

SMP NEWSLETTER

The Society of Mineral Museum Professionals Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 1

March 16, 2021

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Board of Directors

President

Eloïse Gaillou ('21)
Musée de Minéralogie
Ecoles des Mines de Paris
France

Vice President

Katherine Dunnell ('21)
Mineralogy Department
Royal Ontario Museum
Canada

Secretary

Raquel Alonzo-Perez ('22)
Harvard Mineralogical Museum
USA

Treasurer

Anna Domitrovic ('21)
6118 W. Lazy Heart Street
Tucson, AZ 85713
USA

Continued...

Past Tucson Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 11th, 2021

Place: Your Home

Membership meeting: 11:00 – Noon, EST

Program: Noon—1:00 PM, EST

PROGRAM :

“How Museums Are Staying Alive During COVID”

Moderated by **Kim Vagner**, Perot Museum of Nature and Science

After the meeting, an open forum was open to discuss how we (and our institutions) are adapting to the pandemic, and what comes after. How have we dealt with closures? What have we been working on? Did we try going virtual? This was an opportunity to talk about the changes we have made (temporary and possibly permanent), and exchange with our colleagues.

VIRTUAL AGM AGENDA AND MINUTES

Introduction

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

SMMP elections - Nominating Committee and Results

IMA-CM report and announcements

Short report by Chair Mike Rumsey

Next M&M9 in Bulgaria, August 24-26, 2021

Next IMA meeting in France, 2022 (Lyon, 17-22, 2022)

SMMP Program & Planning Committee Actions

New SMMP Website

Next SMMP meeting in June – Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines

Other business

Mineral Talks LIVE

Museum group on google: mineralmuseums@googlegroups.com

Announcements

New exhibits: opened (Milan Museum), postponed (American Museum). Denver's Hard-Rock Summit. Acquisitions (Gilles Haineault's Collection from Mt. Saint Hilaire)...

Group Photograph

Minutes

Available on our website: <http://www.smmp.net/public/members/meetings.php>

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Board Members:

Vera Hammer ('22)
Naturhistorisches Museum
(Vienna)
Austria

Tom Cotterell ('23)
Amgueddfa Cymru-
National Museum Wales
United Kingdom

Nominating Committee liaison

Ryan Roney ('22)
Tellus Science Museum
USA

Program & Planning Committee liaison

Gabriela Farfan ('23)
Smithsonian Institution,
NMNH
USA

Membership Committee liaison

Henrik Friis ('23)
Natural History Museum
Norway

Ex Officio (non-voting):

Webmaster

Carolyn Im
Harvard Mineralogical
Museum
USA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Virtual Greetings!

It has been a year since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and a worldwide lockdown. These words would have sounded like a mad Sci-Fi movie not that long ago, and still, here we are, unable to work, travel, or see family and friends as we would see it fit. I know some of you lost some close ones to this pandemic. We had SMMP members who passed away in 2020. Our thoughts are to all. We all know someone who was affected, one way or the other. Some lost their jobs, some museums are still closed, and a few might not even reopen. It is a tough time for humanity, culture and art.

At the same time, we adapted to the situation. We worked from home, and still, we managed to stay connected with colleagues, friends and family thanks to the wonders of the internet. At this point, it is our daily routine to have online meetings and organize our work day remotely, even if some of us are partially or totally back into their institution. In the meantime, we found other ways to communicate with our public, to help scientists with our collections. We have seen with this time more and more online content appearing on museum websites, including digital access to collections, and virtual panoramic or guided tours. The use of Social Media in the museum community exploded, and the number of people turning to virtually exploring museums increased significantly. It might just have been our chance to reach to a new community of people that we might never have reached otherwise.

The SMMP joined this worldwide effort in staying virtually connected. With the Sainte-Marie show not happening, Mineral Talks LIVE (weekly Wednesday show) came alive and still carries on, created in partnership with Blue Cap Production (Bryan Swoboda), Harvard University (Raquel Alonso-Perez) and the SMMP (Eloïse Gaillou & Raquel). We had our first SMMP virtual meeting synchronized with the Munich show at the beginning of November 2020, and the first virtual Annual General Meeting in February 2021.

As our by-laws were revamped to add the virtual component and comply with gender-neutrality, the SMMP formed different committees following the by-laws (see below). Their role is essential in separating the different components of the SMMP: membership, education and planning, and nomination for the election. You already heard from these different committees, and you will hear some more in the near future, especially regarding your thoughts about an (online) workshop and adding social media content.

Also, as we had our first online election, I am pleased to report as your new President for 2021! I wanted to acknowledge all the great work conducted by Katherine Dunnell over the past 5 years as President. She drew the SMMP in a new and forward vision. We will continue implementing her work on a SMMP mission statement that all museums worldwide could use to support their collections and institutions. I am also happy to continue working with Anna, Raquel, Ryan, and Vera, and welcome new Board members Gabriela, Henrik, and Tom. Of course, this includes Caroline who created the new version of our website.

Stay safe, and I hope to see you all soon.

Best regards,

Eloïse Gaillou

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SMMP GOOGLE GROUPS

You are encouraged to interact with your fellow SMMP members via our list server:

mineralmuseums@googlegroups.com

Please remember that when you reply to an email sent via our GoogleGroups you will be replying to all the membership. If you want to email someone a response, click their email address to reply to them directly. The SMMP GoogleGroups is a closed group, by invite only. If you are not currently on the GoogleGroups, please email Katherine Dunnell (katherin@rom.on.ca) so she can invite you to the group.

SMMP SOCIAL MEDIA — NEW!

