

EFMLS NEWS

Information for Members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



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Photo from EFMLS.org

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Contents

Presidents Message	2
CROYing Out Loud ..	2
Why Rock Safety? Safety Matters	3
Darn, I'm older than dirt!!	4
Shows and Swaps ...	7
Access to Past Newsletters	9
EFMLS OFFICERS - 2024-2025	9
EFMLS Committees and Chairpersons	10



Presidents Message

Andrew Rockhound

Happy September everyone, I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer so far! Here at the EFMLS we have been busy taking care of the behind-the-scenes things, and all is proceeding well. I would like to announce that Renee Kowalchik has joined our team! I have appointed her to fill the "Youth Coordinator" position. Earlier this year our youth coordinator Darryl Powell had to step away, called back to Pastor his church, with the current Pastor leaving. We wish him all the best and thank him for service to the EFMLS. Renee is an AFMS/EFMLS award winning

newsletter editor for the Central PA Rock & Mineral club, and has shown her dedication to youth outreach with monthly club newsletter highlights on the various badges offered to all club youth members through the AFMS Junior Rockhounds program (<https://www.juniors.amfed.org/>). She is eager and excited to continue at the EFMLS level to share and coordinate youth programs across all our clubs! Welcome Renee!

As we move into fall and club trips, events and shows are in full swing, send us your pics and highlights to share with the rest of the EFMLS through our social media and newsletter. We want to see them! It is a great opportunity to show how fun your club is, and attract new members. Have a wonderful and safe September everyone!



CROYing Out Loud

by Ellery Borow

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) has a committee called the Club Rockhound of the Year. More than just a committee it is also a program to serve a purpose. That purpose, espoused in the AFMS

Operating Procedures, is to provide a method for recognizing outstanding rockhounds.

The Eastern Federation (EFMLS) has a member on the AFMS committee, and encourages its associated EFMLS member clubs to also participate in the program. Here is what the EFMLS CROY committee does not do. It does not poll clubs, conduct interviews, judge, or select outstanding members within member clubs to be a CROY honoree as an outstanding rockhound. What the EFMLS CROY committee does do is encourage clubs to look within their ranks to select and honor their outstanding members.

In the Eastern Federation, member clubs decide on what constitutes "outstanding"; how to select their outstanding members; how long a member needs to be outstanding in order to qualify; how long a person needs to be a member of the club; whether its only officers, or committee members, or regular members who qualify to be nominated as their CROY honoree. It is all about EFMLS member clubs calling the shots, and making the decisions about who to honor and for what reasons.

There are some guidelines for clubs to participate in the program. If a club names a CROY honoree, we request that the honoree be a member of their club. A club may honor just one person (or two if a couple is to be selected) and one junior member per year. After a club selects their honoree(s), we request a brief write up of a club's honoree's accomplishments, the clubs name, and the name of the club member making the submission to the CROY program. It is easy to participate in the CROY program.

The CROY program is not a competition, there is no single federation-wide grand winner for outstanding-ish, If there were 100 clubs in the federation, there could conceivably be 100 CROY honorees. A

While it's not bragging, we like to highlight what amazing and outstanding people there are in serving the goals and needs of the clubs in the federation. CROY honorees will have their write-ups published in the EFMLS and AFMS newsletters. Honorees will also receive a certificate for their being honored by their club as their Club rockhound of the Year honoree. It is a very nice certificate suitable for framing.

Some samples of who might be honored by a club include-outstanding show chair, program presenter, treasurer, editor, field trip leader, new member volunteer, over-all volunteer always ready to help with anything, juniors chair, lapidary class instructor.... It is up to the club to decide. How might a club decide on an honoree? Some clubs have a CROY selection committee, some make a selection using their board of directors, in some clubs the president decides, other clubs have a nomination process with all members participating in the process. It's the club who chooses how to decide on the CROY honoree.

Participating in the CROY program is easy. And best of all, the CROY process encourages yearly participation

because in the following year, a club may name another honoree from within their club.

Please consider participating in the CROY program. There are abundant numbers of people who certainly qualify as outstanding within our clubs.

