

**NFMS Organizational Meeting**  
**Lewiston, Idaho**  
**Saturday, October 20, 2018**

**Membership Present:** Ronna Watkins, Ken Zahn, Lyle Vogelpohl, Judi Allison, Lauren Williams, Shirlene Williams, Audrey Vogelpohl, Jack Edwards, Darrell Watkins, Ralph Branson, Norma Long, Olan Long, Gayle Butler, Hidemi Kira, Tomoko Kira, Walt Butler, Linda Barlow

**President, Ronna Watkins,** opened the meeting by welcoming the 17 attendees and introducing the executive officers. **Audrey** asked if we might have a report of Evelyn Cataldo's health. Judi stated she had not spoken the Dom for a while, but it appeared she is still having issues. We will all keep her and Dom in our thoughts. Perhaps a card sent their direction would be a welcome and comforting sight.

**Ken** spoke to the second page of the NFMS Newsletter as he had volunteered to take on the task of bringing the information on it in conformance with the listings in the Operating Procedures as well as the listings for the AFMS. After a short discussion, he stated he would continue to work on it and present a final draft by mid-year. Lauren Williams asked if it was even necessary to have a list showing the AFMS. It was pointed out that there are some things that might need to stay - if there is a representative of the NFMS as a regional Chair for an AFMS Committee. Ken will continue his work on this. In the interim, if an individual's name is incorrect, please let our Newsletter Editor know.

**Judi** also mentioned that folks should peruse the NFMS web site from time to time and check to be certain information is up to date on it. Examples would be committee listings and club listings. Our webmaster cannot provide the correct information if it is not passed on to him.

As we discussed the time of our annual meeting falling after the "technical date" for new officers to take charge, Lyle pointed out that historically the fiscal year had at one time been from September 16-September 15. The IRS was not happy with such a time frame as nothing aligned with that time, so it was changed to September first. Other Federations and AFMS fall at a different time.

**Lauren** had presented a proposed change to the Rules and Awards by-laws. His proposals will be written as a final document to be voted upon as changes to the Operating procedures. The document will be presented at the Mid-Year meeting in June and a vote will take place at the annual meeting in October. Lauren has also written a Judges manual which does not need a vote of approval as it is strictly informational.

Lauren reminded those in attendance that when looking at anything pertaining to the Scholarship that it is a separate entity in itself.

Ronna asked if there was any mail. None to be discussed.

She then asked **Lyle** for a treasurer report. He had distributed a hard copy to attendees. He also thanked Ken for his thorough proofing of materials sent to the executive committee and Ways and Means. He pointed out an interesting fact. Since 1976, other than two years, the Treasurer has been from the West Seattle Club. As he is nearing passing the position on to someone else, there was a comment about the importance of continuity of the treasurer from year to year.

**Committees:**

**Directory:** Carol Willey has been working on the Directory. She has added the revisions voted on last year and will be working on other aspects as the year progresses. A question was asked why the form for membership that the treasurer sends out was needed rather than simply sending the club's list with dues. It was pointed out that the Treasurer's form has a specific format and simply asks for additions deletions and corrections. In this manner, the Directory person need only check those areas rather than all 5000 plus names.

**Endowment:** Jack Edwards gave an overview of the fund, stating that it is "holding its own". He stated that the most difficult thing was getting clubs to respond with ideas of how to use the funds for the benefit of the Federation. Lyle mentioned that Ken had written in the newsletter about clubs obtaining claims. Perhaps some money could be set aside for help with filing a claim. Norma Long gave an example of losing some of the collecting areas. She said Dale Hewitt has claimed a number of areas around McDermott. One now has to pay for material from there.

**Historian:** Linda has created a preliminary Museum list from each of the states in the NFMS. She plans to have it published on the website.

**Juniors:** Gayle Butler let people know that she is in the process of moving to the Redmond area. With mention of whether to ask Darrell Powell to return to the NFMS Show in 2019, she was completely in favor of the idea. He participated three times and all felt it was well worth the cost of bringing him here.

**Newsletter:** Since we are minus an official editor, Linda Barlow is acting as editor "pro tem". It is stated that we will publish "at least" six issues for the newsletter for the membership. Therefore, the 2019 issues will be Jan/Feb, Mar/April, May/June, July/Aug, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec with the deadline for submissions the fifteenth of the previous month. For an example: Jan/Feb deadline, Dec 15, March/April deadline, February 15. There will also be a Nov/Dec 2018 newsletter with a deadline of November 15.

