of Executive Board Nominees and Vote-Lora Hall

Plea for 2027 and 2028 NFMS Host

Additional Business

Adjournment

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS-REPORTS IN PACKET

President-Michael Rhodes

Executive Secretary-Judi Allison

Treasurer-Adam Pettitt

Budget /1st Vice President-Jennifer Haley

Bulletin Aids-Priscilla Hall-Ford

Credentials-Clara & Del Walker

Custodian-2nd Vice President-June Dorning

Directory-Janel Lacey

Education-Lora Hall

Endowment Fund-Vicki Johnson/Jim Brain

Field Trip-Doug True

Historian-Open Ronna Watkins, pro tem

Juniors-Jennifer Fitch

Newsletter Editor-Jessica Himple

Nominating-Lora Hall

Northwest Rockhound Retreat-Walt Butler

Rules & Awards-Joshua Hulstrom

Past Presidents Council-Larry Hulstrom

Public Lands Advisory-Susie Koppert

Public Relations-Open

Resolutions-Audrey Vogelpohl

Rockhound of the Year-Laurie Ellis

Safety-Kathy Larson

Scholarship-Mary Lou Northrup

Show Coordination-Faith Farley

Slide/Video- Ronna Watkins

Stamps-Aaron Currier/Ed Anderson

Supplies-Open

Ways & Means-Open

Webmaster-Brad Larson

Website Competition-Open

ALAA-Jennifer Haley

AFMS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

AFMS President -Ronna Watkins

AFMS Junior Program Chair-Lora Hall

Endowment Fund-Judi Allison

Program Competition-DeLane Cox

Scholarship Foundation-Mary Lou Northrup

REPORTS FOLLOW:

President– Michael Rhodes

The annual report is part of the accountability for the responsibilities we hold within the Northwest Federation. Most of the annual reports are specific. The First Vice President is also the budget committee chairperson, this is where the proposed budget for the coming year is presented to the membership. The 2nd Vice President is the Federation Custodian, that report lists the various materials owned by the federation as well as listing who actually has possession of those items. Committee heads report on their specific committee responsibilities'

The President has no specific area of responsibility to report on, so my Annual Report is a bit more freeform. While I was in the USAF I learned that the only real constant in this world is change. Phrases like “firmly etched in Jello” “rigidly flexible,” and “subject to change without notice” explained the actual operation of many units. That is not to say there wasn't planning. Most missions were planned well in advance, but situations easily become fluid in the “real world.”

Change has been my experience since becoming a member of the Executive Committee now the Executive Board (change?) At the Billings Annual Meeting there was a somewhat contentious discussion of going electronic with our NFMS Newsletter. The proposal was passed the next year without too much discussion. We have altered the format of the NFMS Directory, removing most private information and cutting down the size (and cost) of the directory. Last year we made major corrections and improvements to the Bylaws and Operation Procedure. We also changed our federation year to correspond to the calendar year. This was actually a financial decision because our fiscal year didn't even end at the end of the calendar quarter, which made something of a mess with taxes.

Since becoming a member of the Executive Board, we have had two NFMS Treasurers pass away in office, which also caused some IRS confusion, but I think the confusion has been straightened out (Thanks Lora Hall). Our faithful federation Secretary, Judi Allison, who says she's not a numbers person has carried that additional responsibility for quite a while. At our 2026 annual meeting we will formally elect a new Treasurer, who will give us stability in the years ahead.

Some clubs have withdrawn from the federation, not seeing any benefit in belonging to our organization, while other clubs have applied to be member clubs. Change is constant. While I am sad that some loud, squeaky wheels have caused clubs to abandon us, I am happy to see the overall growth, not just in the number of member clubs, but in the membership in many of these clubs. A new generation is catching “rock fever”, and not looking for a cure,

Thanks to Anna McKenny for creating and running the Endowment Fund Survey, and thanks to those of you who took the time to respond to the survey, These responses will help determine the direction (change) for the use of endowment fund monies.

The truth is that change is constant. Some members of the Executive Board will move up to other responsibilities within Judi Allison, who is the repository of our federation memory, will remain as secretary, but will shed the responsibilities of Treasurer Pro Tem. A new Treasurer will be elected, a new second Vice President will be elected, and the rest will move up one notch. I will move to immediate past president at the end of the calendar year. Annual Meetings will be held somewhere else next year (WE ARE LOOKING FOR A CLUB TO VOLUNTEER TO SPONSOR UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS!!! [HOST A SHOW])

I want to thank the members of the EB for their expertise and support. I want to thank you for your interest in rocks, minerals, fossils, geology, and earth sciences.

As always, ROCK ON!

Secretary – Judi Allison

Hi folks. For some reason, this year seems to be a scramble. We have had midyear meetings before and annual meetings early in the year, but I have really felt a case of the “catch ups” this year. I think my plate was a bit smaller than what it was holding. By sitting down and writing this and getting the agenda almost finalized, I feel I am catching up a bit. I do have to admit that I tend to pile my plate a little high at times. Throw in an impromptu trip to Pheonix to visit family and a previously unscheduled trip to the west side of Washington for a great nephew’s wedding and things start to spill over. I do have to admit, though, that I rather abhor being idle, so I guess it is all working out.

I am excited about the coming year. I do think we are working hard to continue to move forward with our Federation. We are striving for more visibility and interaction. We are creating opportunities for members, and we are working on simplifying communication and creating a more universal platform. Even though a number of our “committees” can be run by a “chairperson”, a committee is made up of more than one individual. You will see that our new Education Chair, Lora Hall, very much believes in this philosophy to create an effective committee. I have seen her commitment before and have every confidence that she will follow through and create something exciting and dynamic. In the very short time since she decided to take on this position, I have seen wonderful results.