Why Rock Safety? Safety Matters

by Ellery Borow

Why Rock Safety? It's not a long story, but it does take some background. Safety concerns abound in most everything we do. Take breakfast for example — we want our foods to be safe. We are careful not to touch the hot cooking surfaces. We try to cook the foods the correct way. We use special caution when fishing the toast out of the uncooperative toaster. We carefully wash the eating utensils afterward. We may not think excessively about making sure breakfast is safe, but we do want it to be a safe and healthy activity.

All around us are activities that are in need of constant safety interaction. We get in an airplane and we receive safety instruction. People who work in an automobile repair shop are reprimanded if their effort does not follow safety protocols. Where would we be if no drivers followed the safety rules of the road? Many people who are employed in grocery stores are schooled in how to safely lift heavy loads. Even working in an office has its safety concerns - using scissors, office machinery safe operation, being careful of pinch points, break room health safety, and so on. A great many of the products we purchase come with a set of operating instructions and those invariably begin with a set of safety guidelines. Yes, the manufacturers of those products want you to be safe and have a great user experience with their product. Safety matters abound.

People engage in an astoundingly diverse number of hobby interests and, activities — every one of which has its -own safety concerns. Being --a racing car driver, rock climber quilter; bee keeper, oil painter, you name it, and there are, no doubt, safety concerns. Even stamp

collectors have matters of safety in their activities. The rock, mineral, fossil, bead, lapidary and jewelry activities are no exception to having safety matters of concern to us.

In the rock and mineral hobby, we engage in numerous and very different kinds of activities, each with its own safety concerns. Here is a short list of our major activities — driving to our events, collecting, working in rock quarries and mines, putting on shows, mineral cleaning, stone cutting, jewelry work, working with ultraviolet light, lapidary effort, rock trimming, and lots and lots of lifting. All of these activities have a laundry list of safety concerns unique to the activity. Least one be discouraged from participating in the mineral hobby due to too much concern with matters of safety, being safe can be as simple as:

- Try not to not work on something while one is tired
- Take a break if tired
- Pay attention to what one is doing
- Have sufficient lighting
- Ask for help if a project needs an extra set of hands or opinions
- Read the directions for proper use of machinery and chemistry
- Think before acting

*** That's TTPHART for short

These and more are the essence of being safe in most any activity. Future safety articles are planned for fire safety, chemical safety, collecting safety, pet safety, show safety, meeting safety, mineral cleaning safety, vision safety, and more in our hobby related activities. Ours is a great hobby with a rich variety of activities. Encouraging people to be safe in all we do within those hobby activities is the goal of these safety matters articles. Please make matters of safety your concern as well. Please take safety matters to heart because your safety matters.

Darn, I'm older than dirt!!

Courtesy James Hird

Someone asked the other day,,,,,,,,,,,,,

'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up, I informed him, 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'at home,' I explained!

'Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, & if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood, if I figured his system could have handled it:

- Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card.
- My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow).
- We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 11, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God. It came back on the air at about 6 a.m. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people ...
- I never had a telephone in my room. Our only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.
- Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was & so was bread.
- All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers --my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. He had to get up at 5 AM every morning
- Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies! There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.
- If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Don't blame me if they bust their gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

- Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.

- Ignition switches on the dashboard.
- Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.
- Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner.
- Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

Older Than Dirt Quiz :

Count all the ones that you remember , NOT the ones you were told about !
Ratings at the bottom.

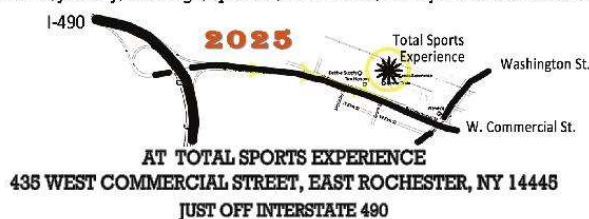
1. Candy cigarettes
2. Coffee shops with tableside juke boxes
3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles
4. Party lines on the telephones
5. Newsreels before the movie
6. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (Only 3 channels! If you had a TV!)
7. Pea-shooters
8. Howdy Doody
9. 45 RPM records
10. 78 rpm records
11. Hi-fi records 33 1/3 rpm
12. Metal ice trays with lever
13. Blue flashbulb
14. Cork popguns
15. Studebakers
16. Wash tub wringers

