

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI -- FEBRUARY 28, 2004

The first Executive Board Meeting of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., for the year 2004 was called to order at 1:00 p.m., by President Bill Waggener. Billie Wright gave the invocation. President Waggener led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Past presidents Jim Robinson, David Tuttle, Don Monroe, John Wright, and Roy Deer were recognized.

Mary Jane Boutwell, past president of EFMLS, and member of MGMS welcomed SFMS members to Jackson.

The Secretary stated that a quorum was present.

The agenda was approved by motion of Frank Decaminada, seconded by Don Monroe and unanimous consent of those present. David Tuttle was appointed Parliamentarian. Motion was made by Ann Monroe with second by Flora Lee Walker for approval of the previous minutes with corrections as follows: change location of Low Country Gem & Mineral from Charlotte, NC to Charleston, SC, and change report of Insurance Liaison from "...includes \$202.31 owed to previous insurance person" to "includes \$202.31 owed to us from previous insurance." Motion passed unanimously.

In his general remarks the President stated that SFMS and AFMS committee chairs have been appointed, the workshops are preparing for the coming season and most of our clubs have renewed their memberships. He requested that all clubs check their renewal information for errors and notify the appropriate persons. He also asked for help in locating a new insurance carrier.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

1st Vice President - Eileen Price: Has had inquiries from clubs considering hosting 2005 meetings. She is interested in receiving further nominations.

2nd Vice President - Ann Monroe: Is working to fill State Director vacancies. New VA Dir.: Steve Gordon, 213 Sugar Mill Dr., Amherst, VA 24521 (439) 929-1524 ssdtgordon@aol.com.

Secretary - Betty James: New list of Executive Officers, SFMS Committee Chairs and reps. to AFMS Committees given to all appropriate parties.

Treasurer - Ken Anderson: Was unable to attend due to snow storm in SC but faxed his reports for year end 2003 and for ending 2-28-04. 2003 budget total \$25,900.00; actual expenditures \$19,423.73; stamp program 1,861.80;

Beginning cash - \$66,773.30; ending cash \$75,085.88; through 2-28-04 budget total \$25,950.00; actual expenditures \$6,017.73, stamp program \$2,634.17.

Asst. Treasurer - David Katt: Need for changes in operations and bylaws clarification.

Membership Secretary - Leo Morris: Not present. Reported new e-mail address (memship4198@yahoo.com). Requested early response to membership renewal so that Directory could be completed early.

Lodestar Editor - Carolyn Daniels: Lodestar is now available in electronic version and may be downloaded from the website. You may then remove your name from the mailing list by e-mailing to dpdaniels@mindspring.com and cc to president@gamineral.org. Cost for printing is running \$455 per month and can be reduced by using electronic version. Deadline has been changed to 25th of month prior to publication.

Past President- Ron Denton: Not present, no report. Ron is to have knee surgery the week following the meeting.

AFMS 1st VP - Jim Robinson: Has sent information to AFMS with no reply yet.

STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Florida - Jack Stamper: Not present, no report. Hugh and Joan Sheffield volunteered as state assistants but have had no word back.

Georgia - Olin Banks: All GA clubs have either renewed their memberships or are in the process of doing so. Upcoming shows and DMC field trips to be hosted by GA clubs.

Kentucky - David Horn: Not present, no report

Louisiana - Sidney Drouant: Both clubs doing well. G, M & L Soc. Of Central, LA looking for new show location.

Mississippi - Buddy Shotts: All clubs doing good but have a shortage of members with young children. Pearl River club, Jim Dalhausen has rolling work shop.

North Carolina - Vacant

South Carolina - Fred Sias: SC has 6 active clubs; 4 with shows. Low Country will host SFMS second meeting, May 1-2. Other club shows planned.

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Tennessee - Martin Hart: All clubs have renewed memberships, MAGS will have show 4-24, 25. Tom Wilkie of Kingsport is Asst. TN Dir.

Virginia - Vacant - New Director added, see 2nd VP report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin Contest - Diane Dare: 57 bulletin and article entries from 11 clubs sent to judges. Awards will be announced at convention and Editors Breakfast in December.

Constitution & Bylaws - Red Walker: 2003 approved changes have been printed and mailed to all holders of document. Copies available at meeting.

Education - Fred Sias: Class schedules have been finalized for workshops and Workshop E-mail list has been set up. To enroll send e-mail to SFMS_workshops_subscribe@yahoo.com. No message is necessary. Posted messages will then be forwarded to your email box. You may also unsubscribe at any time.

