

THE PICK & SHOVEL



In association with

The Official Publication of the

Lincoln Gem &
Mineral Club, Inc.



The Midwest Federation of
Mineralogical and
Geological Societies



The American
Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including but not necessarily limited to Geology, Paleontology and Mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, especially to youth and student groups.

GENERAL MEETINGS

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021
 Bethany Park Shelter House
Juniors: 5:30 p.m.
Adults: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS

Until further notice, Board Meetings will be held at 6:30 on the first Thursday of each month.

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
 Vera Lyman's Residence

CLUB EVENTS

No club-organized **field trips** at this time.

The Mid-Winter Swap held the last Saturday in January has been **cancelled**.

The Annual Gem and Mineral Show is scheduled for April 2 & 3, 2022, at the Lancaster Event Center. COVID directives will determine if the Show will be held.

The Summer Swap to be held at the Beer Family Farm is scheduled for June 25 & 26, 2022.

Silversmithing classes

2021 Schedule

Tuesday Evenings
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The Jewelry Connection Ltd.
Indian Village Shopping Ctr.
13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln

Tuition: \$150 plus \$30 supply deposit

~~Session 1: Jan 5 - Feb 23~~

~~Session 2: Mar 2 - Apr 20~~

~~Session 3: Apr 27 - Jun 15~~

~~Session 4: Aug 17 - Sep 5~~

Session 5: Oct 12 - Nov 30

Contact: Jayne Beer 402-890-3307
jbeer60070@aol.com



November Rock Party

Sunday, November 21, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Hosted by The Jewelry Connection

Soups and comfort foods

Bring your favorite soup, side, or dessert



Please send your hobby-related photos with captions or explanations for publication in the Pick & Shovel. Field trips, lapidary projects, fossil projects, metal projects, wire wrapping, tumbling, or any other activity of interest to the club. Since we have limited meetings in person at this time, it is important to share with others what you are doing. Your project may inspire someone else. Send via email (lgmc.editor@outlook.com) or via Facebook Messenger.

All articles, tidbits, and photos not individually identified as being contributed to this publication are provided by the Editor.

Christmas Party, Potluck Supper, and Awards Ceremony Sunday, December 5, 2021

5:00 Youth Group Activities & Adult Social

5:30 Potluck Supper (club provides fried chicken and beverages, members bring a hot and a cold dish)

6:30 Short Meeting and Awards Ceremony

!! Rock Bingo to follow!!

If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring an inexpensive hobby-related gender-neutral gift (\$10 max)



ANNUAL BOARD ELECTIONS

by Jayne Beer

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2021, during which elections for the 2022 Board of Directors will be held.

At this time, the following people have agreed to run for office:

President: Jayne Beer
 1st Vice: Brett Jurgens
 2nd Vice: Corey Beer
 Secretary: Jeff Kubitz
 Treasurer: Vera Lyman
 Board: James Marburger
 Sharon Marburger
 Ed Ridge
 Charles Wooldridge

Final nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November meeting. Should you wish to nominate someone for office, this will be the time to do so. I encourage others to get involved with the management of the club. New board members mean new ideas! If you have been a member for one year or longer, you may run for a board position. If you have been a member for two or more years, you may run for an officer position.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Patricia Gruit
 Nick Lytle
 Gene Mulinex



**Please continue to do your part.
Wear a mask to the meeting.**

SAFETY

During hunting season, be sure to wear highly visible clothing, such as an orange or safety green vest when you are collecting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles "Wooly" Wooldridge

Greetings fellow rock hounds. Here in the North Central Sandhills it appears we are going to have a true Indian Summer. Two days ago we had a hard freeze (24°) and the next few days will be in the upper 60s. I love this time of year.



I went creeking today. Hank, my four legged partner, found a huge petrified wood stump at the edge of the creek. He kept staring at it from different angles trying figure out what it was. It was a beautiful day to be out in nature.



Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "A man who carries a cat by the tail, learns a lesson that can be learned in no other way." I recently learned a similar lesson. Last month I

wrote about finding trace fossil burrows in a clay pit. Unfortunately, I was too specific about the location. Before the University could check it out, someone took them. I will remember to not be so specific in the future.

Be sure to attend the November meeting to vote for next year's Board Members. As always, take care of one another.

I'd like to continue my experiences with rock shops with a review of the Prairie Agate Rock Shop in Crawford, Nebraska. The following was taken from a post by Northwest Nebraska Tourism Director, Kerri Remp:

From a 9-year-old on Cloud Nine after finding two Fairburn Agates to women in their 20s searching for quartz or crystals and fossil hunters from around the globe, a must-see stop in Northwest Nebraska is Prairie Agate Rock Shop.