- **If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young**
- **If you remembered 3-6 = You are getting older**
- **If you remembered 7-10 = Don't tell your age, &**
- **If you remembered 11-16 = You're older than dirt! THAT'S ME!**

I might be older than dirt but those memories are some of the best parts of my life.
Don't forget to pass this along!
Especially to all your really OLD friends

Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show & Sale

Kid's Activities, Sluice, Rock Painting, Educational Displays, Demonstrations, Raffle, Beads, Crystals,
Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry, Carvings, Spheres, Straw Draw, Hourly Door Prizes & Much More



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

ADMISSION \$7.00

KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT | SPECIAL: 2-DAY PASS ONLY \$10.00

STUDENTS RECEIVE HALF PRICE ADMISSION WITH VALID SCHOOL ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

<http://www.rochesterlapidary.org/show>

[Facebook.com/ROCGemShow](https://www.facebook.com/ROCGemShow)



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter and West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Dept. SYMPOSIUM November 8, 2025 Field Trip Nov. 9

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts - tentative plans include:

Saturday Nov. 8: Hybrid Symposium - ONLINE or IN PERSON

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at West Chester University

Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology** with the theme

RED, WHITE, and BLUE MINERALS Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation

Professional Geologists: 6 Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

Sunday Nov. 9: Field Trip. Open only to symposium registrants.

For newsletters and field trips
during the year, please join
our chapter!
See "Join FM" on the web site

Watch for details, registration form, changes and **UPDATES** on our **web site:**

www.rasloto.com/FM or Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania on Facebook

Shows and Swaps

If you would like to see your club show, swap or other public event listed here, please send your information to the editor at lapidry@aol.com by the tenth of the month preceding the event or earlier.

Many dates via Philadelphia Mineral Society News, 6/25 and Rockhound Register, 8/25

Sept. 6-7, 2025 - New Milford, CT - 73rd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show at New Milford High School, 388 Danbury Rd. (Rte. 7), New Milford, CT. Sponsored by the Danbury Mineralogical Society. Event times: 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday.

September 13, 2025 – Poland, ME – Maine Mineral Tailgate Sale. Havey Quarry, 34 Levine Road, Poland, ME. Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <http://nemineral.org>

Sept. 21-22, 2025 - Franklin, NJ - Franklin NJ Mineral Show at the Franklin Firehouse 132 Buckwheat Road and Firemen's Memorial Park, 46 High Street, Franklin, NJ (2 locations: 0.1 mile apart). Sponsored by the Franklin Mineral Museum. The Outdoor Swap-&-Sell takes place on the Franklin Fire Department grounds. Event times: 9:00 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday. For information: franklinmineralshow@gmail.com. Fall Mineral Sale in the Pavilion (a.k.a. The Sterling Hill Garage Sale) at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ. Free admission to the sale! Event times: 10 AM to 4 PM on both days.

Sept. 27-28, 2025 - Harrisburg, PA - 59th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show at the Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 2801 North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA. Sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock-Mineral Club. Event times: 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. For more information, visit Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club.

Oct. 4, 2025 - Macungie, PA - Autumn Minerafest 2025 – Mineral, Fossil-Gem Show at Macungie Memorial Park, 50 North Poplar Street, Macungie, PA. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association (PESA). This is an OUTDOOR event. Event time: 8:30 AM to 3 PM Saturday, rain or shine. For more information-show flyer, visit <https://www.minerafest.com/minerafest.pdf>.

October 17-19, 2025 - Baltimore, MD - Desautels Micromount Symposium The Baltimore Mineral Society is pleased to announce the 69th Annual Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount Symposium at the Natural History Society of Maryland, 6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206. Micromounters' Hall of Fame Induction, Mineral Talks, Silent and Voice Auctions, Sales, Giveaway Tables, Trading.