**Nominations:** Immediate Past President, Keith Fackrell is the Chair of this committee. He is to enlist a representative from each member state. His duty is to solicit for a second Vice President nominee, as well as, asking the current executive committee members if they wish to continue with their positions.

**Northwest Rockhound Retreat:** There was some discussion about people being disgruntled about the retreat being a "good old boys" club as there had been a rumor that essentially only returnees were able to attend. Audrey spoke to the "good old boys" statement imparting the fact that anyone who actually goes to camp gets such a warm welcoming feeling, it is very inclusive. But it applies to all who attend, not just a few. As to the idea that only a select group is able to attend, that idea was also dispelled. The camp is limited to a specific number, and one year there were way more people than those who could be accommodated. But as an example, this year there were 42 attendees, which meant there were at least eleven open slots. Returnees are offered the possibility of returning approximately a week before others are given the opportunity to get their bids in to go. If one wants to attend, even though the registration might not be open until later, they need to submit their name to Lamar early. He holds those names on a waiting list and will notify individuals as they fall on the list. So if you are interested in going, you need to get your name in early.

Lyle told of Kurt Goodwin of Coos Bay closing his shop. He brought a lot of equipment and material to the retreat. It was donated to further the program. A bit over \$3600 was raised through an auction at camp this year. The plan is to purchase equipment and machinery for creating doublets and triplets. Lyle is checking with Ameritool about the purchase of refurbished equipment of this purpose.

Olin Long asked if there was a fast track way to inform people of last minute cancellations and openings. Again, it is necessary to get your name in to Lamar to be informed.

Lamar is seeking someone to assist and learn the "ins and outs" of the camp, so if you know someone who might be interested, please speak up. The description of the Committee for the retreat actually lists three positions: Chairperson, Registrar/Treasurer and Publicity Chair.

**Past President's Council:** The Chairperson of this committee is to solicit approval from the Past Presidents concerning bids for the Federation Shows. With that statement, the question was asked: Do we have any bids for the 2020 Show? Please help with any suggestions.

**PLAC:** Ronna reports that Katherine is working to keep people well informed. As Ken pointed out, though, it is difficult to stay in front of all the timelines and deadlines for comments as they often don't coordinate with the newsletters. He also commented that it is very hard to engage our six-thousand plus members on what is the life blood of our hobby. Historically, Jon Spunaugle wrote some articles along that line. It was suggested that perhaps some of his previous information might be reprinted.

**Slides and Videos:** Darrell Watkins stated he plans to get the ball rolling by buying a couple of commercial videos. He stated that there has not been much input from the AFMS on new materials. Ken stated he had videos from previous years about "What's Hot in Tucson" that could be added to the library. Darrell also discussed the possibility of getting Nick Zintner to create a presentation about his work.

**Resolutions:** Audrey Vogelpohl stated that when OPs were initially written the Junior program was just starting out with the focus of raising money for the Juniors. Today, the Juniors have a significant amount of money. The emphasis is on the Junior badge program through AFMS, which is free of charge to members. The Junior Achievement Award is a current thrust, with offerings to assist Junior Leaders with their jobs. The above changes in the Junior Chair Position is

an example of how the Resolutions Chair can assist someone to create an updated version of the Committee's function and duties. She is available to offer guidance and assistance in such a process.

The current Junior leader agreed that Diamond Dan, Darrell Powell, should be asked to return for the 2019 show. His presentations were informative and helpful to all. Lyle mentioned that the Federation had again paid for a two year subscription to the Mini Miner Publication. There are certain restrictions about reprinting, and the electronic copy is sent to the Junior leaders of each club. Linda Barlow pointed out that their club purchased a copy for each of their Junior members. (With such a purchase there are no restrictions, so that is an option a specific club might decide upon.) It was also suggested that perhaps a poll on usage be done after a year or so had passed to ascertain if the offering was being utilized.

**Safety:** Ronna stated she is attempting to communicate with Tanya Sonner to see if she is interested in continuing with this position, as well as point out the specifics of the position. The OPs discuss promoting, assisting and informing relative to safety. The duties go on to list "have present at any NFMS activity a First Aid Kit."

