

**AFRC DIRECTORS/DELEGATES meeting (by ZOOM)
Sunday, 13 November 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm.

1. Consideration of the Agenda (appointing a Secretary and additions to the agenda)

- a) Appointment of Secretary: JohnC (MHRLC) volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.
Karen-AnneC (MHRLC) suggested that until the club has an official Secretary, that the Minutes be taken by someone serving as temporary secretary on a rotational basis.
JonathanL (SARHA) volunteered to take Minutes of the 12 February 2023 meeting.
- b) Addition to the Agenda: Under Correspondence, add correspondence from the BCLS Executive to the GMFC Executive.

2. AFRC's President Message (see attached, Appendix A)

3. Roll Call:

<p>Calgary Faceters Guild</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absent 	<p>Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dale N (Vice President) - Mike O - Linda B - Dave F (arrived at 1:18 pm)
<p>Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club (the following are temporary delegates until new ones are elected)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michelle M - Jim R 	<p>Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Guild</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tony C - Ron B
<p>Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Karen-Anne C - John C (Treasurer) 	<p>Southern Alberta Rockhounds Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brett J (President) - Jonathan L - Henry K

4. In Memoriam (bereavements)

DaleN (CRLC) noted that Dave Barkley, although not a member of the CRLC, was always at their show and he was great supporter of and active with the GMFC. As he passed away a few months ago, there was 1 minute of silence.

5. Minutes of the 18 September 2022 Directors/Delegates meeting.

DaleN (CRLC) noted two needed corrections as follows:

9.2: The second point should have noted that Laurie Wichink, the Calgary Librarian, received 17 boxes of books, videos and additional items for the CRLC. Dale suggested that they pass on any duplicates to the AFRC Traveling Library.

10.3: The first item should have noted CFG, not CFC.

The CRLC item at the end regarding the Rock and Gem show in May, should have said it is mostly handled by volunteers, not Silver Cove.

After a brief discussion, DaleN (CRLC) moved to approve the Minutes with these corrections, 2nd by HenryK (SARA), **APPROVED BY ALL.**

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1. Follow-up on the handling of historical documentation including storage, access, digitization and donating materials to the Provincial Archives.

At the last meeting, it was asked what historical documents do we want stored and potentially available to the general public. Do we want previous Minutes of AFRC and associate clubs, the names of our executives, and our financial records in the Provincial Archives?

BrettJ (SARA) said that he had not yet contacted PaulineZ (ETLC) on this topic, so there was no new information to share.

6.2. AFRC rejuvenation:

There was much discussion on this topic that was also related to other Agenda items such as correspondence, AFRC website, potential Zoom license purchases (to be included in future Treasurer's report). The item focused on increasing membership and use of Social Media.

- It was noted that a number of good ideas were shared at the last meeting and that JonathonL (SARA) had a number of good suggestions re utilizing social media to attract younger members.
- JohnC (MHRLC) noted that he had not yet contacted the Lapidary Dept. of the Alberta University of the Arts but that he would try do so before the February meeting.
- JohnC (MHRLC) and BrettJ (SARA) commented that **potential clubs** are out there in Alberta, but circumstance and attitudes have prevented association. Barrhead and Lloydminster may have clubs or jewelry guilds but are not interested in joining the AFRC. Years ago, Grande Prairie almost formed a club to join with AFRC, but the main driving force passed away.
- JohnC (MHRLC) feels the more our various clubs and the AFRC are known, the more we will grow. From gem shows, sales of materials and lapidary equipment, and Internet messaging, there appears to be a **great public interest in rocks, gems, minerals and fossils**. However there seems to be a disconnect and a lack of awareness between the public (wanting rock and lapidary information, course, classes and material) and Rock & Lapidary Clubs offering that service.
- MichelleM (ETLC) noted it might be worthwhile for AFRC to have a Zoom Account. She noted their club are trying an Instagram page. She suggested that the AFRC webpage could be updated and it would be helpful for clubs to share more with each other. For instance, if the AFRC had a Zoom account, perhaps we could share presentations via Zoom to our various clubs. This could perhaps allow for more speakers to be arranged. She noted that they have a contact now at the U of A in Paleontology who could perhaps share information with other clubs through a more formalized communication channel. A Zoom account could perhaps be a tool so that we could work more with BC clubs. It was noted however, that if we save some presentations on Zoom there may be some copyright concerns. Some speakers don't allow. Another possible option is a YouTube channel.
- MichelleM (ETLC) and HenryK (SARA) raised points regarding some inconsistencies between some of the club pages. Some websites are not mobile friendly so they are hard to read on a phone.
- DaleN (CRLC) noted that they have two Facebook pages; one for just their members and the other for the public. Those interested can apply for membership online. It was noted the ETLC also has their membership form online.
- Regarding membership, KarenAnneC (MHRLC) noted that for a club to survive, it not only needs members but active members that come to club meetings, help with the duties and the clubhouse. She noted that the MHR&LC lets new members know that the expectation is for them to attend 5 meetings per year unless they a good reason why they can't attend as well as help out with a fundraiser. She wondered if other clubs had similar expectations. JonathanL