Don’t get me wrong. Every person and everyone who volunteers for our Federation is a gem, and many do a great deal in the shadows. But, taking up on Lora’s push, everyone could use a little assistance and support. Take for example, our wonderful newsletter editor, Jessica Himple. She puts together a stellar publication, but I know for a fact she would love to see some input from individual members and clubs. Perhaps your club had a great activity at a meeting; maybe you wrote a poem, or a member gave a great account of a recent field trip. Send the information to Jessica and she will put it in the newsletter. Everyone loves to read about what others are doing. It can add interest and ideas for their own clubs. Our Bulletin Aids Chairperson could use help soliciting for and organizing submissions for the contests. There are two “stamp guys” who work together to take care of the piles of stamps donated for benefit of the Juniors. We also have committees that are completely vacant. Consider doing some volunteering and help revitalize and reinvent the positions. Let’s keep moving forward. I believe there is a saying about how “many hands make short work”. Come join in and enjoy the fun!

NFMS Treasurer-Adam Pettitt *Income/Expense Report ADDENDUM III (Prepared by Judi)(If interested, please ask for a copy.)*

1st Vice President –Jennifer Haley

As I write this, I am close to finishing up working on the NFMS Proposed Budget for 2027. Each year for every NFMS 1st VP, one of their jobs is chairman for the budget. Because I’ve done it before, and in understanding all the thought and details that need to go into it, I actually find it rather fun this time around. And that’s saying a lot, because I never thought of myself as a number’s person before. So, you see, you can volunteer to be an NFMS officer or a committee chairman or be on a committee, and you’ll learn so much that it is involved in being a federation. I don’t plan the budget all on my own. I work on laying out the budget though interactions and feedback from the chairmen and the officers. Once I think I have it ready, then it goes back to the executive board for review and final tweaking, before it’s presented to all of you at the NFMS Annual Meeting for your approval. I can tell you, working together with everyone is a great experience. The NFMS is a wonderful federation, and I’ve enjoyed being a part of it since I joined a few years ago. It’s full

of warm and friendly people, who are generous with their time, and dedicated to this federation. So, I would encourage you to volunteer. Each year we are always looking for a 2nd VP, so please do think about it. There are a few open committees that could use an extra hand, and don't forget, there is room for your creativity within those committees and officer positions.

As 1st VP, I am also a member of the NFMS Endowment Fund Committee, and I am the Club at Large- President. For the Club at Large, so far this year I've sent out a letter of hello to each of the members and reminded them the various contests and Juniors programs. I plan on keeping in touch with those members during this year. I am also currently the AFMS 5th VP.

2nd Vice President-June Dorning

Budget-1st Vice President-Jennifer Haley

(See the Proposed Budget as Addendum II) (If interested, please ask for a copy.)

Bulletin Aids -Priscilla Hall-Ford

Priscilla had an emergency this year and is unable to attend the show. We wish her well. (No Editor's Breakfast)

Credentials - Clara & Del Walker

By the time you read this, our job should already be completed. Thank you for your help in making our job easier by sending us the info on who your Directors and Delegates are who will be attending this meeting.

Clara & Del Walker, Credentials Chair

Custodian-2nd Vice President-June Dorning

(See the Custodial Report as Addendum I)

Directory - Janel Lacey

As I add this tidbit in the report, Janel is busy getting the Directory in order so she can take it to the printers before she leaves to take her granddaughter on a special trip. We will miss her at the meeting but thank her for all the work she has put in to have the Directories available for distribution at the Show.

Education-Lora Hall

When my term of President was over, I began looking around for another way I could volunteer and stay active in the federation. There was no shortage of empty positions, but in keeping with my background an interpretation and environmental education, I decided the Education Chair was where I could do the most good, or the minimal damage, depending on your point of view.

Like many positions in the federation, the Education Chair it is supposed to be a chair position that guides a committee or group of people working towards the same goal. With that in mind, I am looking for other people that would like to join the Education Committee. I envision us meeting 3 to 4 times a year via zoom to exchange ideas and come up with projects that will help the federation fulfill its mission as an educational organization. Everyone is welcome to join with a very limited time commitment. If you would like to jump on board, simply shoot me an email or drop me a text. Maybe we can work on an in-person meeting at the annual show and again at the mid-year meeting. Moving forward, I see us working hand in hand with the Endowment Committee to help further their mission as well.

To jump start the education program and show off our pride in the NFMS, we ordered a limited number of custom designed t-shirts in garnet red and Sapphire blue that will be for sale at the

Annual Convention and Show in Missoula, MT. Be sure to grab yours early! At \$15 you can even afford to pick-up one in each color.

I look forward to serving as your Education Chair and if you can give a couple hours of your time every other month to zoom and share your ideas, please consider joining the Education Committee.

Endowment Fund – Vicki Johnson, Chair: Jim Brain, Financial Advisor
2026 Annual meeting NFMS Endowment Fund Report

The Endowment Fund Committee would like to thank the Everett Rock and Gem Club for the significant donation they recently made in honor of Art CASS who passed away 12/20/2025. According to [his Seattle Times](#) obituary, “*Art Cass (Arthley M. Cass, 1939–2025) was a long-time member and instructor for the Everett Rock & Gem Club in Everett, Washington. Known for his expertise in lapidary, he taught classes and was recognized as part of the club's "prodigious brain trust".* The Endowment Committee continues to encourage clubs within the federation to make donations in memory of deceased members.

1. Prioritizing the potential EF spending options for this year. We followed up on a suggestion made at the September annual meeting in WW to use a Google Survey of the NFMS membership to get a sense of membership support for the various EF spending options that have been presented. We want to thank Anna McKinney of the Marysville club for all the work she put in to make the survey happen.

The survey got off to a rocky start in late October when we released two surveys. One survey was sent to each club and was intended to be completed by the club’s leadership committee reflecting the degree of support by their club of the various items. The other was to be forwarded by the club to their entire club members to gauge the support of individual members. Having two surveys turned out to be very confusing, so in mid-November we started over with one survey that was intended to reach the entire federation membership. We tried several ways to communicate info about the survey to membership. In addition to sending survey instructions to the designated contact person that Judi Allison uses to send information clubs with several follow-up reminders, the NFMS President and Executive Sec encouraging members to take the survey in their messages to the membership in the NFMS newsletter.

