

PRESIDENTS UPDATE

It seems like I just prepared my May-June report and it's already time for another update on Council events. Thanks to Don Innes for keeping me on schedule and for publishing our newsletter. I neglected to include Ed Anderson's name as one of our new Directors in my last update, so a belated welcome to Ed. The Roseburg Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club installed their Oregon rock and lapidary display in the Salem capital case in mid-May. A number of visitors have passed along favorable comments so our efforts are clearly appreciated by the public and capital employees. We were also able to pass out some tumbled sunstones to a grade school class who were on tour. They couldn't believe their luck and it really made our day! A special thanks to Vicki and Ted Johnson for all their efforts as case agents in making our installations go smoothly. Frank Forbes will be taking over as our new case agent with Vicki's continued assistance. Oregon Agate will be next up at the capital in November.

We had our annual meeting at the Madras show on June 24th. Thanks to all who were able to make the trip and attend. The weather was hot and dry, just what you would expect for late June in central Oregon. We had wide ranging discussions regarding federal land use management activities which might affect recreational rockhounds. Topics included the new administration's actions on recent monument designations, concerns related to the sage grouse, the possible inclusion of Hampton Butte in a wilderness study area and federal budget issues. If federal agency (BLM, USFS) budgets are greatly reduced they may cut road maintenance funding and close access to collection areas. Not a very good outcome for rockhounds. Also of note, several small scale eastern Oregon mining ventures have experienced some recent regulatory activity affecting their operations. Thanks to Lenora Smith and Susie Koppert for their continued efforts in lobbying the BLM, Forest Service and our elected representatives on behalf of the Council.

Until next time, happy trails and good luck rockhounding. Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**NEXT OCRMC MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017 @ 1:00 PM
PORTLAND REGIONAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRPLEX
873 NE 34TH AVENUE – HILLSBORO, OR**