(SARA) also added that Karen-AnneC made a good point of having rules and expectations of a club figured out before members of the public are considering joining and they had recently discussed this topic.

- JonathanL (SARA) said he finds talking to customers when he is at markets is a good marketing tool. He also commented that developing communication capabilities may assist in connecting **southern Alberta AFRC clubs with southern B.C.** clubs such as Creston (the latter which are closer to us than to western BC). DaleN (CRLKC) noted that 2-3 members of the CRLC used to be GMFC members from Cranbrook BC. Perhaps we have members in our clubs that could be connections to BC. JonathanL (SARA) added that there are user groups on the Internet, such as the Northern Rockhounds and the Southern Rockhounds which AFRC might want to connect with on shared interests. As JonathanL noted, “*sharing is but a click away*”. JohnC (MHRLC) noted that in the 70's, two clubs, Maple Creek and Yellowknife were affiliated and even a Montana Club reached out to the AFRC.
- MichelleM (ETLC) suggested another possibility would be to have a club sponsor a table at a market where any member could sell their items and they could hand out their club pamphlet.
- BrettJ (SARA) shared the experience that often new members come about by attending tailgating or sales at **local markets**, such as the one they have in September at the Lethbridge. (This year the tailgate was successful with 9 vendors, 3 of whom were from Calgary. Advertising on Social Media may have been a key factor in this success.) DaleN (CRLC) noted the success of attracting new members to the club that has an information booth at the May Rock & Gem show. MichelleM (ETLC) commented that 7-8 members sponsored a table at a market and had several of the public curious about her club. JohnC (MHRLC) said it reminded him of “the 50 Artisan Shop” in Invermere BC where the consignments of 50 hobbyists made an excellent store that had something for everyone. JohnC also said how well it went when he made cabs and polished rocks at a club grinder used at Silver Cove’s Gem Show last time they were in Medicine Hat. In a similar fashion, Indie Gems sometimes has pop-up markets, usually in the spring time, where a club could have a table. Others shared how markets are a good way to get their club known. BrettJ (SARA) summed up by saying he hoped some of these ideas will motivate the clubs to try new things to attract new members.

ONGOING.

7. New Business:

7.1 Approval of AFRC Executive for 2023.

- JohnC (MHRLC) agreed to continue as Treasurer for 2023.
- DaleN (CRLC) agreed to be Vice President for 2023.
- TonyC (LHLG) agreed to be President of the AFRC for a 2 year term. He was nominated by BrettJ(SARA). Brett noted that traditionally the role of President has gone from Southern AB to Northern AB or Vice Versa.
- BrettJ (SARA) will be the Past President.

He will also continue as a SARA director/delegate for 1 year, 2023.

There was no-one willing to take on the role of Secretary.

From the recommendation of Karen-AnneC (MHRLC), the duties of Secretary will be done on rotation. JohnC (MHRLC) volunteered to do November 2022’s Minutes, JonathanL (SARA) volunteered to do the next meeting (12 February 2023). At each meeting, the Secretary for the following meeting will be assigned.

For each of the noted positions, BrettJ (SARA), President of AFRC, asked 3 times if there were any other contestants. There were none, and the **officials were elected by ACCLAMATION.**

MichelleM (ETLC) noted that they were holding their elections at their upcoming meeting. They will be asking for AFRC delegates. She noted that Bruce is not interested in being a delegate and that they may have a newer member interested if the meetings will be held mainly via Zoom.