Owned by Gary and Valerie Homrighausen, the shop, located along Highway 20 in Crawford, is instantly recognizable by the large, mounted metal sculpture of a T-Rex head out front.

The business, inspired by their now-grown son Tyrell's fascination with fossils, showcases finds from Northwest Nebraska and around the world.

"You meet a lot of interesting people from all over," Gary said.

That 9-year-old, he'd visited the shop to learn what and where to look for native rocks in the area and returned with two Fairburn Agates.

"He was fired up," Gary said.

"I love show and tell," Valerie added.

Prairie Agate Rock Shop opened in its current location in 2012 but started just up the road prior to that after Valerie lost her job at a local nursing home.

"My son Tyrell had been collecting fossils for many years, and we'd been doing the (Crawford) Rock Swap," Valerie said. By age 4, the young boy could identify several fossils and Christmas requests were always fossil-themed.

When the opportunity presented itself, Valerie decided to embrace the interest and purchased a relative's rock collection out of storage.

"I spent a year in Brazil but didn't care what a rock was," she said of an exchange student experience.

Today, she's a local expert, pointing visitors and residents alike in the direction of interesting finds or educating them on fossil hunting.

"Did you know, when you strike rose quartz together it will light up inside with pink sparks?" she explained to a California woman who stopped by the shop recently.

From the beginning, her son's finds have been displayed at Prairie Agate Rock Shop, serving as examples of what can be found in Northwest Nebraska. Amateur fossil hunters and rockhounds are shown the "local table" so they can see what the fossils or rocks looks like in the rough – and what can be made of it.

"Everything I've learned, I've learned from my public and reading," Valerie said.

Until the last few years, Prairie Agate Rock Shop was mostly a hobby, Valerie said, and when they moved into their current building in 2012 she remembers one thought: "I can remember walking into it and thinking we'll never fill it!"

Fast forward to 2021, and they've added on and Prairie Agate Rock Shop is a destination stop for many.

"It was wall-to-wall people at times in 2021," Gary said.

Travelers to Denver, Yellowstone and the Black Hills often stop, and regular clientele are from Scottsbluff, Alliance, Rapid City and Hot Springs.

This summer three visitors from Alaska showed up and international visitors from France, Germany and South Africa also made their way to the shop. Two other guests recently relocated to Omaha from Panama and Ecuador, Gary said.

"We have people who drive up from Denver just to go to the shop," he added.

"Rock shops are becoming few and far between," Valerie explained.

Upward Bound students at Chadron State College visit during the program and bring their parents

(Continued on page 5)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

back, and young kids have always loved rocks and fossils.

Traditionally, the demographics have skewed older, but the Homrighausens are noticing a shift downward in age. The fossil hunting demographic that seems to be growing the fastest is 13-18-year-old girls.

"They know what they're talking about," Gary said.

And as crystals have come into fashion again, many visitors poke through the shop's collection, holding this one or that one for a while before deciding if it's the one they want.

Prairie Agate Rock Shop sees everyone from beginners searching for advice and guidance to experts who want to show off their finds.

The Homrighausens suggest places in Northwest Nebraska for rockhounding and fossil hunting and schools them on the rules – no vertebrate fossils, teeth or artifacts can be collected from Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands.

"I also give them my card so they can call if they get lost, stuck or have car trouble," Valerie said.

It's a long way from helping her son set up a table at the Crawford Rock Swap when he was 7. This year was the 35th annual swap, and Valerie now helps coordinate the event with Wade Beins.

Held over Labor Day Weekend each year at the Crawford City Park, the Rock Swap offers opportunities to buy, sell and trade rocks, gems and fossils and is the location of the annual Fairburn Agate Collectors meeting.

Demonstrations and field trips are also on the agenda.

The 2021 Crawford Rock Swap was one of the biggest ever.

"I think it shows how rocks are in," Valerie said.

And while the Homrighausens share their passion for Northwest Nebraska rockhounding and fossil hunting at Prairie Agate Rock Shop, they carry a much larger variety.

"We've got stuff from everywhere," said Gary.

Buckets of bulk rock are available by the pound from a consignor, and the pair heads to Quartzite, Arizona, each January to meet with dealers from all over the world.

"They set up in the whole town," explained Valerie, who does books for the twice-weekly auction during the event. "It gives me a lot to look at and lots to buy!"

The product she comes home from Arizona with includes rocks direct from Madagascar or Brazil, for example, or stalagmites and stalactites from China or Morocco.

"I carry more than just rocks," added Valerie.

