The Monthly Newsletter of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. January, 2024

<u>General Meeting</u> Wed. Jan. 3, 7pm Baldini's Second Floor <u>Board Meeting</u> Wed. Jan. 10, 6 pm Rock Building, 480 S. Rock, Sparks

RGMS Mission Statement

The **mission** of the **Reno Gem and Mineral Society** is to create, develop, and encourage interest in the Earth Sciences and to locate and identify various material through field trips. As a $501C_{(3)}$ corporation, RGMS qualifies for donation write offs of cash and materials. Donation receipts are available at the society's headquarters.

A **General Meeting**, open to the public, is held usually the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at Baldini's Casino, Second Floor, 865 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV.

Board meetings are open to all members and are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM at the Rock Building, 480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV.

Annual membership dues: Student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

Conglomerate 2023

Digital edition: Accessible to members on https://renogms.org/conglomerate **Copies at the meeting** \$3 each, free to guests.

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President's Message Dean Sizemore, President

I would like to welcome everyone to RGMS 2024, the years sure fly. I am very honored to be your President for a 5th year. I am blessed to have an amazing team around me of very talented individuals. I want to start by thanking **Steve Smith** for being the Vice President for the last 4 years, for his enthusiasm and love of RGMS, and for taking a lead role in bringing RGMS into its new phase of growth. We have had a membership of over 1,000 members in the last few years. This has brought exciting new ideas as well as challenges. **Steve** jumped right in, being instrumental in guiding our growth.

Patrick Davis has taken a lead in advancing our building expansion which will be hitting full stride this year. He has led the way this past year by guiding us through the maze of licenses, permits, and contractors, and stocking a full set of equipment and materials to get us going this year. **Patrick** will be sending out blasts for help throughout this year, please consider help-ing with the expansion.

Hillary Loupee led our field trips this last year with help from other members. She put together a very exciting and aggressive set of trips and pulled them all off seamlessly. I want to thank her and her team for their hard work and her leadership. I can't wait to see what she plans for this year. She has said she will need help this year with more individuals stepping up to lead field trips. **Hillary** has a very challenging and demanding career that can take a large amount of time. If you can lead a trip this year, please get in touch with her.

I would like to ask everyone to give **Brett Dedrick** and his wife **Gayle**, a warm welcome as they take on new roles this year.

President's Letter, cont. from p. 1

Brett is stepping into the Vice President position and **Gayle** is joining our group of Board Members at Large. We are all excited to watch them grow into their new positions and enjoy watching what they bring to their new roles.

Once again, welcome to RGMS 2024! Can't wait to meet as many of you as possible. Please join us for our monthly General Meeting.

Officers' Reports

General Meeting and Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board at the Rock Building monthly. Treasurer's reports are available to any member on request. **Steve Norman**, Secretary; **Janet Longueria**, Treasurer

Sunshine Report Joanne Sworthout

If **you** have a situation for which you could use some support from your RGMS friends, or if you know of someone who could, please get in touch with **Joanne** at <u>sunshine@renogms.org</u>.



Wow! It is mid-December as I write this and it will be January 2024 when the newsletter is published. How the time has flown. Mark and I did go to the McDermitt site in Oregon over American Thanksgiving (Canadian Thanksgiving is in October). We collected some fun specimens and then went to Steven's Camp, the north end of the Black Rock Desert and collected petrified wood. All of the dogs - four now, since we are fostering a Beagle who is a survivor of a testing facility — did great and enjoyed the outdoors. I am also in the midst of embroidering Christmas gifts.

Memberships for January to July covers membership through 2024: \$50 for Family, \$35 for individual, and \$25 for student memberships. If you have paid \$18 for an Individual membership or \$25 for a Family membership, then you will renew your membership at the annual membership rates.

Also, new for 2024, is the signing of the RGMS waiver. If you renew online, it is a one-click affirmation. Otherwise, print the waiver and sign it with your membership dues. If paying at the General Meeting, I will have copies.