By the end of January, 2026 we had received 340 responses from members representing 44 clubs. This represented a response from 6% of the total federation membership which is about what is expected when conducting such a survey of a large dispersed membership group. For a first try at using such a survey, the committee felt it was successful and has given us enough information to prioritize the spending proposals which will be forwarded to the NFMS Board of Directors for final decision.

It should be noted that despite all the effort to get the word out about the survey, we did not get responses from members of 11 clubs which may have identified a different problem.

- Judi found that some of the club contact information was not correct or out of date.
- Some contacts didn’t pick up on the fact that they were expected to forward the information regarding the survey to their individual members.
- The various Clubs took different approaches to disseminate information. Some forward the info directly to members via emails. Others posted info on their club web site and members were expected to check the web site periodically to get information.
- Computer skills and access varies significantly across the federation membership.

2. Committee work that remains to be done this business year includes:

- a. Correct information in the NFMS Newsletter regarding where to send donations to the Endowment Fund.
 - b. Developing final details and cost estimates for the selected funding options.
 - c. Update the paperwork at Charles Schwab to reflect the current committee membership.
 - d. Transfer the committee's historical financial records to the new Secretary/Treasurer.
 - e. Start the search for new funding opportunities to consider in the 2027 business year.
3. Finally, we would like to thank Lyle Vogelpohl for the hundreds of hours of work over the years he has put supporting the Federation and Endowment Fund Committee activities and wish him the best in his retirement from the Federation Activities.

Submitted by:

Vicki Johnson, Endowment Fund Committee Chair

Jim Brain, Endowment Fund Financial Advisor

**NFMS ENDOMWNT FUND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2024-25 ANNUAL MEETING
(ADDENDUM VI) (If interested, please ask the Secretary for a copy)**

Field Trip – Doug True –

There will be a trip to the Blue Forest over Memorial Weekend (May 21-25) and a trip to the Tee Pee Canyon Agate area June (25-28). Doug will have the details at the meeting.

Historian – Open All historical items are safely store in Hillsboro, Oregon thanks to Gordon Hale and the generosity of Bill Harvey and his mother. One can see the size of the keepsakes in the Custodial report. If you are interested in History and love poring over old materials, a Chairmanship as Historian might be right up your alley. You get to look through the keepsakes and write up about the history of the Federation.

Juniors – Jennifer Fitch

Hello, everyone!

I want to share some exciting news happening with the NFMS Juniors! First of all...we have a new NFMS Junior's Patch designed and on its way to us! I held a contest to have the kiddos give inspiration for the design, and had 9 children from around the NFMS send in submissions! Wow! A main design was chosen, then a few members collaborated together and were able to include little parts from every submission into the design. I am so excited to unveil and share these with the kids! All participants are getting an award for helping!

The next thing I did was go through and try to revamp the Junior Achievement Award. I felt that the kids needing to remember activities and achievements from two years ago was a bit too hard, especially for the younger kiddos, so I changed it. Now they only have to remember the activities in which they were involved and what they achieved for one year. I also changed the frequency they are allowed to enter. Previously, they could enter, then had to wait two years to do it again unless they moved to a different age bracket. This is too confusing for me, much less the kiddos, to keep track. Now, they can enter EVERY year! This will help encourage participation and will also simplify everything for everyone. I also made the due date the same every year... entries must be postmarked or emailed by February 15th of the year. The last thing I revamped was the prize amounts. Some kids were only receiving a prize of \$5. This is not really a great showing that our awesome federation cares for the kids. So...I changed the amounts to reflect a more generous amount, thus hopefully encouraging more participation in the future.

I have enjoyed getting the reports from the junior leaders on all the things the juniors of the federation have been doing this past year! I love including the achievements of the badges earned in the NFMS newsletters, as well as a joke of the month and a little letter to everyone. One thing

that I have also been doing is participating in the AFMS Junior Committee as we update our FRA badge program. Many cool things have happened there, including the invention of an all new badge – Sand and Sediment. More things are in the works concerning the badge program, and things will be announced as they happen.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve the NFMS in this position. My hope is that all clubs with juniors can move towards a maximum participation, and I am blessed to be of assistance to these leaders!

Newsletter Editor – Jessica Himple

As editor of the Northwest Mineralogical Newsletter, this year has been both rewarding and transformative. One of the biggest developments has been transitioning our publication to new software as we prepare for the phase-out of Microsoft Publisher, which will soon no longer be operable. While the shift required some extra learning and adjustments behind the scenes, it also offers exciting opportunities to improve how we design and share the stories, discoveries, and knowledge that make our community so special. It continues to be a privilege to help bring together the voices of collectors, researchers, and enthusiasts from across the Northwest. I'm always grateful for the enthusiasm and expertise of our contributors, and I encourage readers to send in articles, photos, field trip stories, or mineral highlights. Your submissions are what keep the newsletter vibrant and engaging for everyone!

Nominating – Lora Hall

Introducing 2027 2nd Vice President Candidate-Steve Stiff

Hello everyone, my name is Steve Stiff and I live in Missoula, MT with my wife Linnea (we celebrate our 48th anniversary this year). I am currently serving as vice president of the Hellgate Mineral Society, and was recently appointed its society director.

I served in the U.S. Air Force, attended the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. I moved to Missoula in 1977, which is where I met my wife. I attended the Missoula Vocational-Technical Center and then worked for many years with Honeywell, Inc. I later attended the University of Montana, taking classes with my son, and received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (I love saying I got a BS in CS). I then taught as a tenured assistant professor at Missoula College. While teaching at Missoula College I received my Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Now, finally, my wife and I are now enjoying our retirement.

My interest in the Hellgate Mineral Society began a number of years ago when my wife and I were told by close friends of the club's rock show taking place at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula; we had been picking up the odd rock and mineral with these friends during our explorations around western Montana. We joined the club the day we attended the show and we have been active in the club ever since.

