

March 2023

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Changes are in the air! We have a lot of new information to present to the membership and you won't want to miss our March meeting, Thursday, March 16, at 7 pm at our clubhouse, 6919 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. We will talk about our recent show, upcoming board elections, and more. The meeting will start at 7 pm as usual – but skip dessert and come early! An ice cream social is planned from 6:30-7PM .

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are celebrating the conclusion of our show. Wahoo!!! Another year in the history books. Thank you to all of you who donated your time and talent for the show. You have no idea how much this means to the club. We would not be able to raise the necessary funds to keep our club functioning if it was not for your efforts!

After a much-needed breather we need to focus on the many other tasks that need our attention; before we all take off to hunt rocks. Probably the most urgent need is to focus on our upcoming election of Board members. Please consider volunteering for a position or a committee. Information on each committee can be found below.


We will be conducting a raffle, so bring some 1 dollar bills.

See you at the ice cream social and meeting.

Best regards,

Karen Kulas

**SUNCCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY IS MORE THAN A PLACE TO DO LAPIDARY WORK AND SILVERSMITHING. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES WHERE WE NEED THE HELP OF OUR MEMBERS. WHERE WILL YOU HELP OUT?**

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- A. **The Activities Committee** shall plan refreshments, picnics, and other activities; organize a telephone task force; and assist the Dinner Committee as necessary.
- B. **The Annual & Holiday Dinner Committee** shall select a place, date, entertainment, and menu subject to approval by the President. The Committee shall coordinate food, gifts, decoration, activities and prizes and shall reserve the hall for the following year. The Committee shall collect all monies for the banquets, including dinners; keep adequate financial records for the treasurer; and send a report to the Bulletin Editor. The Secretary or President shall notify the Chairman of guests in a timely manner.
- C. **The Annual Show Committee** shall produce an annual Gem and Mineral Show. The Committee shall notify the new media of the activities of this Society. The Chairman and President shall select a time and place for the Show, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The Chairman shall designate the members needed to produce the Show, subject to the approval by the Board of Directors. Complete financial records shall be kept of the receipts and disbursements. These records shall be audited with the Treasurer's Books. All Show records shall be retained by the Society. The Committee shall coordinate exhibits, judging, and shall interpret the AFMS Uniform Rules for the Annual Show; cooperate with the SFMS Uniform Rules Committee; and recommend changes in the AFMS.
- D. **The Auditing Committee** shall consist of two qualified members appointed by the Board of Directors, and shall audit the Treasurer's books and annual show records at the end of the fiscal year and submit a report at the September Board of Directors meeting. The Treasurer's books shall also be audited before a new Treasurer takes office.
- E. **The Building Committee** shall supervise and maintain Clubhouse buildings and grounds and issue and enforce the rules for the use of the premises, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. During an emergency the Committee shall be empowered to take whatever action is necessary to secure and safeguard the property.

- F. The **Bulletin & Publication Committee**. The Editor shall edit at least nine (9) copies of the Society's Bulletin, the *Rock-a-Gram*, annually. The Committee shall be responsible for the printing and disbursement of any publications of the Society, as authorized by the Board of Directors. The Editor shall designate the assistants needed to publish and mail all publications, including the bulletin. The Editor shall establish deadlines; solicit monthly reports from committee chairmen; publish articles from members; and may prepare and print articles or editorials that reflect and give opinion of the Editor consistent with the spirit and purposes of the Society.
- G. The **Education Committee** shall encourage interest in the lapidary arts and our activities. The committee shall consult with the Program Chairman regarding educational programs for monthly membership meetings; coordinate speakers; provide instructors; and coordinate lapidary classes, educational displays and projects. The Committee shall recommend young members between the ages of twelve (12) and sixteen (16) years old to be subsidized at a school of lapidary arts, subject to the Board of Directors approval. The Board of Directors may determine if the prospective student qualifies for a subsidy by requesting attendance at the Society's lapidary classes. The Committee shall keep an accurate inventory of all educational materials and maintain and regulate the use of the Society's books and educational materials and submit recommendations for the purchase of new educational materials to the Board of Directors.
- H. The **Equipment Committee** shall keep an accurate inventory of the lapidary equipment housed in the Clubhouse; supervise and maintain the equipment; purchase new equipment as needed, and sell equipment that is no longer needed, subject to the Board of Directors' approval. The Committee shall be empowered to enforce any regulations regarding the equipment.
- I. The **Finance Committee** shall consist of the President, Vice-president and Treasurer and shall prepare the annual budget to be presented to the Board of Directors for adoption at their April meeting.
- J. The **Historical Committee** shall maintain a continuous year by year record of this Society in the form of a scrap book containing clippings, photographs, and information relating to the activities of the Society.
- K. The **Membership Committee**, with the Corresponding Secretary serving as a member, shall greet visitors at all Society functions, record names of all visitors and members at meetings; deliver the lists to the President before the opening ceremonies; furnish official forms for new members; re-

view applications; keep a file of applications; and submit a list of new members to the Editor.

L. **The Program Committee**, with the Vice-president serving as chairman, shall consult with the Education Committee regarding educational programs for meetings; and coordinate the speakers and programs for meetings.

The Board did not meet on March 2nd due to show set up demands.

The Board had a meeting on March 9th to discuss unexpected events and set the agenda for the March 16th meeting. The minutes from that meeting will be in the next newsletter.

We hope to see everyone on the 16th!

## HANDLING DONATIONS:

At the December Board Meeting, Julia Larson volunteered to be our Donations Coordinator. Here is the information and the following page is the Donation Form should you wish to print one out in advance.

Donors are encouraged to bring items to the clubhouse at Board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September-May), or to the Membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September-May).

Julia Larson has volunteered to be the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. During the summer hiatus, June 1-August 31, or at any time, donors can make arrangements to meet Julia at the clubhouse by emailing, texting, or calling her. Contact information is [jmlsgams22@gmail.com](mailto:jmlsgams22@gmail.com), or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave name and number for her to return the call.

Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.