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President's Message

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President's Message

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Greetings, and thank you all for your continued support of FOMS. Yes, your membership helps to support everything that the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society does, or hopes to do. We publish an outstanding journal in *The Picking Table*, and for many of you, this twice-yearly publication is the chief tangible reward of membership. We support two mineral shows every year. These shows; the many exhibits put together by local collectors, curators, and characters; and the banquets that follow are a few more really important and enjoyable benefits of participation in FOMS. We wish more of you would participate!

But we also wish we could do more for our members. It is a theme that I see repeated over and over each time *The Picking Table* prints a column titled "President's Message." We strive to increase our membership, to communicate in an effective and timely manner, and to deliver some real benefits for the small but dedicated group of people who think Franklin and Sterling Hill, with their mining history and their mineral treasures, really are the most fascinating places on the planet!

When Rich Keller informed me that I was next in line for presidential duties and responsibilities, I worried that I would not be able to fill his shoes — he has accomplished a lot! But I also warned him that I would have an agenda. I want to see FOMS have a strong online presence, with real benefits to our members; a steady stream of information; and access to historic documents, photos, and back files of publications — and I found out that these were not new ideas, but have long been stated goals, and progress is being made. Rich himself has digitized the entire run of *The Picking Table* and made it available on DVD. Tema Hecht has created a Facebook page for the FOMS, and members can join to see our schedule of events. Expect more as we continue to move into the digital age.

Everyone I talk with in this organization shares another goal: We want to see membership grow, and the average age



of members to come down a bit! To stay active and successful, every organization or club needs new members, with new enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and some energy to get things done. Our greatest goal, the preservation of Franklin and Sterling Hill and their minerals for generations to come, will be achieved when the next generation steps up.

Now Rich is nudging me, saying, "Yeah, that's right, but who are you?" Well, unfortunately, I'm not the new generation — I've been in and out of the local scene since I first volunteered to help sandblast the change room at Sterling Hill, and later helped set up their display of mining lamps in the museum. At the time, Dick Hauck asked me if I wanted to go underground, but back then I didn't care about collecting "rocks."

Now I'm a bit more interested. As an engineering/geology librarian, I'm all about sharing information. I also have the use of analytical equipment in the Bucknell University Geology Department to pursue some amateur mineralogy. I have found that there are many questions that still need answering when it comes to Franklin minerals. I hope we can share some information in the coming year. ✕