Historian - Charlotte Mayo Bryant: Not present, no report.

Insurance - Dorothy Elam: Insurance forms have been sent to clubs. Travelers will not carry insurance next year -- searching for new carrier. Call for suggestions from membership.

Long Range Planning - John Wright: Need volunteers & suggestions; rewriting officers' handbook.

Nominations - Ron Denton: Not present, no report. Nominating Committee members' names in February Lodestar.

Public Relations - Ron Denton: Not present, no report.

Safety - Bill Buckner: Resigned because of health. Will write articles for Lodestar until replaced or through 2004.

SFMS Field Trips - Jim Flora: Not present, no report.

Slide/Videos - Freda Hull: New programs from AFMS competition cataloged and added to library. Information on AFMS competition posted on website.

Social Concerns - Edna Morris: Reports deaths of Jane Thornton, John Ferguson and Rufus Speaks. Also noted: Ron Denton to have surgery, Bill Buckner's heart problems and Sarah Lee Boyce's surgery.

Stamp Program - Jim Robinson: Stamps are coming in slowly this year. Last year 32 clubs participated. May need to use some of reserve funds to pay for scholarships. Urge members to send more stamps.

Supplies - Flora Lee Walker: Will turn over to Reba Shotts at this meeting.

Uniform Rules - Flora Lee Walker: Has been accepted at Wildacres for the URC program sponsored by AFMS.

Ways & Means - Frank Decaminada: Thanks to Ken Anderson and Irv Thornton for help in past year. Also special thanks to Irv for his guidance and financial actions over the past several years. Approved budget for 2004 was printed in Lodestar, Dec. 2003. Budget for 2005 will need input from officers and committees in a timely manner to assure needs are met. All ideas and suggestions will be considered.

Wildacres Dir. - Jerry/Deborah Miller: Schedule is prepared for the year. Need for early registrations for April session and for new instructors and updated instructor directory.

Wildacres Reg. - Kerri/Bill Wetzel: Not present, no report.

William Holland Dir. - Polly Carman: Not present, no report

William Holland Reg. - Dana/Ray Gonzalez: Presently 26 students for June session. 3 are stamp winners and 2 spouses of instructors

2003 Show Host - Jeanette/Olin Banks: Come and bring an exhibit. Plenty of cases to lend. Atlanta Visitors Bureau putting together packet for show goers.

Web Site - Not present, no report.

Youth Resources -Met with AFMS Youth Chair re: youth activities and awards available from Diamond Dan Publishing. Youth programs with good quality embroidered award badges cost \$2.00. Junior of the Year award presented to Jennifer Baldwin for year 2003, Certificate to Kelly Baldwin, Junior of Year 2002. Michael Burton, Huntsville Club, given Certificate. Criteria for 2004 JOY published in Jan. Lodestar. Contest will end 10-31-04.

AFMS COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AFMS Newsletter - Carolyn Daniels: No report.

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Boundaries - Beryl Ferguson: Not present, no report.

Club Publications - Diane Dare: Deadline for top 3 winning SFMS entries to reach AFMS judges is 4-1. Winners of AFMS will be announced at Syracuse 7-11-04. Diane will be AFMS judge.

Club Rockhound of Year - David Tuttle: Nothing to report.

Collecting Sites - Arthur Mott: Not present, no report.

Conservation/Legislation - John Wright: Need to write legislators re: bill currently in committee soon to come to floor. Much land to become off limits to rockhounds. See Bob Cranston's mailing list (ALAA).

Education All American - David Tuttle: Has scrapbook from GA Mineral Soc. to present for All American Contest.

Endowment Fund - Ken Anderson: Not present, no report.

Juniors - Hugh/Leona Sheffield: See SFMS report.

Lewis & Clark- Diane Dare: Proofed on 11-22 and returned to Chairman on 12-23. No further activity.

Program Competitions - Freda Hull: No further report.

Public Relations - Ron Denton: Not present, no report.

Safety - Bill Buckner: See SFMS report.

Scholarship - None Required.

Supplies/Publications - Reba Shotts: No report.

Uniform Rules - Betty James: Nothing to report.

Ways & Means - Frank Decaminada: Nothing to report.

Web Master - Jim Flora: Not present, No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Need to vote on AFMS President Elect. Frank Decaminada nominated Jim Robinson, Red Walker seconded. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A discussion of bonding amount necessary resulted in a recommendation of \$100,000. Accepted.
2. Motion by Mary Jane Boutwell and seconded by Don

Monroe to accept application for membership for Gulf Coast Mineral Club. After discussion re: club name, membership was unanimously granted as requested.