There's metal sculpture art out front, Native American prints and cards inside and horsehair pottery made in Washington.

After more than a decade, Valerie's favorite fossil hasn't changed: it's a titanotherium juvenile, a large rhino-like animal, her father and Tyrell, then age 14, found. Her favorite rock is harder to land on; originally it was petrified wood because it was the easiest for her to identify. This month it was a yellow fluorite new to the shop.

"It changes daily. There are so many things," Valerie said.

"Be careful when you pick up a pretty rock," Gary said. "It could lead to all of this."

Prairie Agate Rock Shop is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, seven days a week from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. However, during the off-season, a phone number is posted on the gate, and they are willing to open upon request.

J J & L Rocks & Minerals

After 45 years in business, Lee, Eric, and Jim are retiring.

Final Auction

Everything Must Go!

**Polished Specimens,
Slabs, Cabochons,
Findings, Faceted
Stones and more**

Spring of 2022

330 Locust, Hickman, NE

<http://www.fordford.net>

**(Watch for more information
as it becomes available)**

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

by Jim Marburger, Secretary

October 21, 2021; Bethany Park Shelter House

Attendance: Members 20, Juniors 5, Guests five guests were present.

Old Business:

Minutes of the last general meeting were printed in the *Pick and Shovel*. Motion to accept the minutes as printed by Jim A., second by Jeff K. Passed.

Treasurer's Report was given by Vera L. Motion to accept the report by Sharon M., second by Jeff K. Passed.

Announcements

Rock Party will be November 21, 2021 at 4 p.m. at The Jewelry Connection in the Indian Village Shopping Center. Soups and comfort foods will be the menu.

Jayne B. will set up a online auction on our Facebook page to run one day (Sunday), similar to what the Plant Group has. Please check it out.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Audit Committee has finalized the books for 2020.

Halloween costumes were introduced; there was wulfenite, tiger eye, bauxite, and wavelite. Need more for next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Christmas party will be December 5th. The club will provide chicken and drinks with table service. A hot and cold dish should be donated to the meal by attendees. Rock BINGO and hobby related gift exchange (\$10.00 max).

Next month's program has been scheduled with Professor Bob Diffendal. The program is "Mound Builders".

SHOW REPORT:

Plans have begun for the show to be held April 2 & 3, 2022. Advertising has started in *Rock and Gems*, contracts have been sent out to dealers, the event center new rules have been discussed, and get your displays ready for the "Agates around the World".

Motion to adjourn by Jim A., second by Gene M. Passed.

Meeting adjourned to the Program of Mineral Identification of 20 items with prizes for first, second, and third.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

by Jim Marburger, Secretary

October 7, 2021 at the home of Vera Lyman.

Meeting called to order by President Charles Wooldridge.

Roll Call

President	Charles Woolridge	Present
1 st Vice Pres	Jayne Beer	Present
2 nd Vice Pres	Brett Jurgens	Present
Treasurer	Vera Lyman	Present
Secretary	James Marburger	Present
Board:	Corey Beer	Present
	Sharon Marburger	Present
	Jeff Kubitz	Absent (arrived at 6:35)
	Ed Ridge	Present

Visitors: none

Minutes of the last meeting were handed out. Motion to accept by Vera, second by Sharon. Passed.

Treasurer Report was handed out. Motion to accept report by Sharon, second by Ed. Passed.

Old Business:

A discussion on signing up for Lincoln Gives. Jim reported that the requirements and paperwork would be excessive and at this time, it is not feasible to pursue.

Brett contacted Rowdy about the status of the Lapidary class equipment. It has not been checked on for some time. They will attempt to visit soon.

New Business:

Program for next general meeting will be a mineral identification test with 20 materials. Jim will provide prizes for the game.

Motion by Brett to have one day auctions on our Facebook page, second by Corey. Passed. The auctions will be on Sundays and handled by Jayne. They will have rules similar to the plant group that she belongs to.

Jayne and Vera will go to the event center to check on new rules for the building. Any new information will be added to the dealer and demo contracts.

Dealer contracts will be ready to send out this week.

Motion to adjourn by Brett, second by Sharon. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Mark your calendars for all the
fun stuff coming up in 2021!
Club Elections - Nov. 18
Rock Party - Nov. 21 @ 4pm (TJC)
Christmas Party - Dec. 5
Rock Party - Dec. 18 @ 2pm (Marburgers)**

DIFFENDAL PROGRAM TOPICS

provided by Charles Wooldridge

Please let me know your choice of program(s) for general meetings.