Oct 18-19, 2025 - Mt. Bethel, PA - Annual Mount Bethel Gem, Mineral,-Meteorite Show at Mt. Bethel Firehouse, 2341 Rte. 611, Mt. Bethel, PA (only 2 miles from I-80/Rte. 46 in NJ). Event times: 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday and 9 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Event times: 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday and 9 AM to 4 PM Sunday.

Oct 18-19, 2025 - Bristol, CT - Annual Gem-Mineral Show at Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, CT. Sponsored by the Bristol Gem-Mineral Club. Event times: 9:30 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM Sunday. For more information, visit www.Bristolgem.org.

Oct. 25, 2025 - Fairless Hills, PA - Ultraviolation 2025 – The Show with the Glow (fluorescent minerals only) at the First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA. Sponsored by The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County. Event times: 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. For information, contact Lee McIlvaine at 215-713-8020 or e-mail him at uvgeologist@yahoo.com.

Oct. 25-26, 2025 - East Rochester, NY - Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry-Fossil Show and Sale at Total Sports Experience, 435 West Commercial Street, East Rochester, NY. Event times: 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday. For more information, visit Rochester Lapidary Society.

Oct. 25-26, 2025 - Freeport, NY - Freeport Gem and Mineral Show at the Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Road, Freeport, NY. Promotor: Kaleidoscope Gem Shows. Event times: 10 AM to 5 PM Saturday and 10 AM to 4:30 PM Sunday. For information, visit [kgs homepage \(kaleidoscopegemshows.com\)](http://kgs.homepage(kaleidoscopegemshows.com)).

Nov. 1-2, 2025 - Oaks, PA - 56th Annual Show – Gemorama 2025 at Hall D of the Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA. Sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. The theme is Treasures in Stone. Event times: 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday. For info, visit: GEMARAMA | Tuscarora Lapidary Society, Inc.

Nov. 14–16, 2025 - Lebanon, PA - Gem Miner's Holiday Show: Gems, Jewelry, Gifts, Beads, Minerals, Fossils-Crafts at Lebanon Expo-Fairgrounds, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon, PA. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Gem-Mineral Association (MAGMA). Event times: Noon to 6 PM Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM Saturday and 11 AM to 4 PM Sunday. For more info, visit Gem-Jewelry Holiday Show November 2024 (gem-show.com).

Nov 22-23, 2025 - West Palm Beach, FL - The 58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, & Bead Show presented by the Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches Date & Time: November 22 @ 9:00 am - November 23 @ 5:00 pm Saturday 9AM – 6PM Sunday 10AM – 5PM • WHO: Over 90 dealers from all over the country offer a wide range of merchandise – fine Jewelry, Southwestern Indian jewelry, bead jewelry, loose beads, Rocks and Minerals for specimen collecting and cutting, Loose Precious and Semi – precious gemstones, Settings and Findings, Fossils, Meteorites, Tools, Books and much, much more. For 2 days only find fine Jewelry and other items at prices you won't find in the malls. • Educational: The show offers a wide range of educational activities and exhibits. Visit the demonstration area where society members will include faceting, cabochon making, chain making, and bead stringing just to name a few. Hourly door prizes awarded both days and a show Grand Prize Drawing and several other drawings will be held. We have also invited several local education based clubs to display at our show as well as the Palm Beach Museum of Natural History. We will also have speakers. • Fun: Great Shopping, Geode Cracking, Gemstone Mining, Fossil Dig, Spin-the-Wheel Game, Face & Rock Painting, Kids' Exploration Station, Silent Auction, Grand Prize Drawing & More! • Admission: Adults/Seniors 1 day \$10.00 or 2 day pass \$16.00 Children under 12 are Free. Visit our website (gmspb.org) for a \$1.00 off coupon. • Additional Information: Visit our website for more details. • Location: Expo Center East, South Florida Fairgrounds 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33411 (www.Southfloridafair.com) DETAILS Date & Time: November 22 @ 9:00 am - November 23 @ 5:00 pm