TonyC (LHLG) noted that his wife has a Zoom account if needed. BrettJ (SARA) noted that even if we meet in person, the AFRC should have a Zoom account. For instance, Zoom should be offered as an option for our AGM at May Daze. MichelleM (ETLC) and TonyC (LHLG) wondered if there was anything in the AFRC Bylaws that would limit the use of Zoom.

Karen-AnneC (MHRLC) motioned that the AFRC purchase a Zoom Account, seconded by MichelleM (ETLC), Carried. HenryK (SARA) and JonathanL (SARA) will research for a suitable Zoom Account that could be tied to multiple e-mails and a host may be delegated. JonathanL and HenryK (SARA) said that capabilities to be considered are what platforms will this be used on, do we want a free account for 20-100 viewers, would the link be used for no more than 2-3 hours.

7.2 Approval of delegates to the GMFC

At the September 18, 2022 meeting, BrettJ (SARA), President of the GMFC and AFRC, asked for volunteers to serve as GMFC delegates. The following in addition to BrettJ volunteered.

- HenryK (SARA)
- DaleN (CRLC)
- Karen-AnneC (MHRLC)
- JohnC (MHRLC).

BrettJ (SARA) noted that he had been looking for the Bylaws for the GMFC but has not been able to locate them.

Post-meeting note: Further to the e-mail sent on November 16, 2022 titled “Information on GMFC shared by the Novlan’s”, JohnC (MHRLC) located Irene Novlan’s copies of various editions of GMFC Bylaws, some of which are undated.

8. Correspondence:

There was reference to the correspondence from the BCLS Executive to the GMFC Executive. To a large extent, BrettJ’s correspondence with matters related to GMFC are addressed in his President’s Message and GMFC Report.

9. Committee Reports:

9.1 Treasurer’s Report: JohnC (MHR&LC).

There was very little financial activity between the 18 September 2022 meeting and the 13 November 2022 meeting. The report is attached as APPENDIX B.

Moved by JohnC (MHR&LC) to accept the Financial Report for 13 November 2022, 2nd by LindaB (CRLC), APPROVED BY ALL.

9.2 Custodian/Librarian Report.

The Custodian/Librarian was absent and so there was no report.

It was confirmed at the last meeting that the Traveling Library is at Lacombe.

The Traveling Memento and AFRC-AGM Guest Book are with SARA. BrettJ (SARA) has the Signs.

9.3 GMFC Report: BrettJ (SARA)

BrettJ (SARA) summarized an update in his attached President’s message. He explained that the GMFC has had its difficulties.

- Some of its Executives have had serious illnesses or are caring for the disabled.
- The Saskatchewan club no longer exists.
- B.C. clubs feel that they are a power unto themselves and do not need GMFC association. Indeed, their “Rendezvous” is much like AFRC’s AGM May Daze, and their Annual Gem Show in Abbotsford BC nets them about \$60,000.
- There are misinterpretations on the role of AFRC. Some clubs believe GMFC gives its name for annual AGMs, then takes much of the revenue from such events without doing much. In actual practice, GMFC acts much like AFRC in that it supports clubs to have their annual events by putting up or reimbursing some of the costs (e.g. hall rental) and covering any losses.

With these difficulties, the Executive and Directors of GMFC were considering dissolution. Upon hearing that this was being considered, long-time members were greatly concerned. As such, even with issues of bad health and caring for the disabled, the Executive agreed to stay for another year.

The GMFC insurance for AFRC will be in place for another year.(3rd party liability, it protects AFRC from being sued by parties outside AFRC).

BrettJ (SARA) said a Zoom meeting will be arranged to see if we can save the GMFC, and if not, look at how it should be dissolved. BrettJ noted that he was not sure which province the GMFC is tied to and that Bylaws for dissolution differ per province. The Zoom meeting would include Philip Crewe and BrettJ hopes we can keep the GMFC going.

One concern is that the GMFC has no fundraiser. In the past proceeds from shows were shared with the GMFC. For instance, the Princeton Club had a GMFC show and they asked for a share of the proceeds, but in the end the GMFC had to pay to cover the loss. At the more recent Lethbridge show, the GMFC did not get any money. It was noted that it is BC's turn to sponsor a GMFC show. It was noted that BC has to step up and help otherwise it will dissolve. BC has about 20 functioning clubs.

MichelleM (ETLC) in support of GMFC said that by helping GMFC survive, such as through sharing topics (social media, website updates, interconnecting small communities, computer storage and software) then this may result in AFRC modernizing and becoming revitalized as well. By pooling abilities and sharing knowledge, all clubs, the AFRC and GMFC can benefit. It was noted that when one Google's GMFC, nothing comes up.