The Great Plains and Its Geologic Development

Some Changes in China, 1979-Present

Geology of Australia

New Zealand - Land of Geysers and Greenstone

Fossils on the Floor - Mosaics of Fossils on the Nebraska Capitol Rotunda Floor

Lewis and Clark and the Geology of the Great Plains/ Nebraska and Adjacent States

Geologic Development of the Ogallala/High Plains Regional Aquifer

The Missouri River of Karl Bodmer

Fossils from Nebraska's Ancient Seas

Floods, Fires, Earthquakes, Landslides, and Other Natural Hazards in Nebraska and Elsewhere

Something was Popping Here Not Too Long Ago! - The Jemez Volcanic Field and Valles Caldera, New Mexico

Geology Depicted in Georgia O'Keeffe's New Mexico Landscapes

The Pleasures and Perils of Owning Beachfront Property

Geology of Florida and the Bahamas

Geology of the Big Island of Hawaii

Yucatan Peninsula - Geology, Landforms, and Mayan Culture

Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras - Maya Culture, Geology, and Landforms

Mound Builders of the Central and Southeastern U.S.

Southwestern U.S. Anasazi, Sinagua, and Hohokam Ancient Native American Cultures

Nunavut: Big, Wild, and Cold

JUNIORS

by Brett Jurgens, Junior Co-Leader

Hello juniors. We have quite a few activities going on in the next few weeks.

Our next monthly meeting is Thursday, November 18th. The juniors meeting will start at 5:30, with the general meeting starting at 6:00. For the juniors meeting, we will begin working on the Rocks and Minerals badge for the Future Rockhounds of America program. Please bring your specimen kits as I will have a specimen for you. If you don't have a specimen kit yet, I will have them with me. Parents - I know the new times can be difficult with work and schedules - it is for me as well. If you get to the meeting late, no problem whatsoever. We usually set up in the corner so we can continue our meeting, even if the general meeting starts. Last month I missed the entire general meeting by handing out specimen kits and going over events with new members, and I couldn't have been happier.



On Sunday, November 21st we have the Rock Party at The Jewelry Connection (info elsewhere in newsletter). This is the Beers' studio and where they have the silversmithing and lapidary classes. This is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with other club members, and try your hand at cutting or polishing a rock. Rock parties are potluck get-togethers where members who have lapidary equipment bring and set it up so members who don't have equipment can give it a try.

Sunday, December 5th is the club's annual Christmas party and potluck. Please note that this is on the first Sunday and not the usual monthly meeting date or time. We will have the juniors meeting at 5:00 p.m., the potluck starting at 5:30, and the general meeting at 6:30 followed by rock bingo! There will be lots of prizes for bingo!

Please bring your specimen kits as we will have Christmas gifts and goodies for all the juniors. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming club events.

Hey Kids!

Bring your rocks to the November Rock Party at The Jewelry Connection on November 21 at 4:00 p.m. Junior Co-leader, Corey Beer, will teach you how to cut and polish them.

Due to U.S. Postal Service changes, the new deadline for submissions to the P&S is the last Sunday of each month. I look forward to your items.

LOSS OF AN OLD FRIEND

by Sharon Marburger (information excerpted from funeral program)

It is with great sadness that I report the death of our good friend, Roger Pittard.

Roger was a dedicated rockhound for many years. He and his wife, Mary, joined LGMC in 2002 following the demise of the Hastings and Grand Island clubs. Roger volunteered at the annual shows, sharing his love of the hobby. He also hosted several rock parties at his farm in Geneva. Roger shared his joy in the hobby by doing community outreach, teaching different area groups about rocks. He was always chipper; his happy countenance will be greatly missed.

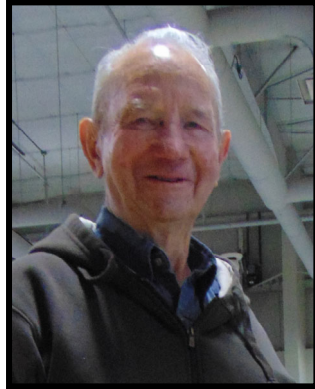


Photo from 2015 Show, and also Roger's birthday!

Roger L. Pittard

Apr 3, 1929 - Oct 25, 2021

The funeral service for Roger was held on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska with Pastor Doug Griger presiding. Military graveside services were conducted at the Geneva Public Cemetery following the funeral service.



Jim and I attended the funeral; it was the nicest one I've ever attended. Roger's granddaughter provided the eulogy, which elicited both tears and laughter. It was a lovely sendoff for our friend.