We currently have 625 memberships representing 1088 members, with approximately 55 school aged children, some of which attend the kids rock classes (kids can start any time). There are crafts where kids can identify and paint rocks. Attending these classes with our grandchildren, we can watch them enjoy coloring rocks to be something else. Look for an email blast indicating when the next class is. Welcome to the following new members for the past month (16 of September to 15 of October):

> Christy Amundson Young Michael Amundson & family Wyatt Lee Anderson & Misty Barlese Sandy Ballard Bill Beck Jean Black Melinda Blair & family Bill & Sylvia Fischer Leslie Greene Jennifer & James Hinnant Sybil Koffler & Sandy Reavis

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Membership, cont. from p. 2

Kerrie Kraff Norman Lamont Alicia Lopez Susan Luppa Robin Maguire-Jones & Bill jones Jill Manha Julio Miranda & Katie Stone Jennifer O'Neil Kristine Toward Sven Waldhor

Apologies for any errors and/or omissions from any names above. Please advise of any corrections or omissions asap so I may make the correction. Thank you.

To pay your membership online or download the membership form:

https://renogms.org/membership-2/

If you have any questions, please email me at membership@renogms.org

Membership Dues are: Individual: \$35; Family: \$50; and Student: \$25.

Family memberships are for those who live in the same household.

Thank you so much. I look forward helping you and meeting you at the next event.

Lynda Traves Membership Director Reno Gem & Mineral Society



Juliet Hitchcock The Rock Building, LLC Leasing Director

Juliet Hitchcock joined the Reno Gem and Mineral Society in 2011, taking most of the classes offered. She served as Vice President for two years, as Librarian for three years, and an active board member for nine years. Juliet has volunteered at the Jackpot of Gems Show and participated in several Craft Fairs. She has done Sunshine work and handled Public Relations for five years. Juliet is now the Leasing Director for The Rock Building, LLC, a job she has done for the last six years. In this position, she arranges contracts, verifies insurance, and stipulates fees. Juliet has a strong business background and has been part of the internal audit process. She was on the steering committee when the Society was looking for a new home. There was no apparent solution to the problem of month-to-month rent from an absent landlord. The building was not up for sale, but through Linda Johnston and Juliet's efforts, the owners relented, and decided to present the Society with an



Juliet Hitchcock and Linda Johnston with signed contract in hand.

opportunity to purchase the building. Knowing real estate procedures, Juliet wrote a purchase agreement and persuaded the owners to accept the contract with favorable terms to

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Juliet Hitchcock, cont. from p. 3

accomplish a successful escrow. It was the most complete thing to go from renting a small part of the building to owning all six units and being able to rent them out and provide income for the Society! **Juliet's** accomplishments have not gone unnoticed; she was honored with a Lifetime Membership at the November General Meeting. Congratulations **Juliet**!

Submitted by Steve Norman

Julie Hilsabeck Schools Director

Julie Hilsabeck started the Reno Gem and Mineral Society in 2016. She began taking classes with the aid of Jennifer Rhodes and Barbara Hartman. Julie had done some lapidary but wanted to do the refresher classes. This refresher continued for about a year, and she began helping by instructing. Jennifer offered Julie the School Director position, which she accepted, and it has been an active place ever since. It started off by working with Daniel Ellis to extend Open House from 7 pm to 9 pm. The expanded shop time proved popular, but Julie, sensitive to people's schedules, offered clas-

ses from 11 am to 9 pm. That is a tenhour day once a week every month for over three years! She published the calendar for available classes and discovered an audience. from local



Photo by Steve Norman

people in town to people in the Anderson and

Smith Valley area, who were interested in taking lapidary. She decided to offer Saturday or Sunday classes for these students, making an eighthour class where students could get a month's worth of courses in a day-long class. With the help of Patrick Davis, she coordinated a slab saw class on Tuesdays and some weekends. Julie is looking for instructors and has a talented group of volunteers teaching casting and wire wrap, silver fabrication, beginning and intermediate lapidary, bead weaving, cold connections, copper etching, jewelry 101, lost wax casting, mineral identification, ear wire making, silver crocheting, silver chain making, slab sawing, tumbling and potential future classes (dependent upon available instructors), for enameling, faceting, and intarsia.

Julie has learned the great truth so often learned from volunteering: that you gain from helping others. One part of the job is that she learns many things from her students and friends. At the Jackpot of Gems, she coordinates the demonstrators for the show.

Julie led the shop upgrade project that obtained some of the best lapidary machines on the market. The Shop is proud of its eight new machines. From knowledgeable members, it seems the Shop is probably one of the best in the California Federation of Mineral Societies. Classes have been full of people learning and doing projects, thereby allowing the machines to be fully paid off in just a little over a year. The classes are nearly always full, which provides income to the Society. Some of this income goes for projects like upgrading the building to better organize the shop, and to provide more classrooms and storage. Through the help of Laura Jackson coordinating with Truckee Meadows Community College, up to six students can take the lapidary course every other month, and the material fees

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go towards membership and insurance. The school classes are well attended and bring in a surprising amount of income for the Society, as well as satisfaction for new members. It is unusual for a member to be given such a tribute for lifetime membership after only seven years. She has had a significant impact on membership and added to the members' satisfaction by dedicating so much time and effort every month and has done so for years now. Her dedication is remarkable, and she has proved to be an asset to the Society well beyond the expectations of a volunteer School Director. At the November General Meeting, Julie was honored with lifetime membership. Congratulations Julie Hilsabeck!