JonathanL (SARA) asked if what GMFC largely provides is insurance, what are we paying for? It was explained that we pay for 3rd party insurance.

The question was raised as to whether GMFC still has rock, gem, mineral fossil colouring books for distribution to schools, if so where are these stored, if not will they be producing more? Clubs are asked to see if they have any in storage.

BrettJ (SARA) closed the topic by noting that he will arrange a GMFC Zoom meeting to discuss the issues raised.

9.3 AFRC Website/Newsletter?

TonyC (LHLG) noted that the current AFRC website uses HTML language. He said he is able to maintain the website, but if we want to improve it, the website should be replaced. Karen-AnneC (MHRLC) noted the software should be user-friendly.

TonyC (LHLG) asked what minutes the AFRC would like uploaded to the AFRC website. The minutes

to upload are to be sent to him as a PDF format and each set of minutes should be a separate document. The Financial Statements are to be kept separate and not posted.

10. On-Going Business

10.1 May Daze 2023

May Daze on the Long Weekend (Victoria Day) is hosted by the Lethbridge Club (Southern Alberta Rockhounds of Alberta, or SARHA) and will be held at Diamond Hall north of the city. The Hall is booked and they were sending the deposit that week.

The schedule will be the same as the prior year however they will start the auction earlier so there is more time for the tailgating. They will consider a silent auction of the AFRC donations and club donations to give more time for the consignment portion. JohnC (MHRLC) suggested the silent auction be held at a separate time. There will be showcases available. They are looking for people to give demos or classes on the Saturday. The plan is to extend May Daze to the Monday for extra time for field trips, camping and sight-seeing. The plan is to go to the Crowsnest Pass on the Monday. JohnC (MHRLC) added that in the 1970s, AFRC had the annual meeting on the Long Weekend and it was extended to include Mondays for the same reasons as well as an extra day to get back to cities at distant locations in the province.

There is very limited camping at the site, but some may be available at other locations such as Coalhurst and Pincher Butte. There is public parking around Park Lake, but that is a few miles away from the clubhouse and not on site. As for accommodations, people who plan to attend may want to start booking their hotel rooms soon.

MichelleM (ETLC) will ask if the Edmonton Club will hold May Daze in 2024.

10.2 AFRC Lifetime Achievement Award nominations

At the September 18, 2022 AFRC meeting, nominations were put forward for the AFRC Lifetime Achievement Award. BrettJ (SARA) asked if there were any other nominations of early pioneers to consider. As there were none, HenryK (SARA) made the motion that the award go to **Maureen and John Dowler** (posthumously) (MHRLC) and **Marilyn and Adam Jetter** (MHRLC), seconded by Karen-AnneC (MHRLC), Carried. All approved. Karen-AnneC (MHRLC) asked for permission to share the good news at the next MHRLC meeting.

Post-meeting note: Both Maureen and Marilyn and Adam Jetter were made aware of the award at the MHRLC December meeting. Karen-AnneC (MHRLC) said she would get back to them as to when the presentation would take place at May Daze, but it would likely be at the AGM.

10.3 Announcement of Club events:

- SARA: Will be holding a Mini Indoor Tailgate in December with a table per person.
- MHRLC: Nothing scheduled
- CRLC: Held their small market the weekend prior. Due to bad weather, the attendance was down. They had a membership table and obtained 11 new members. Their membership is now over 300.
- ETLC:
 - Held their Christmas Party on December 4th.
 - They had two small estates so dealt with those with a silent auction.
 - They are currently planning a large estate sale of George Cushman. He was a miner and hobbyist and he had a licence for Montana Agates and mineral specimens. There are lots of high quality materials including finished cabs. They are still bagging and sorting. There

will be over 3000 lots. Includes some good equipment including specialized equipment and some rare specimens such as Iris Agate. The auction is scheduled for April 21st – 23rd, 2023. It will be held in a very good auction hall, Athlone Hall, in Edmonton located 2 blocks North of the Yellowhead.

- The fellow who owns the rockpile at Rollyview is willing to do two more rock picks this coming Spring; likely in April and May.