My son got us truly interested and active in collecting specimens on a trip to the Challis, ID area and the rest is history. We enjoy collecting agate, jasper, quartz, fluorite, and petrified wood all of which are abundant in various locations in Montana and Idaho. My son and I have collected opal in Nevada. We have also collected fire agate, flame agate, sunstones and thundereggs in Oregon. We have dug quartz crystals in Montana, Idaho, and Arkansas, and collected petrified wood in Montana, Idaho, and Oregon (but we haven't been to the Blue Forest in Wyoming, yet).

Lora Hall nominated me for Second Vice President of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and after some encouragement from Judi Allison, I accepted the nomination. I thank you for the opportunity to serve the NFMS.

Additional members being presented for the Executive Board are as follows:

Jennifer Haley -NFMS President

June Dorning-NFMS 1st Vice President

Judi Allison-NFMS Secretary

Adam Pettitt-NFMS Treasurer (Although this ran in the newsletter, since the assembly will be formally electing him, I have added it here.)

I have been married to my wife Denise for 4 years and we have been together for 10 years now. I have 3 adult children of my own, 2 adult stepchildren and 2 of the cutest dogs ever! I was originally born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and moved to Oregon for the first time in high school. Since then, I have moved back and forth a few times but have lived exclusively in Oregon for the last 25 years. I love living in Oregon because I am 1.5 hours from the beach and mountains, plus there are some great minerals here in the pacific northwest for digging up.

Outside of work I enjoy rockhounding of course, playing golf, attending beer/wine festivals with my wife, trips to the beach, spending time at home with the wife and dogs, and watching sports on TV. Formula 1 and Football (Go Giants!) are the sports I watch the most but will watch any sport really. I also really enjoy decorating my house for Halloween and Christmas. I strive to be the house all the kids want to trick or treat at. Luckily, this November I get to take a 2-week trip to Japan, which has been on the top of my bucket list since I was a teenager. Hopefully, I can convince my family to go rockhounding with me while we are there.

I have been an enthusiastic rockhound for about 4 years, since my youngest kid graduated high school and moved out. I was always interested in rocks but really did not have the time to focus on the hobby while I was raising 3 kids alone and even less time when my wife and I combined our families. Once my son moved out, I decided that I needed a hobby and started rockhounding and prospecting. I have been starting to gather lapidary machines, and raw materials so fill my winter with cabbing projects.

I officially joined WAMS in 2023 and for the same reason most of us joined a club, to learn where to dig more rocks! As a member I really enjoyed going on field trips, attending meetings and found myself wanting to volunteer more. The Federation Director spot was open and even though I had no clue what that position fully entailed, I volunteered for it, and I am glad I did. I had a wonderful time in Walla Walla, met some friendly club and federation members, bought a bunch of rock and this experience made me want to get more involved in the federation. So, when Judi asked for volunteers for Treasurer, I jumped at the chance since my work skills matched up well.

If anyone has any questions about me, I am more than happy to answer them. Thank you for learning a little bit more about me and I look forward to collaborating with you all.

Northwest Rockhound Retreat – Walt Butler

In 2025 we had an exciting camp with a local wildfire that came within 3 miles of Camp Hancock. On Thursday we had a lightning storm that started a wildfire. On Friday during the Oral Auction, we experienced an unusually strong thunderstorm and pelting rain. The sound on the roof of Berrie Hall was so loud that the auctioneer had to yell to be heard. On Saturday while forming up for Dinner a Fire Marshal drove up and ordered us to evacuate the camp (Level 3 – Go Now). We immediately packed up all personal gear, equipment to evacuate the camp within 25 minutes. We evacuated with dinner still on the table.

We are looking forward to another great camp Sep 7th through 13th 2026. Registration will Start March 1st, 2026. Walt Butler, Camp Hancock Rockhound Retreat Chairman

Past Presidents' Council – Larry Hulstrom

As of February 2026 there have been no clubs stepping forward to host the 2027 show and meeting. There are plenty of resources available, including a monetary loan from the NFMS to kick start a

club. The NFMS Operation Procedures spell out the duties of the Host Society in OP General-2. There is even a Guidebook for Hosting an NFMS Show found on the NFMS website at [2025Guidebook for Hosting an NFMS Show.pdf](#). Please consider this and get in touch with me or any member of the NFMS Executive Board.

Public Lands Advisory – Susie Koppert

Although the RAC (Regional Advisory Committee) was dismantled in 2024, Susie continues to keep abreast of developments relative to our rockhounding rights. There is a possibility the RAC may resume in the future. If so, Susie plans to reapply to sit on the committee.

Resolutions – Audrey Vogelpohl

Rockhound of the Year – Laurie Ellis

Send your submissions to nfmsroy at gmail.com

Rules & Awards Committee – Joshua Hulstrom

We received 13 competitive display applications for the show in Missoula, MT. Judges are being contacted to provide support at the show.

The Rules & Awards Committee needs new members. I have been Rules & Awards chair for the past 4 years. My dad, Larry Hulstrom, has performed the role of Exhibits Registrar for the past 3 years so that we would have someone in this position. If you are interested in becoming part of this 3-person committee, please contact me or talk with me at the Missoula show.

Safety – Kathryn Larson

I write an article each month for the Newsletter concerning Safety. What it is, how to be safe and things to look out for. These are normal, everyday common-sense things that we tend to take for granted or overlook in our busy lives. Sometimes I feel like I'm that nagging mom who tells you to take an umbrella and not to do dangerous things.

Coming up with new topics each month has been an interesting challenge. Sometimes the ideas flow quickly and other times I got nothing. Looking at the things that I do in my life has often given me new topics. For example, I was working on a grinder with a new project and quickly realized the dangers involved and how I needed to protect my hearing, my breathing and my eyesight.

