

NFMS Organizational Meeting, Rice Museum, Hillsboro, Oregon 10:00 am, Friday, October 9th, 2015

- Present and represented: 33 people, 19 clubs

President, Hidemi Kira opened the meeting with a thank you to Julian Gray of the Rice Museum, who provided the facilities and allowed for all to view the museum free of charge.

Julian welcomed all present.

Hidemi pointed out the meeting would be a cracker barrel style; an informal get together.

Endowment: Lyle Vogelpohl gave a financial report, stating the fiscal year runs from September 1-August 31. A written copy of the Endowment Fund accompanied the General Fund. Jon Spunaugle discussed the need to decide "where to go" with the fund as the market is not great, but holding its own. Jon also apologized for a couple of mistakes in the written report. Lyle pointed out the original intent of the Endowment fund was to prevent large increases of dues.

The Butte Club has submitted a request seeking funds from the Endowment fund for the Museum of Mining. The request was through Joe Slouber, and did not give a specific purpose for the funds requested. The question was brought up: "How do we address that?" Some felt the request needs to be specific. Evan Day, with agreement from Julian Rice, pointed out that sometimes it is better for a general contribution than a specific one. It was suggested that the request be brought up at the mid-year meeting. Evan encouraged the idea of contributing to the Museum. Jon reminded those present that we have a number of good museums in the Northwest. He stated the Rice family had a very big part in beginning the Northwest Federation. Jon further said, "If Rice asked, I would give in a second. To this, Julian raised his hand and stated, "I request \$5000," to a response of general laughter. Hidemi suggested we may need some guidelines. He chose a group to review guidelines to be brought forth at the mid-year meeting. The group chosen consists of Jon-heading the committee, Lyle, perhaps Edna Nelson and Judi. Julian will supply a copy of a grant request for the committee to use as a template. A draft will be ready for presentation at the mid-year meeting and open to discussion at that time. If a vote is warranted, it will be taken to the general meeting in Albany. Hidemi concluded by encouraging the clubs to donate to the Endowment Fund.

Endowment Fund Sidenotes: Jim Bosley asked about the original purpose of the fund when it was set up? Membership had such resistance to dues increase so the fund was created. Federation dues have not been increased since 1996. We don't want to lose sight of that fact, but we do have extra money in the fund. We also want to keep the fund at a level so we are not assessed a tax by the IRS. The fund also supplements the general fund. The budget can vary greatly depending upon where the AFMS meeting is held. We cover the transportation cost of two delegates. Clara Walker suggested the possibility of a per diem payment to those attending such meetings because of the additional hotel and food costs. Hidemi interjected additional expenses just figure on the side of volunteerism. Judi pointed out it is important to let potential officers know that is an expense to be incurred for the 1st Vice President and the President.

Special Awards: Do we need an award "reward" system for those who do "extra" (something special) for the Federation? Through the scholarship foundation, individuals can be chosen as the Honoree. That individual then chooses two worthy graduate students in the Northwest area to receive the \$4000 scholarships. Lyle, Audrey and Jon (each of whom were given that honor) all felt that was an extremely "special" award. Lyle pointed out that the NFMS was very much a mover of the fund with Dorothy and Glen Lee giving it great emphasis in the past. The award was originally \$500. It has grown to \$4000 because of contributions. The International Facetors Guild did a number of yearly auctions that generated funds. Lauren interjected that there will be a single stone auctioned in Austin for the AFMS scholarship fund.

Moving back to the discussion about a special award, Clara Walker asked, "What way would one be awarded?" It was felt there were many general things that could come into play. Jon pointed out that in the past people were "honored" with more of a "roast", but such individuals as Toby Cozens, for example, was most probably not properly honored for all she did. With a show of hands, most present felt a special award should exist for the NFMS. Lyle has a copy for the criteria used by the California Federation for their "Golden Bear Award". Hidemi requested that he use such to create a mock-up to present at the mid-year meeting.