3. Next came up suggestion of need for a professional audit of our books. The following discussion ensued: Frank Decaminada: Strongly disagree as to need; Don Monroe: Should wait until the Treasurer is present before discussing the matter; Buddy Shotts: What will be the cost? David Katt: May need to wait until C&BL changes; Joan White: Why do we need an outside audit? Jim Robinson: Unnecessary; Red Walker: No need to discuss until bonding is in place; David Katt: Audit would show credibility of conduct. Discussion was discontinued without action taken.
4. Need for replacement of Bill Buckner as Safety Chairman.
5. Travelers Insurance will not renew policy. Call for suggestions as to new carrier to cover 10 states. Ken Anderson and Dorothy Elam are searching for replacement. Need suggestions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Betty M. James, Secretary*



SFMS President, Bill Waggener, giving his report at the February 2004 SFMS Board Meeting. (Photograph by Martin Hart, SFMS State Director for Tennessee.)

From the Education Chair: Why SFMS Workshop Classes are Canceled

Each year the Education Committee finds it necessary to cancel Workshop classes because the enrollment is insufficient to financially support the classes. It might be desirable to explain the logic behind such cancellations to the SFMS membership because the financial constraints we face may force a reconsideration of some of our current Workshop policies. The Education Chair would like to make such changes by consensus rather than by edict.

Most federation members probably have little concern with the SFMS budget and are probably not aware that the five Federation Workshops are a major source of income for the Federation. In fact, at the present time the Federation could not function without the income from the workshops. ***The dues received from the member clubs account for less than half of the Federation budget.*** Each year the members approve this budget at the annual Meeting. Let's look at the numbers and how they affect the way the Workshops are run.

As a starting point it might be worth looking at the income: according to the budget approximately \$7600 will be received in dues from member clubs and \$7500 will be received as profit at the end of the year from the William Holland and Wildacres Workshops. The only other Federation income is from interest received on CD's held by the Federation and from the sale of a small number of supplies. These total only about \$850. Using the above numbers it is possible to see that ***47 percent or almost half the income of the entire Federation is brought in by the workshops.*** The dues amount to less than half of the Federation income and that is insufficient to cover all of the expenses of the officers and chairpersons. It should be obvious that anything that affects the net proceeds of the workshops will have a major effect on the financial status of the Federation. ***It should also be obvious that the Workshops are not an "expense" of the Federation but rather are a significant source of Federation income.***

The Federation has a cash balance of about \$75,000 that has been invested in CD's. For a number of years those CD's brought in a significant amount of interest and the SFMS General Fund often grew each year by thousands of dollars. Much of that "excess" income was transferred to the Mayo Foundation to build the SFMS scholarship fund. A few years back the Federation membership voted to "cap" the General Fund assets at \$60,000 and the Ways and Means Committee was directed to run a "deficit" budget until the General Fund was reduced to the \$60,000 that would continue to be invested in CD's. For several years the budget has been approved with a deficit of about \$15,000 but has actually showed a deficit of under \$10,000. William Holland School was opened and the first SFMS Workshop sessions were held there. The directives for the Education Chairman actually state:

"Each workshop ... must stand on its own financial foundation. In other words, an anticipated surplus from one workshop cannot be applied to an anticipated deficit from another. Neither can auction receipts be a part of the consideration."

Furthermore, the Handbook states:

"It is policy to give room and board to instructors, but not their spouses; however, the director and spouse and the registrar and spouse are given room and board."

Finally, the Handbook directs the Education Chairman to cancel a workshop that will not meet expenses if the budget cannot be balanced. To my knowledge this was done one time but it became evident that this could not be done after a contract had been signed with a retreat. Unilateral cancellation would also result in that particular week being lost forever as a date for a workshop session. ***The only solution was to reduce expenses as low as possible by canceling classes*** and thereby reducing the expenses by the amount of the instructor's room and board that would be paid from the income from the workshop registration fees. The policy of moving students to their second or third choice classes was instituted partially to avoid having to drop a student from the workshop and refund his or her registration fees.

A number of the policies presented in the 1988 version of the Officer's Handbook have been modified during the intervening years. It was evident that some instructors incurred considerable travel expense when teaching at SFMS workshops and during the early 1990's an ad hoc committee recommended that partial travel expenses be paid to minimize the personal cost to volunteer workshop instructors. This proposal to modify the Officer's Handbook directives was voted down at a Federation Board Meeting.