I would like to hear ideas from other people suggesting topics for safety. I can only tell you so often to take extra water, tell others of your plans and to wear good shoes. Are there other things that you would like to hear about? Kathryn Larson, NFMS Safety Chair

Scholarship – Mary Lou Northrup

This spring there has been little activity with the scholarship fund. We did receive a nice contribution from the Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corporation. And we had an addition of a \$75.00 check from Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club in memory of Paul "Bear" Bentrup. We do have a new treasurer for the scholarship fund. She is Lucy Jackson and lives in New York state. Any donations to this fund are greatly appreciated. Remember each year two geology students in the northwest area are awarded \$4,000 to further their studies. Keep those donations coming. (Students chosen this year were Amelia Fullwood and Russell Krantz, both attending the University of Montana in Missoula. Their articles describing their graduate projects were featured in the February issue of the NFMS Newsletter.)

Show Coordination – Faith Farley

I enjoy writing up the shows and publishing them. The folks I come in contact with, either through an email or over the phone, are very appreciative and dedicated to their part of the process. I feel that all seven states understand the time it takes to publish now, which makes for better advertising for all our shows in general.

I'd like to continue in 2026 unless there's someone who is waiting to take their shot at a position. Thank you Judi for ALL that you do and coordinate for everyone.

Thank you, Lora, for Everything you've been involved with in your time as president. Sincerely,
Faith Farley

Slide/Video –Ronna Watkins

There has not been any activity borrowing from the library since our Mid-year meeting. Plans to duplicate slides are still on the agenda. I have added the AFMS Public Relations Chairman Jim Brace-Thompson's powerpoint presentation flash drive to our collection "Basic Elements of Showmanship: Exhibiting Your Material to Best Advantage". with 45 slides of tips and examples to craft a fine exhibit.

More programs: We have been given permission by Nick Zentner to present his videos for our club programs. Find them here: <https://www.nickzentner.com/>

NOTE: These are not the "Nick on the Rocks" programs owned by public broadcasting, they are his geology lectures and personal productions.

One last thing: We want you to participate in this annual competition that has cash prizes. The purpose of the New Programs Competition is to encourage the production of earth science programs related to the rockhound hobby by the individual members and member clubs of the various Federations through the conduct of visual arts program competitions. As a result of the annual competitions, the member Regional Federations are provided with duplicate copies of the award winning programs. These programs are therefore available for use by the individual clubs and societies through their associated Regional Federation. Go to <https://www.amfed.org/contests/program-competition> or contact Delane Cox <delanec3 at earthlink.net>

Stamps – Aaron Currier and Ed Anderson

Ed and I have been sorting and organizing stamps that have come in. Thank you to everyone who has submitted material for us to sell to raise money for our youth scholarship program. We sold another \$40 recently, including a pretty cool framed set of first day covers recognizing Pope John Paul's visit to the US a number of years ago. That's just one example of the unique things we see passing through. With the check I'm sending to our new Treasurer, I think we are contributed \$1323 total since we started our effort. I am sending a check for \$160 tomorrow. We have so much more to go too. If you are considering donating stamps, contemporary commemoratives are good, but the best fund-raising opportunities come from mail/postage that are from WW2 and older, foreign stamps, and, of course, collections. If you have questions, don't hesitate to email me (Aaron) at fossils@curriergraphics.com. Thanks again for those who have donated! It's a lot of work to go through all of them, but it's a lot of fun too. I'm sending the check in tomorrow's mail to Adam.

Supplies – Open

Ways & Means – Open

Webmaster – Brad Larson

Nothing really, just updating new officers, the newsletter and anything else that is needed for the members as per the executive board.

For Website Contest:

Website Competition – Open

American Lands Access Association ALAA -

Those We've Lost Fall 2025-2026

Idaho Gem Club - Ron Ridenour.

Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society - LaVonna Griffin

Lakeside Gem and Mineral Society and Hatrockhounds - Eileen Moon

Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society - Pauline Prather

Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society - Michael Szramek, Rick Magnaghi, and Jack Edwards

Everett Rock and Gem Club - Art Cass

Mount Hood Rock Club - Mary Bolton (January 2026)

Chugach Gem and Mineral Society - Mary Helms (January 2026)

Hells Canyon Gem Club - Amil Callahan (February 2026)

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, Montana
March 20, 2026

President, Michael Rhodes called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. He then led the pledge of Allegiance. Michael then introduced his *fellow officers*: 1st Vice President, Jennifer Haley; 2nd Vice President, June Dorning; Secretary, Judi Allison; and Treasurer, Adam Pettitt.

Past Presidents of NFMS were acknowledged: Darrell Coyle, Larry Hulstrom, Ronna Watkins (currently AFMS President), Bill Smith (also past AFMS President), Doug True and Judi Allison.

Additionally, members present representing their respective clubs were Josh and Larry Hulstrom, Lakeside; Evan Day and Nick Bellucci, Golden Spike; Steve Stiff; Hellgate; Janet and Bill Smith, Chugach; Vince Rozzi and Ken Zahn, Bozeman; Bob Graham (with friend Amarah Milan), Willamette (WAMS); Vicki and Emmett Johnson, Southern Washington; Jim Brain, Club at Large; Anna McKinney, Marysville; Ronna Watkins representing Yakima; Maria Holt and Michael Rose, Northern Idaho; Jerry and Mary Lou Northrup, Hells Canyon, Doug True, Billings; Ed Moser, Owyhee; Debbie Mitchell, Idaho Gem; Sean Price, Central Montana; Laurie Ellis, Hatrockhounds; Jon Elmgren, Everett; Don Dixon, Owyhee; Dave Clements, Springfield Thunderegg; Jim Hudspath, Bitterroot; Susie Koppert, Mt Hood, Clara and Del Walker, Prineville PowWow and Jennifer Fitch, Hellgate. Attending online were Dave Clausen, West Seattle and Brian Pollack, Clackamette.

After *Pastor Evan Day* offered an *invocation*, President, Michael called for a moment of silence to honor those who have passed in the last year.

Credentials Chairs, Clara and Del gave the count of 16 clubs represented by 25 delegates. Clara made a motion that the five with no credentials be voted in. Larry Hulstrom seconded. With the motion passing, the total number of clubs represented was 21 with 30 delegates.