Roger LeRoy Pittard was born on April 3, 1929 in Geneva, Nebraska. One of two children, Roger lived his entire life on the family farm three miles northwest of Geneva. Roger farmed his entire life, except for the two years he served as a tank mechanic in the United States Army with the 48th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion from 1951 to 1953 in Erlangen, Germany. Prior to leaving for Germany, Roger and his best friend went on a fishing trip to Minnesota. While he was there, he met a girl named Mary Rudduck and he asked her if she would write him while he was overseas. Mary

agreed, and they stayed in touch through letters even after he returned home. In November of 1956 he asked Mary to visit him in Geneva on her way home for Thanksgiving from Texas to Minnesota. At the end of that one short weekend together they were engaged to be married. Roger married Mary in Marble, Minnesota on March 9, 1957. Roger and Mary had three children who were raised on the family farm.

Roger had many hobbies to keep him busy outside of farming. He was a lifelong member of the Geneva United Methodist Church, an active rockhound from coast-to-coast, and he enjoyed traveling and camping. Roger spent much of his time sharing his knowledge and love of rocks with family, friends, and students from area schools.

He is survived by his children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

MEMBER PROJECTS

Corey never fails to impress!



Now that Jim and Sharon Marburger are retired, there is actually time to have fun with the hobby. Here are a few items created the end of October and beginning of November.



This is a closeup of the little white square (opal) in the picture to the left

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

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2nd Vice-President

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Board Member

Jeff Kubitz, 402.540.9395, jkubitz@neb.rr.com

Board Member

Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323, lgmc.editor@outlook.com

Board Member

Ed Ridge, 402.805.8248

LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

- 1 year: Pat Dvorak
Robert Gruit
- 2 years: Charles Wooldridge
Sharon Marburger
- 3 years: Vera Lyman
Jim Marburger

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

- 1 year: Linda Guenter
Vera Lyman
- 2 years: Brett Jurgens
Sharon Marburger
- 3 years: Jim Atkins
Open

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Advertising by rock / hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board of Directors. Contact the Editor with your proposed ad. The rate is set at \$20.00 per full page; \$10.00 per 1/2 page; \$5.00 per 1/4 page (minimum) per issue, paid in advance to the Club treasurer. Ads will be placed throughout the newsletter as space permits.

STANDING COMMITTEES**Audio/Visual:**

Jayne Beer

Audit:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer
James Marburger

Christmas Party:

Edward Ridge

Door Prizes:

Corey Beer, Brett Jurgens, Charles Wooldridge

Facebook:

James Marburger, Jayne Beer

Field Trips:

James Marburger

Historian:

Sharon Marburger

Legislative Liaison:

Susy McMahan

Membership Record:

Edward Ridge

MWF Liaison:

Vera Lyman

Programs:

Charles Wooldridge, Brett Jurgens

Property:

James Marburger

Recognition/Awards:

Ed Dvorak, Jayne Beer, Charles Wooldridge

Refreshments:

Vera Lyman

Show—2021:

Cancelled

Summer Swap—2021:

Corey Beer

Website:

Jim & Sharon Marburger

Youth Activities:

Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer, Sampson Bayer

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership dues for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

- Adults (age 16 and over) - \$20 per year or \$30 per couple (within the same household)

- Juniors - \$3 per year (with a responsible adult)

All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Prospective members must gain Board approval and attend one regular meeting before paying dues. Applications are available on the website: <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/about/membership>, or you may contact Treasurer Vera Lyman for a printed copy.

Mail Exchange Newsletters to:
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 5342
Lincoln, NE 68505-0342



Or e-mail newsletters to:
lgmc.editor@outlook.com

A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:
<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

PICK & SHOVEL

2022 SUMMER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
Vendors:
Finance & Ticket Sales: Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
Insurance Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:.....
Publicity & Promotion: Jim Marburger
Silent Auction:..... Sharon Marburger
Web Master: Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer

2022 SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jayne Beer
Dealers:..... Vera Lyman
Demonstrators: Vera Lyman
Displays:..... Ed Ridge
Event Center Liaison Vera Lyman
Finance & Ticket Sales: Jim Atkins
..... Vera Lyman
Floor Chairman: Corey Beer, Jayne Beer
Fluorescent Booth:
Forms..... Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:..... Charles Wooldridge
Nebraska Gem Dig:..... Charles Wooldridge
Plants: Ed Ridge
Printed Program: Sharon Marburger
Publicity & Promotion: Jim Marburger
Ribbons & Recognitions: Sharon Marburger
Security: Vera Lyman
Show Flyer Sharon Marburger
Silent Auction:..... Sharon Marburger
Special Features:
Web Master: Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities: Brett Jurgens, Corey Beer,
..... Sampson Bayer

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DEADLINE:

Date of Board Meeting, usually the 1st Thursday of the month.