

Happy Holidays Rockhounds,

This is my last message as President of the Club. (Please hold the applause) I would like to thank all of you for putting up with me the past seven years. There are so many people who have helped me out over the years, too many to list, and I do not want to leave anybody out. Overall it has been a great experience, although trying at times, however, the good times far outweigh the trying times. I am looking forward to taking a seat in the crowd at future meetings, instead of being at the front of the room.

We should all thank Elizabeth for the fantastic job she has done as Vice President. The Vice President is responsible for the content of our monthly Club meetings. It is hard to arrange speakers and topics for all of our meetings. For eight years she had been dedicated to providing the programs for our members. Personally, she has been a huge help to me. Thank You, Elizabeth! (I know she is looking forward to taking a seat in the crowd, also.)

As President and being a member of KGMS, I have met a lot of great people who share our hobby, not only within our Club, but also with other clubs. One thing that I have tried to do, is make everyone feel welcome to the Club. No one member is more important than any other. It is important to remember that each of us is in the Club for the same reason, that being, we all like rocks and want to learn more about geology and/or the lapidary arts.

My message would not be complete if I did not include my usual plea for help. Operation of the Club and our show takes time from many people. Please get involved. The success of the Club depends on participation by its membership. Do not be shy, no experience is necessary for most of the things that need to be done. We have lots of openings for members to help out with tasks prior to and during the show, please contact Jerry VanNocker to let him know how you will contribute.

We have a great group of people in KGMS. Enjoy the comradery! Share your interest and knowledge.

Once again, Thank You all! Have a safe and joyous Holiday!

Rock On!

*Bill Mitchell*

KGMS President (Emeritus)

## **Upcoming Club Events**

**December 2 – Annual Christmas Holiday Party. Note Different Start Time**

**– 6:30.** Pot luck dinner. The club will provide the main course. Things to bring – A dish to share, your own place setting (plates, silverware, napkins, ...), drink of choice, a good appetite. I will bring some bottled water and Sherri is making punch.

We will have a gift exchange. This is voluntary. Bring a wrapped gift to receive a gift. Please make it related to our hobby. This is a fun thing to share something you have made or collected with another member.

We will have some type of activity following dinner.

Don't miss the social event of the year!

**Board Meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Next meeting is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>. 7:00 pm at Elizabeth Schau's. Please note that the location of future Board meetings will change, so look for updates or inquire before attending.

**Please remember that KGMS does not meet in January.** Our first meeting of 2015 will be February 3.

Our GEMS Editor, Diane Peterson, has had some family health matters to deal with that have taken precedent over the preparation of our newsletter. Please keep Diane and her family in your thoughts. Thanks to Jerry for filling in as editor for November, and for your tolerance in dealing with my short news. Please let me know if you have any questions. Bill