President Michael stated the *committee reports* were in the packet. It was announced that our new Treasurer, Adam Pettitt now has an account with the ability to conduct business.

Jennifer Haley presented the *proposed budget for 2027* noting that some line items were increased significantly due to costs and the nature of the committees. Juniors was detailed as an example. After the correction of a line item and a request from Jennifer, Anna McKinney moved that the budget be accepted as amended with the ability to move money within the budget as needed. Doug True seconded. With a show of paddles, the budget was accepted.

Credentials Chair, Clara, reiterated the need to inform credentials about your attendance. "Please let credentials know via email who is coming. PLEASE! It would be appreciated."

Jim Brain pointed out that he had a supplement to the Endowment Fund Survey that was not in the original report.

Doug True told of the *two Federation Field trips* he has set up. One is to Southwest Wyoming over Memorial Day weekend. The second one is to TeePee Canyon, South Dakota to look for agates. It will be later in June. (A map and information for

the Blue Forest trip to Wyoming has been sent to the clubs via email.) Additional information will be forthcoming about the South Dakota trip.

Jennifer Fitch asked that folks each take a packet for their *Junior leader*. She spoke about the fact that it was decided to double the awards for the Junior Achievements, as the previous dollar amount has become archaic. The Junior program continues to thrive and grow. She displayed the new NFMS Juniors patch that the Juniors had a hand in designing.

Josh Hulstrom pointed out that the *Rules and Awards* commitment is supposed to be for three years: year 1, Registrar, year 2, Judging Director and year 3 Chairperson. He is on his fifth year with Larry stepping in to help him. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**. Please consider taking on the role. (If you read the minutes well, you will find that you can now get mileage for taking part in this vital aspect of competition.)

As *Chairperson of the Past Presidents Committee*, *Larry Hulstrom* offered to have the Lakeside Club host the 2027 Annual Show. Doug True moved to approve the offer “before he changes his mind”. Anna McKinney seconded the proposal. All voted in favor except Larry, who jokingly voted against it.

Susie Koppert spoke about RAC covering this side of the Rockies. She continues to urge folks to write to their representatives. Letters are counted by volume. The more letters the better. Doug added for people to get with their local BLM and work together with them. They are a skeleton crew.

Laurie Ellis said she has noticed a few more entering their folks for Rockhound of the Year honor. Judi spent some time explaining that it is an honor, not a contest. Anyone can enter a member of their club (one adult or a couple and one Junior) each year. Send a write up and photo, if you can, to Laurie. You will receive a certificate to present to your honoree(s) and the information will be shared with the NFMS and AFMS newsletters.

Mary Lou Northrup thanked the Mt Hood club for their \$25 donation to the *scholarship fund* which helps fund two \$4000 scholarships for graduate students in the field of science in the Northwest.

Ronna Watkins stated she is “retiring” from the *Slide and Video Library* position, and that a new person is needed. There are around 100 presentations.

Adam will take the collection of stamps donated to the “stamp guys”, Ed and Aaron.

Jennifer H reported for ALAA that at Wiley Wells Geode Bed the Blue Ribbon organization began a lawsuit against the planning changes that may affect collecting in Willey Wells and surrounding areas. Collection is currently still allowed, so now is the time to do so, as there is a question about its future.

Old Business:

Jim Brain stated that he has served for eleven years as the *Financial Advisor* for the Endowment Fund Committee and during that entire time he has tried to involve the membership in decisions about how to spend the money. That is why the Google Survey was created. He thanked Anna McKinney for her part in its creation. The results were achieved by participation of about 6% of the membership.

Following is a list of preferences.

1. More Field Trips
2. Rock Talk Package (canned programs)
3. Undergraduate scholarships
4. Blanket Liability (It may be too costly-possibly up to \$50,000 per year.)
5. Camp Hancock

He spoke a bit about the slides and videos being a low priority. Ronna stated that the value is historical. Doug suggested the possibility of some way to put them on the web of all to access.

Jim continued that the survey also included a section asking for volunteers to help with particular projects. He said of those leaving their names, when contacted, only one in four responded. Vicki is spearheading the "Fieldtrip Project" and got a 50% response from her volunteers.

For the Rock talk response, Anna offered to show individuals how to "hack" AI and create a "how on the computer for their show.

Another request from some respondents was for more things to do at the annual show. One has to factor in programs and costs. A split could be considered. (Perhaps a "local expert" could do a hands-on activity with a small charge for the materials. I created a "wire crochet bracelet at a show once."-Judi's Comment)

In the end, the Endowment Board is recommending funding three projects.

Field Trips-Allocation of \$4000

Ideas and discussions are being generated by a committee

Scholarships (Undergrad)-Allocation of \$3000

Possibly 3-\$1000, 2-\$1500 or 1-\$3000

Camp Hancock-Allocation of \$4000

Money will be paid directly to camp treasury to help offset attendees

cost

The final mode of distribution will be at the discretion of the Board.

Additional discussion about the survey and points of interest continued. Anna suggested that there is a "Foundation Group" (Lawyers who represent non-profits) that might be able to advise about liability insurance. Doug offered that the biggest problem with fieldtrips is that every club has its own "batch" of trips and they don't want others in "their land". We need teamwork. Michael stated we need to work on intercommunication. Bob Graham mentioned that sharing information and swapping between groups might be done. With their club, one must be a member. Michael suggested the possibility of being able to go once without being a member: bring a buddy. Anna mentioned that Workplace for nonprofits is a shared drive that all clubs could access. Vicki said their club hasn't had field trips for ten years because of lack of access to land that has been bought up. The committee is looking at private mines and at "big places". Evan pointed out that the mechanism for access to schools for scholarships is in place there are 102 schools within the boundary of the NFMS to offer Geology classes. Bill Smith stated the Board needs to work on that. Jon Elmgren stated if you want to go on a field trip, join the club. Some felt joining multiple clubs could be expensive. Jerry felt maybe a person could go on one without joining.