**Scholarship:** Mary Lou Northrup submitted a report of receipts for the Scholarship Program: \$10 by the Yakima Club in memory of Paul Ellingson, Donation of \$500 by the Hells Canyon Club in memory of Mel Wilks and \$100 donation to the fund. Clackamette Club made a \$100 donation. She plans to submit an article to the newsletter about considering the Scholarship Fund as a worthy donation.

**Show Coordinator:** Pat Lambert is doing a good job of getting the information out to various sources. Remember that she is the one who receives and disseminates it to miscellaneous places.

**Stamps:** Chuck Sonner is doing a fine job of getting returns for the donated stamps. Lyle reported that \$325 from stamps were sent to the project "Knitted Knockers" with an additional \$104 to start this fiscal year. He also mentioned that Paul Heesacker donated fiber filling for the project.

**Supplies:** Ken spoke for Patty Amos stating that he recalled a number of supplies she had. He suggested we need to get the items to the NFMS Shows. There are hats and t-shirts as well as some pins from previous shows. Ronna expressed a desire to have shirts, hats, pins or patches as a way to promote the message of "oneness". Most were not in favor of the t-shirt idea because it creates difficulty with sizes, colors and quantities. Hats also change style. Ronna suggested the idea of a patch that could be put on an item. Lauren pointed out that when he and Dee Holland had ordered some windbreakers, they got the orders and money in hand before anything was even ordered.

Ronna and others thanked Hidemi and Tomoko Kira for all their volunteerism relative to the silent auction over the last couple of years. Historically, the Mount Hood Club has offered to be in charge with Dick Parks and Patty Amos heading up the group. They have been unavailable the last couple of years so the Kiras have stepped in. It appears the Hells Canyon Club wishes to run the auction alongside the Federation. The suggestion was made at our meeting that the PA system needs to be turned up as people cannot hear what is going on with the auction. We will all work together to provide materials and action for the benefit of all.

**Website:** Webmaster, Brad Larsen is doing a great job getting things posted. Judi reminded all to peruse the site and check for the correct information, especially under committees and clubs. If you see something that needs to be updated, let Brad know so he can change it.

### ***Miscellaneous Information:***

- ✓ Audrey thanked Linda for agreeing to be the Editor pro tem and producing the Newsletter. She also suggested that some of the articles could be put in the individual club's newsletters.
- ✓ Ken mentioned that he had been asked by Ronna to check about the possibility of NFMS Field trips. Doug True is the current Chair, but since he is now serving as AFMS President, it is doubtful he will have time to pursue any possibilities. He had mentioned a possible trip in 2020 to South Dakota. Ken discussed the fact that the Federation show in Lewiston in October might not be conducive to a field trip because of the weather. Judi pointed out that the Federation Field trips had not fallen at the same time as the shows. It was suggested that Ken check with the Central Oregon Rock Club about a possible field trip in conjunction with their show as it falls in the summer. He will ask Doug and perhaps pursue this idea. Norma Long also mentioned Charles Tiblow as a possible person to lead an excursion. Lauren stated that the Rocky Mountain Federation will be having the 2020 Show in Big Piney, Wyoming, which might give close access to the Blue Forest area.

- ✓ Ronna announced vacancies: Bulletin Aids, Education, Newsletter and Public Relations. She asked for people to consider the possibility of serving.
- ✓ Some additional suggestions to utilize the Endowment Unrestricted funds were offered. Provide trainings that would support societies' officers. An example might be training on applying for 501c3 status or the basics of filing a mining claim by a club. Another suggestion was provision of classes on how to go about putting in a competitive case. Norma Long again stated that many people don't want to compete as they feel they are criticized for doing their best work. A discussion followed with the general consensus being that judging has improved and is more objective. One needs to look upon the critique as a way of learning how to improve. Displayers are encouraged to be present for the judging process. This gives them a chance to hear firsthand the reasoning behind the scores.
- ✓ A question was brought up about policy for newsletter ads. Those who wish to run a paid ad need to remember to get it to the newsletter at least three months in advance of a show to assure it will be posted prior to the show.
- ✓ Linda asked if there was some way to coordinate all the NFMS members with dues, circulation, directory and treasury. Lyle spoke to the question pointing out the need for specific information, format and different timelines.
- ✓ Ronna announced that the midyear meeting will be in Coeur d Alene, Idaho on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ With that, the meeting was adjourned.