More recently, scholarships have been awarded to the spouses of instructors since that was an additional expense for many instructors who taught at SFMS Workshops. The spousal scholarships are paid directly from the Federation General Fund using the surplus funds made available by deficit budgeting as described earlier. These scholarship now appear to be considered an "entitlement" and it is now time to consider what to do when the excess funds are used up and the Federation capitalization has been reduced to the proposed "cap." ***It is clear that all profits from the workshops will be insufficient to pay this entitlement from workshop proceeds if all instructors request free workshop attendance for spouses.*** If only a fraction of the instructors request the entitlement, the room and board could be paid from Auction income but then all workshops would just break even, at best, and there would be insufficient Federation income to support the *Lodestar*. It should be clear that this problem must be addressed in the near future.

April 2004

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

SFMS 2004 Wildacres Workshop at Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC

2004 Workshop Dates

April.....Monday, April 19 to Sunday, April 25, 2004
 August....Monday, August 23 to Sunday, August 29, 2004
 September.....Monday, Sept. 13 to Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004

Wildacres Retreat is a conference center dedicated in 1946 by I.D. Blumenthal and Madolyn Blumenthal of Charlotte, NC, to the improvement of human relations. It is situated on 1400 acres at an elevation of 3,300 feet atop a mountain called Pompey's Knob. It is in Little Switzerland, approximately half way between Asheville and Blowing Rock, NC just off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

There are two lodges, a dining hall, where meals are served family style, a library/auditorium building, mineral and lapidary shops plus a pottery studio.

Fees

Lodge Accommodations: \$260 per person, including meals. **Day Students:** \$115 per person, no meals are included.

Registration Procedures

Applications from members of SFMS clubs will be accepted first; however, members of other AFMS clubs may apply and will be scheduled following SFMS applicants.

Applications for the April session will be accepted beginning on February 16, 2004, and on May 3, 2004 for the August and September sessions. The postmark date on or after these dates determines the order of acceptance. First-time attendees have an extra priority.

Students under age 18 are welcome, but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult and must be approved by the workshop director and instructor.

Reservation Deposit

A deposit of 50% of the registration fee must accompany all applications. The full amount may be remitted with the application if the applicant wishes. (It is easier for the Registrar.) The balance is due 4 weeks before the workshop begins. No reminders will be sent.

Cancellation Policy

There is a \$25 nonrefundable charge to cover administrative costs. An additional \$25 charge will be assessed for cancellations made less than 4 weeks before a session begins. No refund will be returned for cancellations by the student within 7 days of the start of a session.

*Note: Advanced courses with prerequisites are designated with an asterisk in the course listing to the right.

Workshop Directors

Jerry and Deborah Miller 805 Roanoke Dr, Cary, NC 27513
 Phone: 919-467-6613 Email: jerry.miller@e-hps.com

Workshop Registrars

Kerri and Bill Wetzel 5010 Sunset Drive, Easley, SC 29642
 Phone: 864-306-6749 Email: wwetzel@earthlink.net

Session 1: April 19-25, 2004

Cabochons	Gerald Burnham
Beginning Faceting and Intarsia	Tom Wilkie
Glass Bead Making	Marilyn Jobe
*Gold Fabrication	Dan Haga
Precious Metal Clay (1 & 2)	Ken and Mary Ann Devos
Raku Pottery	Sarah House
Seed Beading	Jo Harrison
Silversmithing, beginning	Allen Jewell
Wirecraft, beginning	Lisa Roberts

Session 2: August 23-29, 2004

Beading and Design, traditional	Addy DePietro
Chainmaking, beginning	Carole Boyle
*Faceting, intermediate	Ken Reed
Gem Appreciation	Ben Smith
Glass Bead Making	Marilyn Jobe
Lost-Wax Casting, beginning	Fred Sias
*Metalsmithing, advanced	Jeff Sheer
Opal cutting	Joe DePietro
Precious Metal Clay, beginning	Ken and Mary Ann Devos
Raku Pottery	Cindy McDowell
*Wirecraft, intermediate	Betty Baxter

Session 3: September 13-19, 2004

Lost-wax Casting	John Iacullo
Faceting and Intarsia	Tom Wilke
Faceting and Intarsia	Tom Wilke
Gem Appreciation	Ben Smith
Opal cutting	Sara Lee Boyce
*Precious Metal Clay (Level 2)	Ken and Mary Ann Devos
Raku Pottery	Cindy McDowell
*Silversmithing, advanced	Dan Haga
Silversmithing, beginning	Cathy Cawthorne
Wirecraft, beginning	Lisa Roberts
Stained Glass	Julia Larson