Submitted by Steve Norman

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023 Debbie Bush, Social Director

What a fun time we all had at the Christmas Party! As always, the food everyone brought was amazing and plentiful. We started off the night with a get acquainted game and I think we all learned things we didn't know about our fellow members. We had some good laughs and a fun prize drawing at the end! Then we sang the 12 days of Christmas, with each table assigned one of the 12 days to shout out...AND which got loud and crazy by the end.

Of course, the highlight of the night was the raffle drawings. There were 30 different raffle prizes. Each person received 15 tickets and could put them in whichever prizes they wanted a chance to win. I think almost everyone loved the prizes they won. Last, but not least, were the 5 grand prizes—A new char-



Photo by Debbie Bush

coal grill, a new gas grill, and 3 each \$100 cash prizes. Everyone received an RGMS ornament to take home and a candy cane too.



Photos: Debbie Bush & Steven Smith

I personally want to thank my awesome committee—Lori Connel, Janet Longueira, Darby Webber, Carrie Kabler, Heather Eckart, and Bobbi Mehringet. Without their help, I would never have been able to do all the things we did for the party. They came to my house to plan and make the beautiful centerpieces that were on the tables. They all had their own areas before, during, and after the party. I never had to worry about a thing. It all ran very smoothly!

Each and every person who helped set up and/or tear down, is so appreciated! We were setup and ready to go before 5pm, and tear down was accomplished within a blink of an eye. Thank you all so much!

Looking forward to another great Christmas Party next year.

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A Canyon That Lives Up To It's Name Steve Rose and Steve Norman



Istock Jose 1983 Unsplash Photo credit of Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon of Northern Arizona is one of the most spectacular geologic places in the world. It's geomorphic landscape forms a canyon that is 277 miles long and up to 6,100 feet deep. The formation of the Canyon started some 70 million years ago with small rivers, now tributaries to the Colorado River, eroding rocks as the Colorado Plateau was uplifted. Erosion by mostly the Colorado River, is the result of the Canyon's landforms that we see today, and which has taken place over the past 5 to 6 million years, a relatively short geologic time period for eroding such a vast canyon. The Colorado River drops over 14,000 feet to the Gulf of California. The Mississippi falls only 1,000 feet on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. The Colorado River falls ten feet per mile whereas the Mississippi falls only one foot per mile. As the Colorado River moves through the canyon, it drops 2,000 feet in elevation. In comparison, the Mississippi River drops only 1,000 feet on its long journey.

The layered rocks in the Grand Canyon are of the Paleozoic Era (before the dinosaur's arrival), ranging from 270 to 525 million years ago (mya). The dinosaurs didn't arrive until 245 mya and departed at 66 mya. In the Paleozoic Era, abundant fish and marine life filled the oceans. Many fossils are found on the eroded surfaces of the canyon. The canyon is even older, showing rocks and fossils from the Precambrian Era, or 1.2 billion years old, where only bacteria, worms, and jellyfish flourished. These fossils are found in metamorphic and igneous rocks.

Some six million people visit the Grand Canyon every year. It is an excellent place to gain some perspective about where and how we fit in with the history of our planet.

CFMS President's Message, January 2024 Marcia Goetz

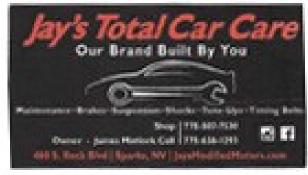
Greetings Rock Friends,

To start with, a few words of respectful acknowledgment to Bob Rush. Bob started with the CFMS Executive Committee as Treasurer and then worked his way through both Vice-President positions. Bob had to resign due to health issues and I want to say that I wish he could have gone on to President. He would have been a wonderful one for CFMS.

I want to thank Kimberly Fiala for her service as President in 2023 and I want to say thank you to those who have volunteered to be a Committee Chair in 2024. The Chairpersons come from many different societies throughout the CFMS area. I encourage those to check out the CFMS website under Chairman's Manual and acquaint yourselves with the job description if you haven't already done so.