Nov 22-23, 2025 - Fairfax, VA - Annual Gem Mineral and Fossil Show Presented by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club Date & Time: November 22 @ 10:00 am - November 23 @ 4:00 pm Cost: \$6 Sponsored by the Dept of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU Hours Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 Admission: Adults \$6, Seniors (65+) \$4, Teens (13-17) \$3, Children 12 and under accompanied by a adult are FREE — Scouts in Uniform are FREE — GMU Students, Faculty & Staff are FREE w/valid ID. Approximately 20 dealers with Gems, Minerals & Fossils for sale. Features: Demonstrations, Exhibits, Kids Activities and Door Prizes, Silent Auction on Sunday Use Parking Lot A, enter Lot A where adjacent to the Johnson Center. Look for our Courtesy Shuttle & Designated Walking Path to the Mineral Show. GPS: <https://novamineralclub.org/showparking> (takes you to GMU's Lot A) DETAILS Date & Time: November 22 @ 10:00 am - November 23 @ 4:00 pm Cost: \$6 Website: <https://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2025-show> ORGANIZER Northern Virginia Mineral Club Website: View Organizer Website Email: rockcllctr@gmail.com VENUE Johnson Center at the George Mason University Campus Address: 4400 University Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

Nov. 28–30, 2025 - Morristown, NJ - Annual Rock-Mineral Weekend at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, NJ. Sponsored by the Morris Museum Mineralogical Society. Sales of gems, minerals, fossils and jewelry will take place on all three days. On only Saturday and Sunday, there will be mineral and fossil identification, guest speakers, and a Mineral Magic Show. Event times: 12 noon to 5 PM on Friday, 11 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 1 PM to 4:30 PM on Sunday.

November 28-30, 2025 – Salem, VA - Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153. Friday 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://www.rvmgs.org/>

Access to Past Newsletters

We've added a protected folder that will keep email spam bots from crawling the newsletters. <https://efmls.org/newsletters/> entry requires only a simple password: blackopal

You can share this freely by email. It's not high security but will keep out spammers and bots.

Regards, Steve Hart, EFMLS Webmaster

EFMLS Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2186, Lewiston, ME 04241

EFMLS OFFICERS - 2024-2025

Name	Title	Personal Email	Forwarding EFMLS Email
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Cheryl Neary, PG	Secretary	ciervo.neary@gmail.com	secretary@efmls.org
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Barbara Ringhiser	Past President's Advisory Council	bar5678@aol.com	
Dean Russell	General Show Chairman	tmkrussel5@aol.com	show.chairman@efmls.org

Regional Vice Presidents (RVP's)

Region 1	Ellery Borow	1-207-547-3154	rocknellery@fairpoint.net
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Region 3	Andrew Rockhound		andrewrockhound@gmail.com
Region 4	Bill Stephens, PG	1-302- 540-3453	bstephens@stephensv.com
Region 5	Bill Stephens, PG	1-302- 540-3453	bstephens@stephensv.com
Region 6	Open		
Region 7	Joe Cooper	1-706-499-9322	jcooper@hallcounty.org
Region 8	Open		

EFMLS Committees and Chairpersons

AFMS Endowment Fund ⁽¹⁾	Open		
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AFMS Ways And Means ⁽¹⁾	Cheryl Neary, PG	516-449-5341	ciervo.neary@gmail.com
All American Award⁽¹⁾	Open		
Auction	Cheryl Neary, PG	516-449-5341	ciervo.neary@gmail.com
Audit/Review	Open		
Borders	Ryan Klockner		
Budget And Finance	Open		
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Club Rockhound Of The Year ⁽¹⁾	Ellery Borow	207-547-3154	rocknellery@fairpoint.net
Conservation & Legislation ⁽¹⁾	Open		
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Convention Show Chair	Dean Russell		
Each One Teach One Award	Jake van der Vliet		JacobVanderVliet@gmail.com
Eastern Foundation Fund	Open		
Historian	Open		
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Legal Advisory	Open		
Librarian	Janice Kowalski	516-319-8883	janicekw@Hotmail.com
Long Range Planning	Open		
Operating Procedures	Open		
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Web Site Contest	Open		
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	Cheryl Brown	315-487-6009	gmssrocks@gmail.com

⁽¹⁾ EFMLS Representative to American Federation (AFMS) committee.

Updated August 25, 2025