History: We need a Historian. Hidemi asked that perhaps there is someone in the Idaho Falls area willing to take on the position, as Lauren and Jim are willing to move the materials from Dee Holland's place in Tendoy, Idaho. A good Historian will need storage capacity and organizational ability. Jim took on the challenge from Hidemi to see if he could find someone willing to take over the position.

Juniors: Audrey Vogelpohl announced that the Mini Miner online magazine from Diamond Dan Publications will be no more. The Federation paid in advance for the publication to be available to all the Junior leaders of the Federation. We will receive a partial refund. Audrey also pointed out that other publications are still

available. Ronna Watkins touted Darryl Powell's (Diamond Dan) cooperative attitude with purchase of materials. She suggested a phone call to get really good deals.

Audrey announced she is planning on having a Junior Advisors Cracker Barrel meeting at the show in Albany, Oregon next July. Evan pointed out the Timpanogos Club is the largest club in the Federation and they have the largest Junior Club. Keith Fackrell stated they were getting back some members they had lost in the past as families grow up. A discussion followed about encouraging Juniors and Junior activities, as they are our future.

Newsletters: Are we getting more people using the email? How can we do it? We need to work on a system for each club. Terry Innes stated he does a lot of PDF's because of all the types and years of computer systems. The PDF will usually be something everyone can open. He will generally make certain a person can open a particular version of a document before sending it to that person. Lenora Smith. . . stated she was unable to create a group of greater than thirty-five with Windows system 10. Ronna stated she does only seven at a time; as a blind copy. Judi will attempt to put together an article for the newsletter that would describe a possible method for each club to accomplish the "email approach".

2016 AFMS/NFMS Show in Albany, Oregon: Hidemi was able to visit a bit with show chairperson, Janice VanCura. The target for cases is 200, so consider putting one in. There will be applications in the newsletter for both competitive and non-competitive cases. The past presidents' case was mentioned. We can reserve two cases for the display. They may still be looking for some individuals to demonstrate. If someone has information about any good dealers, please pass it on, as perhaps there may be a vacancy or two. WAMS plans to do their own silent auction, but still would like help from Dick Parks and Hidemi. There is a music fair in Sweet Home at the same time, so reserve your rooms early. There may be a field trip to the Hollywood Ranch. If folks have other ideas, please pass them along. Ronna reminded folks that since it is a dual show, the deadline for bulletin submissions is March 1, 2016. Forms can be downloaded from the AFMS website. And remember to come to the breakfast!!!

Federation Field Trip: The trip will be the week after the show in the Prineville area, so folks can plan a vacation to the show and rockhounding afterward.

Rockhound Awareness and Exposure: Lenore spoke about the Oregon Rock Council and the fact they supply the "Oregon Capital Case" in Salem. The display sits in the Capital building rotunda. It is worth taking a side trip to see it. Hidemi encouraged people to join the ALAA, the Oregon Council, Washington Council, etc. as it gives rockhounds exposure. It is important to have strength. For example, the Oregon Council has people in five areas who keep in touch with the forest service. Lauren stated that the Government needs to know the word "Rockhound" (not just "gem and mineral"). When we register at trailheads or go to government meetings or meetings involving off-road access, we need to gain as much exposure as possible.

Announcements Lauren announced that a long time member, Jim Landen, who writes for Rock and Gem Magazine has about forty ammonites; some with Herkimer diamond inclusions; for sale. He lives in the Yakima area.

Jon reminded all that the AFMS Scholarship Foundation and the NFMS Endowment fund are both good places to give donations for deceased members or to honor someone or simply give. They both need your support. Lauren spoke about a speech in Las Vegas about the ALAA. He felt that there is a need to better explain about the Federation: what it is, how it works, etc.

Tom Buchard urged folks to turn in their cancelled stamps. Chuck Sonner, as the new Stamp Chairperson, explained the process he is using to create funds to be turned over to an entity that supports cancer research. He is using eBay, thus can "stir in" some of the more common stamps.

Hidemi thanked all present for coming and invited all to take in the Museum and the Portland Regional Show. Judi Allison, NFMS Secretary