We start the year 2024 looking forward to many fun and educational meetings, field trips, workshops and shows. I know we all strive to have great programs to help spark the enthusiasm we have for our hobby. In case you are having a difficult time finding some speakers, please remember that a few years ago we listed a few ideas on the CFMS website's tab Program Speakers and Resources and also others that are available for both Zoom or in person under the tab of Program Speakers available for Zoom meetings. And, in addition to the above CFMS has a large collection of DVD's that can be checked out. It's a very thrifty option if need be and a large collection. Those can be found under the Visual Programs tab. If anyone knows of others we can add to the list, please let me know.

I encourage you to put the AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention on your calendar for May 24-26, 2024. Ventura Gem and Mineral Society is hosting the show and it should be great as usual. There will be articles in this and future newsletters about the show. I would like to remind those who want to submit for the All-American Contest or Web Site contest to check the CFMS website for rules and submission dates.





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RGMS Class & Shop List Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

First, carefully read the blast sent the Tuesday before the meeting. Please respond via email to, Julie Hilsabeck, at school@renogms.org, if you want any of the classes offered. Please indicate which class, date and time you want. Many of the classes are limited to a maximum of 4 students. The list below shows the cost for each class and the frequency with which it is usually taught as well as the usual day of the week. Days may change from month to month, so rely on the blast.

Advanced Silver Fabrication \$22.50 per class Thursdays

Bead Weaving \$20.00

1 Sunday/month 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm , Materials should be available locally from The Bead Gallery , List available at Meeting.

Beginning Lapidary \$60.00 Tuesday Saturday Full day

Beginning Silver Fabrication \$120.00 Tuesdays & Thursdays

Lost Wax Carving for Casting A full weekend to be determined.

Mineral Identification \$60.00 plus \$25 kit fee Occasional.

Open House \$7.50/hour of use Mondays 11:00am to 9:00 pm Thursdays 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Slab Saw Use \$60.00 Tuesdays 1 Saturday Full Day

Tumbling \$60.00 Tuesdays

Classes Offered by RGMS

This is a general listing of RGMS classes that are typically offered. For specific dates, consult the calendar on the Web-site or talk to the school director at the General Meeting or email at <school@ renogms.org>: Some classes are offered only occasionally.

Advanced Silver Fabrication Beginning Silver Fabrication Beginning Lapidary Intermediate Lapidary **Beading and Bead Weaving** Casting **Cold Connections Etching on Copper** Jewelry 101 Lost Wax Casting Mineral Identification Making your own ear wires Silver Crocheting Silver Chain Making Slab Saw Use Basics: **Tumbling:** Wire wrapping/weaving: ..:

Desired additions to the list when/if we can find a teacher:

Enameling (future) Faceting (future) Intarsia (future)

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CFMS/AFMS Shows 2024

Additional information is available on the CFMS website, cfmsinc.org/shows

January 20-21, 2024 - Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 North Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221 Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10–4 Contact: Gayle Bingaman, Show Chairperson, (559) 802-6029, bandgbing@aol.com Website: http://www.tulegem.com

February 17-18, 2024 - Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA Hours: Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10-5 Contact: (510) 693-9075, kellyplumb900@yahoo.com Website: <u>http://antiochlapidaryclub.com</u>

February 24-25, 2024 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589 Hours: Sat & Sun 10–5 Contact: (415) 254-1506, dduhonvgms@gmail.com Website: <u>https://vjgems.co</u>

March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10-4 Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org Website: <u>http://www.vgms.org</u>

March 8-10, 2024 - Victorville, CA

(Stoddard Wells area) Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club Stoddard Wells Hours: 9–5 daily Contact: (760) 243-2339, president@vvgc.org Website: <u>http://vvgmc.org</u>

March 23-24, 2024 – Angeles Camp, CA

Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society 2465 Gun Club Rd., Angeles Camp CA 95222 Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. Contact: (209) 736-4892, dbrooks49@att.net Website: <u>http://CalaverasGemandMineral.net</u>

April 6-7, 2024 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083 Hours: Sat10–5, Sunday 10–4 Contact: info@vistarocks.org Website: <u>https://vistarocks.org/</u>

April 13-14, 2024 – Mariposa, CA

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338 Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4 Website: <u>http://mariposagemclub.org</u>

April 13-14, 2024 - Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA Hours: Saturday 10-5, Sun 10–4 Contact: (530) 676-2472, office@edcmgs.org Website: <u>http://edcmgs.org</u>