11. Next AFRC meeting (Sunday, 12 February 2023, at 1:00 pm by ZOOM)

12. Adjournment

There were a few final comments prior to adjournment as follows:

- TonyC (LHLG) noted the need to investigate more about the AFRC website before making changes.
- JonathanL (SARA) noted that there were going to be more fossils going up on the Twinauctions.com website.
- It was also noted that it was ok to share the President's Message with club members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.

APPENDIX A: AFRC President's Message for November, 2022

Season's Greetings to all Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs members. May the true spirit of Christmas attend you and your families this holiday season.

I believe that generally the rock clubs of Alberta are faring well in their recovery from the pandemic. I know that my own club, the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association, is attracting many new members, the majority of whom are younger than the usual retirement crowd. It sure is nice to be able to meet with no restrictions and have our meetings, classes, shows and sales as we did pre-pandemic. We were able to have two obsidian knapping classes in our club – one making arrowheads and another making obsidian knives with cholla cactus handles. Both classes were enthusiastically received. Our annual Tailgate Sale at the Peavey Mart parking lot was well attended with three vendors coming from Calgary for it. Thank you very much for your participation. In December we are planning on having a mini indoor tailgate sale with Christmas refreshments.

I would like to address the issue of the continuation or the possible dissolution of the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC). Peter Hagar, the present vice-president and previous president of GMFC, and Laurie Fabrick, the treasurer of GMFC, announced the initiation of the dissolution of GMFC. Although as president of GMFC I was not consulted prior to their announcement, I completely understand the reasons behind it. Laurie has continued as treasurer, ensuring the continued existence of GMFC by filing the financial reports, paying the annual insurance premiums and fulfilling the position of Scholarship Committee chair held by her husband, in spite of asking to be replaced over 5 years ago and caring for her husband who suffered a severe stroke. I was not able to find anyone to replace her or to even find board members from either Alberta or British Columbia. I attended the annual general meeting of the British Columbia Lapidary Society (BCLS) and pleaded for representation from them and help with the administration of GMFC. No one stepped up and I was brutally verbally attacked by a BC member with accusations that were not true. After the announcement of the initiation of dissolution of GMFC I was contacted by Phillip Crewe, Executive Secretary of the BCLS, with lots of questions about the process and consequences of dissolution. With few answers coming forth, Laurie Fabrick has agreed to stay on for one more year to allow time for the questions to be answered and/or the problems to be resolved. We all have agreed to meet in the near future over Zoom. In the meantime, some AFRC directors have agreed to be GMFC representatives and some people in BC have agreed to serve on the GMFC board. For the next year it is business as usual, so please send in your AFRC fees promptly to John.

This has surely reinforced the principle that if we want the benefits of our rockhound organizations, such as liability insurance, scholarships, shows, etc. we need to be willing to help in the administration and running of organizations and events. I hope that you willingly volunteer for your local club and recognize all the efforts of all those that do.

We look forward to seeing you all in Diamond City next year for May Daze. Thanks for all your support over the years.

May you have a productive winter season making wonderful lapidary creations while I languish in the Arizona sun.

Brett Jensen

APPENDIX B: TREASURER’S REPORT for 18 September 2022 - 13 November 2022

On 23 September 2022, as approved on the 18 September 2022 AFRC meeting, **\$2000** of this (ATB Springboard GIC) was **transferred into the chequing account** to insure there were funds available for rising insurance costs, possible support of workshops to clubs and other expenses.

On the same date, the remainder of the GIC, **\$42,924.89**, was invested for **1 year** (instead of locking this in for more years and missing any later higher interest rates). The interest for the year was to be 3.8%. However, the bank manager contacted ATB headquarters, and a rate of **4.0%** was given. (On the principle, this would be \$1717.00 after 1 year).

TABLE 1:

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS	18 September 2022	13 November 2022
ATB Springboard GIC	\$43,804.99	\$42,924.89
ATB Community Spirit Account (Chequing)	\$ 4,015.82	\$ 5,940.82
TOTAL	\$47,820.81	\$48,865.71

TABLE 2:

CHEQUING ACCOUNT TRANSACTIONS: 18 Sept. 2022 - 13 Nov. 2022

DEPOSITS:	WITHDRAWALS PAYMENTS, CHEQUES
23 September 2022: \$2000.00 from matured GIC deposited into chequing account	11 October 2022: Chq. #74, to CRLC, \$75.00 (\$65 for room rental, \$10 for coffee fund)
TOTAL: + \$2000.00	TOTAL: - \$75.00