Before the break, Judi offered tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund. Tickets were drawn for the three rocks that were offered as door prizes. Members were asked to gather a Directory for their club or as a Chairperson. Additional Directories were available for \$5.00 each.

After a short break we returned to *New Business*.

Larry Hulstrom, speaking for *Rules and Awards Committee* requested the elimination of the Lucelle Lindner award as it has not been given out, there is no criteria for distribution, and the initial funds have long been depleted. Item E of Rules and Awards, Special Sweepstakes, Adult and Junior (Clarify, it can be two) Originally offered by Horse Heaven Hills Club (defunct)

Two Traveling Society Awards-Large Clubs (100+) and Small Clubs (-100) exist. They are being identified in the operating procedures for the qualifications.

Larry moved to eliminate the Lucielle Lindner award and reinstate the traveling society awards. No second needed. The motion passed.

Larry followed with a *second item* relative to *compensation* within the Rules and Awards Committee. Under General Duties, an allowance for all members of the Rules and Awards Committee to be compensated became the topic for discussion. A suggestion was made to allow verbiage for some compensation to those who come to judge and actually do judge. Judges could opt out if they wished. Larry made a motion to include compensation for all members of the committee and for judges. Susie asked for clarification about mileage. At state rate? Yes. Vicki asked how much of the budget would it take for this? Jim offered a hypothetical case. There were thirteen entries this year. An average could be 8-10 depending on location. Anna posed that judges have a unique skill set. If we are asking about a professor, there would not need to be a discussion, we would just pay. Mike Rose asked if the budget could handle this. Jennifer stated that aspect needs further discussion. It is not in the budget. Let's work on more people to exhibit. Put reimbursing judges on hold. Anna suggested encouraging people who are close to the show. Evan Moved to divide the motion into two.

1. Compensate members of the committee at the current state rate for mileage.

2. Consider mileage compensation for judges.

Nick Bellucci seconded the motion, and individual votes were taken on each point. Number one passed with 14 in favor, 7 against and 9 abstaining. The second section failed with only 5 votes in favor.

After the failure of the second part, there was a question about the current wording under judges' compensation. Evan moved to simply delete the word "appropriate" from the verbiage.

Unanimously passed.

Our thanks to the Hellgate Club and the show chairman, Neil Meyers for hosting us with a great show and lots of hospitality.

Lora Hall introduced the slate of nominees for the year 2027:

Jennifer Haley-President

June Dorning-1st Vice President

Steve Stiff-2nd Vice President

Judi Allison-Secretary

Adam Pettitt-Treasurer

She then called for nominations from the floor. With there being none, the slate was accepted by acclamation.

In place of a spring meeting, there will be an Organizational Meeting on Saturday October 3, 2026 in the Wingspan building at the Portland Regional Show. Mark your calendars.

Lakeside Club will host the 2027 show on the third weekend in April.

WAMS (Willamette Agate and Mineral Society) have plans to host in the spring of 2028

Thanks to both clubs for stepping up. Now is not too soon to put in a bid for 2029 and 2030!

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 pm

Judi Allison, NFMS Secretary

ADDENDUM I

NFMS CUSTODIAN REPORT and INVENTORY SUMMARY 2025 Annual Report

NFMS OFFICERS INVENTORY

PRESIDENT: Michael Rhodes - briefcase (6 small tabletop flags representing each of the 6 member states of the NFMS Federation. One holder for these flags,) Two tabletop United States flags. (one same size as the state flags, one a bit larger), gavel. Robert's Rules of Order In Brief, booklet.

1st VICE PRESIDENT: Jennifer Haley– No items.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: June Dorning – No items

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judi Allison - 9 Estwing Rock Hammers, 1 Pyle Speaker Assembly with 2 wireless microphones, 3 Reams NFMS letterhead paper, 25 long NFMS Envelopes, Archived Minutes from Past Meetings,

TREASURER: (pro tem) Judi Allison- 1 briefcase,1 business checkbook, 1 file box with records, past tax forms.. Items for Past Presidents Case and Cabochons of the Northwest. Video Camera, Microphone, Speaker and Tripod for online meetings. (Newly purchased. To be stored by the current Treasurer.)

PAST PRESIDENT: Lora Hall-No Items

NFMS COMMITTEES

BUDGET: 1st Vice President: Jennifer Haley- No items.

BULLETIN AIDS: Priscilla Hall-Ford-No items.

BY LAWS REVISORY: (Ad Hoc Review of Bylaws & Operations) Darrell Coyell, Jim Brain-No items

CREDENTIALS: Del & Clara Walker-No items.

CUSTODIAN: 2nd Vice President: June Dorning- No items.

DIRECTORY: Janel Lacey- No items.

EDUCATION: Lora Hall,

ENDOWMENT FUND: Vicki Johnson- No items.

FIELD TRIPS: Doug True- No items.

HISTORIAN: Please note: The historian files which were in the care of our previous historian have been moved to a safe and dry building by Bill Harvey and Gordon Haley, until arrangements can be made to transport them to Ronna Watkins who has stepped up to receive them. Items listed on 27 typed pages: two 4-drawer file cabinets, one 2-drawer file cabinet, (3) 18-gallon plastic-lidded bins. Items include:

*Minutes of Annual Conventions and Mid-year meetings. *Correspondence through the years of Officers and Committee chairpersons. *Mineralogist Magazines. *NFMS Manuals. *NFMS Directories. *NFMS Binders: (Past Presidents, Scholarship Awards, NFMS at AFMS. *Conventions, Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame Books I & II, NFMS Show history). *VHS Video: (Conversion to DVD prohibited by copyright law). *Monthly Historian Articles for NFMS Newsletter *NFMS Binders: (Past Presidents, Scholarship Awards, NFMS at AFMS)

JUNIORS: Jenifer Fitch- No items.

NEWSLETTER: Editor: Jessica Himple-No items.

NOMINATING: Lora Hall- No items.

NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT: Walter Butler- 1 Kingsley North, Cab King cabbng Machine with 6 wheels 8 inch wheels, 1 Ameritool Inc, Flat Lap cabbng machine with 8 inch wheels, 1 Hi-Tech Diamond, Flat Lap cabbng machine with 8 inch wheels, 1 Poly Arbor, Lapidary Buffer Polisher Grinder Arbor (needs repair), style 2 counter top ice makers

PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL: No Items

PUBLIC LAND ADVISORY: Susie Koppert- No items.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Open

RESOLUTIONS: Audrey Vogelpohl- No items.

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Laurie Ellis-No items.

RULES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE: RULES AND AWARDS CHAIR: JUDGING DIRECTOR: Joshua Hulstrom- metal box (NFMS Eligibility files) with histories and forms about judging; 1-box of ribbons to be awarded for judging; 1-box of supplies-pencils, clip boards, erasers, scissors, stapler, etc.; 1 box of plaques to be awarded, 1 box of exhibitor record cards for competitors, judging worksheets, and competitive entry records for 2016, 2019, and 2022; 1-large society plaque; 1-small society plaque; 11 NFMS award plaques and 2 AFMS plaques

SAFETY: Kathryn Larson-No Items

SCHOLARSHIP: Mary Lou Northrup- No items

SHOW CHAIRPERSON 2026: Steve Stiff- No items.

SHOW COORDINATION: Faith Farley- No items.

SLIDE & VIDEO LIBRARIAN: Open- Ronna Watkins has the 1 Epson Perfection V600 Scanner. See NFMS website and directory for inventory of Slides, VHS, DVD's, Power Point.

WAYS & MEANS: Open

STAMPS: Ed Anderson and Aaron Currier-

SUPPLIES: Open:

WEBMASTER: Brad Larson- No items.

WEBSITE CONTEST: Open

NFMS PAST PRESIDENTS CASE

The items listed below are placed in SHOW CASES each year at the NFMS ANNUAL SHOW and CONVENTION

SHOW DATE NAME ITEM DISCRPTION

2 Sep 1961 Darrell Irwin Black/White Mineral Specimen
6 Sep 1964 Dorothy Lee Wood Cast, OR (polished on both ends) 5
Sep 1965 Dr. George Williams Agate Nodule, Southern Brazil
6 Sep 1970 Emil Rosenau Redwood, Yellow Cat Region, UT
2 Sep 1973 Glenn Lee Petrified Fern Tempskya, Greenhorn, OR
10 Aug 1974 A. J. "Joe" Bybee Smoky Quartz, 30.5 cts. Tri-foil cut
19 Aug 1977 Don Kendall 2 Limb Casts
21 Aug 1981 Ray Moon Faceted Y.A.G.
21 Aug 1982 Lyle Vogelpohl Bruneau Jasper (oval cab)
5 Aug 1983 Ben Kolski Tempskya Cab, Great Falls Area, MT
8 Aug 1986 R. Ed Romack Faceted Stone, Rose Quartz
7 Aug 1987 Carroll Dillon Idaho Cut Laser Ruby
9 Sep 1988 Dee Holland Spencer Opal Triplet
9 Jun 1989 Dr. Robert Carlson Quartz Stone (faceted)
22 Jun 1990 Jon Eckerly Plume Agate, Angelwing, Graveyard Point
26 Jul 1991 Harland Lindner Petrified Wood, Saddle Mountain, WA
31 Jul 1992 Jon Spunaugle Opal & Turquoise Channel Pendant
23 Jul 1993 Lauren Williams Montana Moss Agate
3 Jun 1994 Darrell Dalton Obsidian Bow Tie w/Mexican opal (faceted)
12 Jul 1996 Dick Glismann Lace Cut Laser Ruby 46cts

23 Jun 2000 Rocky McCall Intarsia Jewelry
30 Aug 2001 Doug True Amethyst Crystal (large), Riverhead County, MT
1 Aug 2003 Russell "Russ" Snook Belt Buckle & Bola-Snake River Dendritic
Agate
23 July 2004 Chris Blickfeldt Silver Metal Pendant w/Wine colored Faceted Stone
3 Aug 2007 Chuck Sonner Turquoise Silver Ring
20 June 2008 Patty Amos ½ Thunderegg
31 July 2009 Paul Heesacker Camp 5, Oregon Shaped Cab
18 Sept 2010 Evelyn Cataldo Clay Canyon Variscite
30 July 2011 Fritz Mack Red & Grey Rhyolite (polished on one side)
18 May 2012 Judi Allison Green Bed Geodes (2 pieces)
9 Aug 2013 Kathy Moedl McDevitt Creek Petrified wood (polished one side)
15 Aug 2014 Don Innes Wire Wrapped Pendant (milky white druzy quartz)
10 Aug 2015 Warren Rood Mexican Lace agate (wire wrapped)
29 Jul 2016 Hidemi Kira Carey Ranch Plume Agate, CA
18 Oct 2019 Ronna Watkins Biggs Jasper
11 Spt 2021 Beth Heesacker Chabazite
August 2023 Ken Zahn Graphic Granite Cabochon

CABOCHONS FROM THE NFMS 50th ANNIVERSITY CASE Detailed

list with

items. **MATERIAL NAME**

2-Petrified Wood, 8-Jasper, 2-obsidian, 2-agate Elvin Irwin

Rim Jasper Gary & Linda

Bruneau Jasper Robert Stobaugh 2- Jasper, 2agate, 1 wood

Keene Clay

2- Jasper Russell Snook

Jade Oro Stewart

2-Petrified Wood, Thunderegg Bill Hall

5- Petrified Wood (Saddle Mnt) Melvin Hill, Jim Cotant, Harland Linder Montana

Agate Ed & June Sept Biggs Canyon Jasper Hellen Collins

Owyhee Picture Jasper Dorothy Lee

1-Petrified Wood, 1-agate Bob Bever

Tempskya (petrified fern) Ben Koloski

Report submitted, June Donring 2026 NFMS 2nd VP, Custodian