You are encouraged to interact and post on our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter accounts. Send relevant and interesting news and events, pictures and content through the [PPC Google Form](#). For any enquiries, please email smmpprogram@gmail.com. More confidential content should be streamed through the listserv.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheSMMP>

<https://www.instagram.com/the.smmp/>

<https://twitter.com/TheSMMP>

SMMP AFFILIATIONS

American Geological Institute (AGI)
Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA)

PAYING DUES

SMMP dues are \$10.00 U.S., payable via Paypal at <http://www.smmp.net/>

Note that you can check your dues payment status on the SMMP online roster. The year shown in the last column indicates the last year for which you have paid. If you are delinquent, please remit your dues payment as soon as possible.

Recent Group Photos

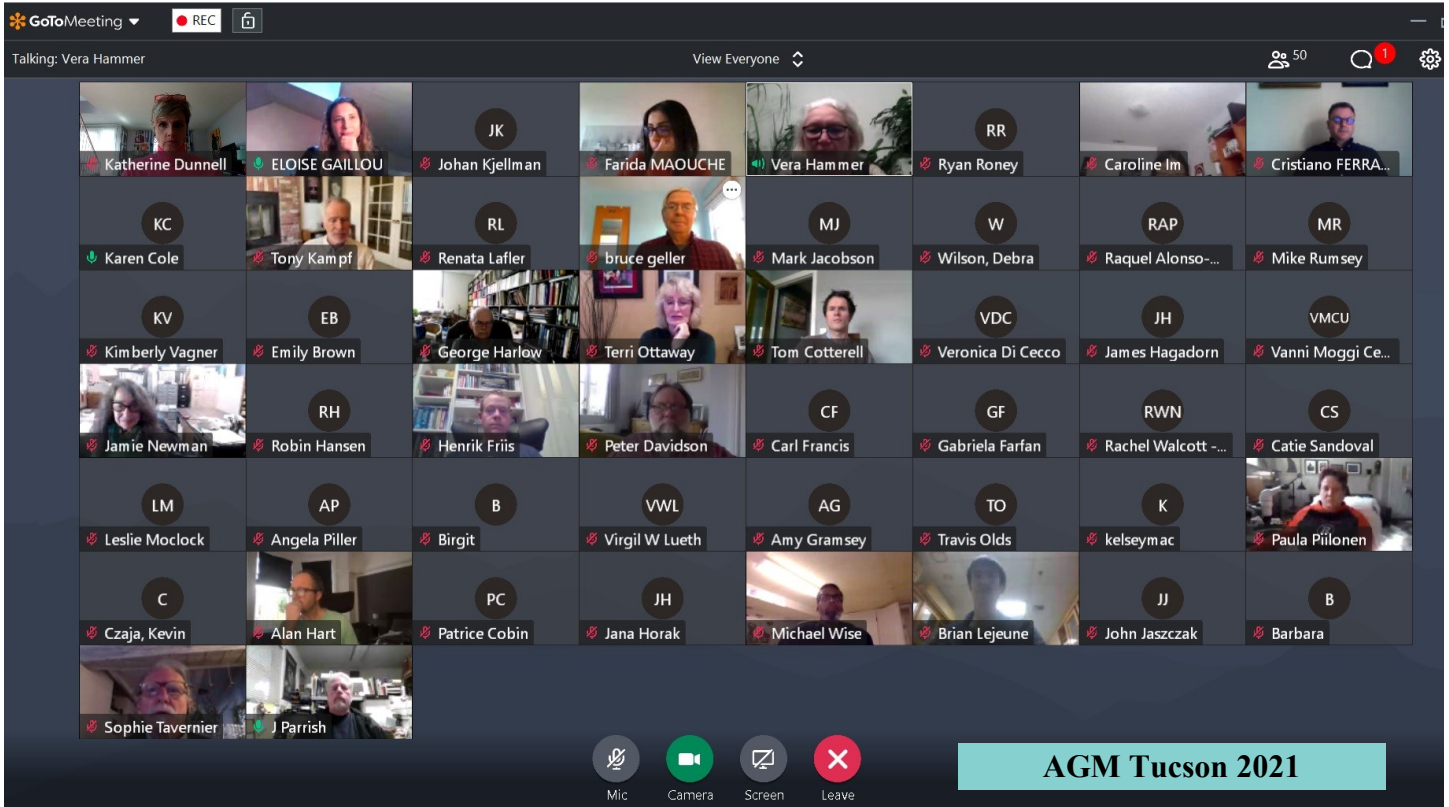


Tucson 2020

Our New Board*

*missing Anna Domitrovic

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SMMP COMMITTEES

Nominating committee

Chair of the Nominating Committee: Peter Davidson

Peter Davidson: CHAIR (National Museums of Scotland, UK)

Alan Hart (Gem-A, UK)

Koichi Momma (National Museum of Nature and Science, JAPAN)

Jeff Post (Smithsonian, Washington, D.C., USA)

George Harlow (American Museum, New York, USA)

Tony Kampf (NHM Los Angeles, USA)

Membership committee

Chair of the Member Committee: tbd

Penny Williamson (University of Wollongong, Australia, Australia)

Stuart Mills (Museum of Victoria, Australia)

Anna Domitrovic (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, USA)

Alyssa Morgan (NHM Los Angeles)

Henrik Friis (Natural History Museum, Norway)

Koichi Momma (National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan)

Program & Planning committee

Chair of the Program & Planning Committee: Kim Vagner

Kim Vagner: CHAIR (Perot Museum, USA)

Erika Anderson (Canadian Museum of Nature, CANADA)

Gabriela Farfan (Smithsonian, USA)

Leslie Moclock (Los Angeles, USA)

Barbara Gollain (Musée de Minéralogie de Strasbourg, FRANCE)

Eloïse Gaillou (Ecole des Mines de Paris, FRANCE)

Robin Hansen (NMNH, England)

Mike Rumsey (NHMN, England)