

FOMS / Meeting notes

October 11, 2025

Opening remarks by President, Stephanie Koles.

She recalls trips to Canada and the joy of collecting elsewhere. She mentions how safety is paramount while on trips. She reflects on a recent trip elsewhere at another location where safety protocols were not followed. She mentions that safety is paramount and that at all future trips at quarries such as at Braen and at Vulcan she expects the highest level of safety. She encourages the collection of minerals, not the filling up of a whole truck with rocks for gardens.

(Note from DK, that some quarry people seem to have indicated that filling up the truck was acceptable.)

SK (Stephanie Koles): Requests report on PT.

Mark Boyer (MB): Indicates there were some small details that he has been working on to finalize the PT. He suggests that this be an “annual issue” for this year since it is singular. Mark further discusses the fall sale, as being mostly “typical”.

SK: Thanks all who helped at fall show.

Mark Dalman recognizes by name the people who helped at fall show.

SK: Introduces the nominations...

Bernie Kozykowski nominates a slate or candidates from the nominating committee:

President: Dave Vonderheide

VP1: Eric Stroud

VP2: Phil Crabb

Treasurer: Denise Kroth

Assistant Treasurer: Mark Kucera

Recording Secretary: Mark Boyer

Correspondence Secretary: Tema Hecht

Trustees: Dick Bostwick, George Elling, Charles Mergeurian, Steven Kuitems

ES makes a motion and nominates:

VP2: Tommy Hennighan

Secretary (combined): Dave Kaminski

Treasurer: Ed Frisbe

Trustees: Sean Stimac, Brittany Smith, Kyle Kustka, John Kushmerick

Discussion in room on how those who submit applications for membership are not receiving membership cards; the lack of transparency about who is a member; the inability to know who is a member; how members are identified for digs, etc. Numerous people in the room speak of the need to improve this.

Discussion on how voting will take place. ES requests electronic with secure elements, which MD says he would like to take under consideration. Discussion of how the constitution of the club was written before the Internet and email, and therefore some updating needs to be done. BK speaks to this point. Numerous members in the room ask questions about this. The tight timeline and constitutional requirements to get the ballot out within a prescribed number of days creates pressure that the existing president and others say they will sort out. MD speaks to some other complexities of voting.

MB: Asks about how many people constitute a quorum.

DM: Provides information from the constitution.

SK: Says she hopes to communicate through email, so please give that to her.

ES: Requests current treasurer present all details--a full financial report--of FOMS finances at November meeting.

SK: Indicates the existing leadership and Board will follow up and request that.

BK: Discusses reorganization of society to improve it, communication, electronic resources, and the future.

SK requests the nominated people provide bios, photos, and platform.

ES indicates the platform he has proposed will be on LetsFixFOMS.com

Rolf: Recommends a second tier of membership; a \$20 junior membership with no age limit, but no PT.

Member in room asks how they will find the LetsfixFOMS.com URL.

DK (Dave Kaminski) asks if the full membership list will be available to the platform members proposed by ES. SK responds that it will be part of the discussion with ES who will work with both teams.

Jen from Warwick: How can she find out if she is a member? (Her check was cashed.)

SK: Tells Jen to speak to Denise Kroth.

SK: Closes meeting with second and voice vote of those in room.

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Kyle Kustka presents his talk on sphalerite.

Contact him for information.