May 4-5, 2024, Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club 2551 W. Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536 Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4 Contact: <u>marylandoriole@gmail.com</u>

June 8-9, 2024 – Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club California Center for the Arts – at the Conference Center, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido, 92025 Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10–4 Contact: (425) 281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com Website: <u>http://palomargem.org</u>

National/Regional Shows:

California Federation/ AFMS May 24-26, 2024 Ventura, CA

Eastern Federation TBA Hickory, NC

Midwest Federation August 24-25, 2024 East Peoria, IL Northwest Federation May 10-12, 2024 Hermiston, OR

Rocky Mountain Federation October 25-27, 2024 Oklahoma City, OK

South Central Federation TBD

Southeast Federation TBD

Take a few minutes and check out the *CFMS Newsletter* for March. Just click on <u>http://</u> <u>www.cfmsinc.org</u> and find the newsletter in the list on the left. Click on the link.

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Reno Gem and Mineral Society 480 South Rock Blvd Sparks, NV 89421 www.renogms.org



The Conglomerate Volume 58, Issue 1 January, 2024



President: Vice President: Secretary: Asst. Secretary: Treasurer: Asst. Treasurer: Past President

> Eric Fendelander Stephanie Leonard Tim Steeper

ALAA rep

Bulletin Editor Ass't Editor **CFMS & AFMS Compliance Officer Craft Fairs Door Prize Coordinator** Facility Facebook **Field Trips** Historian Jackpot of Gems Ass't JPOG Librarian LLC Manager Membership Photographer **Public Relations** School Safety Coordiinator Security Shop Social Sunshine **Tech Director** Volunteers

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Available

Jim Wellker

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President@renogms.org Vicepresident@renogms.org secretary@renogms.org assistantsecretary@renogms.org treasurer@renogms.org assistanttreasurer@renogms.org pastpresident@renogms.org

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social@renogms.org sunshine@renogms.org tech@renogms.org volunteers@renogms.org

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Volunteer Page

A new feature in the *Conglomerate*, this space will feature those members who are not officers or directors but who regularly volunteer their time to help RGMS function in a number of different and valuable ways, or sometimes in addition to serving as an officer or director. Please thank them for their service if you see them at the Rock Building or at the meeting. You will notice that some members serve in more than one capacity—for example, Steve Norman has 3 jobs—count 'em. A number of others are doing 2. Think you might find time to do just one job? There are several available.

> Used Equip,Sale Coord. Patrick Davis & Committee Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter Joanne Sworthout Gen. Mtg Door Prize Coord Denise Sizemore, Assistant Door Prize Coord. Lori Connel Educational Outreach Steve Norman **Future Rockhounds Advisor** Steve Norman JPOG Silent Auction Renee Samuels **Facility Expansion** Patrick Davis JPOG Dealer Chair Terry Bush **Juliet Hitchcock** Rock Bldg Leasing Mgr Safety Officer Spencer Ennis Instructors (Alphabetical by class) Karen Boldi & Juliet Hitchcock Bead weaving: Casting: Spencer Ennis Etching Irene Comstock Jewelry 101 & **Robyn Howard Cold Connections** " Lapidary Julie Hilsabeck Barbara Hartman **Tim Steeper** Lost Wax Carving Tom Calhoun/Webb Varnum Mineral ID Silver Fabrication (Adv.) Jill Atkins Silver Fabrication (Beg.) **Spencer Ennis** Slab saw **Patrick Davis** Tumbling Janet & Albie Longueira Wire Art Ginger Ragazzi

Yes! I want to donate to the Ren	Date:	
DONOR NAME:	GENERAL FUND:	\$
ADDRESS:	SCHOLARSHIP FUND:	\$
	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (Classroom Expansion):	\$
PHONE:	IN-KIND DONATION DESCRIPTION:	
Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. 480 S. Rock Boulevard Sparks, NV 89431	(Market TOTAL:	Value): \$ \$

Reno Gem and Mineral Society is a 501(c)3 educational non-profit and as such all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were received in exchange for your donation.

Yes! I want to donate to the Ren	o Gem and Mineral Society	Date:
DONOR NAME:	GENERAL FUND:	\$
ADDRESS:	SCHOLARSHIP FUND:	\$
	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (Classroom Expansion):	\$
PHONE:	IN-KIND DONATION DESCRIPTION:	
Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. 480 S. Rock Boulevard Sparks, NV 89431	(Market Value).	:\$
	TOTAL:	\$

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