

Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 99 Number 1 January , 2026

The 1,046th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

A ZOOM Meeting
January 9, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.

Program: Introduction to the Colorado Plateau
Presented by Nathalie Brandes

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Remember: If you change your email or street address, you must let the MSSC Editor and Membership Chair know, or we cannot guarantee receipt of future Bulletins



Happy New Year

Program: “Introduction to the Colorado Plateau ” Presented by Nathalie Brandes

The Colorado Plateau is home to numerous national parks and monuments due to its spectacular scenery. Much of the grand vistas and long geologic history exposed in the rocks is due to its rapid uplift since the Mesozoic. The exact cause of this uplift is not known and still debated amongst geologists. Whatever the cause, the results are some of the most beautiful places in the United States. This lecture will visit some of the best-known locations on the Colorado Plateau, discuss the geology, and cover some of the fascinating human history of this rugged and remote region

Nathalie Brandes grew up studying geology from a very early age traveling around the world with her geologist father. She earned her BS and MS in geology at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech). After working at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, she pursued her doctoral studies at Michigan Technological University. She has taught at Michigan Tech, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, before accepting a position as Professor of Geosciences at Lonestar College- Montgomery, a community college in Texas, where she has been teaching for the past twenty-one years. Nathalie’s current research focuses on ancient mining techniques as well as the history and geology of classic mineral localities.

Nathalie is a member of the Management Team for Mindat.org, as well as on the Board of Directors for the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy. She is an active member of the Geological Society of America, the Geological Association of Canada, the British Micromount Society, the Mining History Association, The Russell Society, and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration.

Her hobbies include travel, embroidery, reading, and writing. In addition to several novels, she has written two books about geology: New Mexico Rocks, A Guide to Geologic Sites in The Land of Enchantment, and Texas Rocks, A Guide to Geologic Sites in The Lone Star State.

How to Join our ZOOM Meetings

MSSC members are automatically included in the invite list each month.

For non MSSC Members who want to attend this meeting. You must respond to our Programs chair, Carolyn Seitz speakers@mineralsocal.org. no later than the Thursday prior to the next scheduled meeting. Please include “*current month ZOOM Meeting*” in the subject line of your response. This response date will allow time for us to send you the information needed to participate in the ZOOM meeting.

From the Editor: Linda Elsnau.

Happy 2026 to one and all! January 2026 marks the beginning of my 14th year as MSSC’s Bulletin Editor. Here’s hoping I can continue for many more.

MSSC starts a new year with new officers so it will be interesting to see what 2026 looks like.

It’s that time of year...Dues are Due

If you haven’t already paid your MSSC Membership Dues, Remember,

DUES ARE DUE!

Renewal Deadline is February 15, 2026, to be included in the MSSC Roster. And if you have not renewed, you will no longer receive your MSSC Bulletin

It’s Time to Renew your MSSC Membership!

Don’t miss the monthly bulletins, Zoom Meetings, or upcoming Field trips.
Send your dues to:

MSSC Treasurer 16 La Ramada Place, Pomona, Ca 91766

Or ----Use PayPal

\$30.00 INDIVIDUAL

\$40.00 Family

\$35.00 additional for USPS Delivered Bulletin

If your information has changed since last year (email, address, phone) please complete a new Membership form with new information.

Any Questions, please contact Pat Stevens at treasurer@mineralsocal.org

From Our President:

Hello and Happy New year 2026! As I transition from the role of secretary to president, I go from scribing other people's words and thoughts to trying to offer some of my own. Even though I am a biologist and not a mineralogist, I realized that I have been collecting minerals for most of my adult life! This has led to quite a collection. I would like to follow in the footsteps of past presidents George Rossman and Angela Guzman and write a little bit about minerals every month. The minerals will be ones I have collected (maybe a few purchased). I started an alphabetical list of minerals I was pretty sure I had in the backyard or in the house. I haven't finished the list yet, but I have the letter A.

Actinolite is one of the first minerals I remember collecting. We were on an introductory geology class field trip to Catalina island which is composed of metamorphic (the famous and rare Catalina Blue schist and actinolite) and igneous volcanic rocks.

Actinolite an amphibole silicate mineral $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Fe})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ (calcium magnesium iron silicate hydroxide) forms beautiful green bladed crystals. It is a component of nephrite jade and fibrous crystals are classified as a form of asbestos. Its name comes from the Greek *aktis* meaning beam or ray.

I don't think I have my Catalina Island specimens, but I do have a nice "yard" actinolite that I collected from a wash in Wrightwood, CA.

Can you guess next month's mineral?

As we begin a new year, I would like to thank outgoing president Angela Guzman for her leadership these past few years. I have some big shoes to fill! I would also like to thank Carolyn Seitz who is passing on the treasurer duties to Pat Stevens. And lastly, a big thank you to Rudy Lopez who has been the engine behind every activity that we do as a club, as he steps aside for some rest and recuperation. We will all need to step up to keep our activities running smoothly. I welcome the new directors and appreciate those who have stayed on to help the club move forward. We have already picked up a few new members for 2026!



MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, December 12, 2025

Welcome

President Angela Guzman welcomed all to the Mineralogical Society of Southern California's 1,045th Membership Meeting (67th Zoom Conferencing meeting). She asked for any Guests, please to introduce themselves.

She then outlined the business for the meeting:

Tonight is an important meeting in which we will need to (a) approve the minutes of the last meeting, (b) approve a Bylaws Amendment regarding Secretary (c) conduct our annual nominations and election of Officers and (d) Installation Luncheon. The meeting will be suspended to host our program presenter with a Q&A to follow. The membership meeting will resume and will conclude with MSSC Announcements, Reports, Last Words and adjournment.

Business:

(a) Minutes to Approve the President asked for a motion to approve the Membership Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2025, as published in the December 2025 Bulletin: a motion was made by Carolyn S. and seconded by Michael C. Angie asked for any additions, corrections or discussion: hearing none she called for a voice vote to approve the motion. The motion carried.

(b) Members: Approve Bylaws Amendment - Secretary position.

Angie announced, “As there was no election due to lack of a nomination for one corporate officer position, the Board met on Sunday, Nov 16, 2025, and approved a motion to amend MSSC’s Bylaws regarding the Secretary position.” [Refer to President’s memo dated November 18, 2025 “Board Decision...”, sent via e-mail and regular mail to all MSSC Members. The motion opened the door for co-secretaries.) The Board Motion is as follows: “The Secretary position shall consist of 1 or more members.”

The Membership Motion would be: We approve the Bylaws Amendment as follows, “The Secretary position shall consist of 1 or more members.”

A motion to approve was made by Angela G. and seconded by Bert V. She asked, “Are there any additions, corrections or is there any discussion regarding the motion?” Hearing none a voice vote of approval of the motion was made.

(c) Officer and Director Elections:

Background: The November 14, 2025, Membership meeting did not yield a nomination for one of the corporate officer positions. There was no election. The Board held a special meeting on Sunday, November 16th. They were informed that after adjournment of the Membership meeting, one person said they could be a co-Secretary if someone else could be the other “co.” After much discussion, the Board approved a motion to a Bylaws Amendment: The Secretary position shall consist of 1 or more members; that is the motion we approved/denied at the beginning of this meeting. Now, we proceed with the Nominations and Elections.

President Guzman opened the nominations for officers and applicable director seats. After all nominations have been made/accepted, the Nominations will be declared closed. This cycle, MSSC’s ELECTION, shall take place immediately following closure of the nominations. Recap offices and nominations:

President	Leslie O		Treasurer	Pat S
Vice Pres	Renee K		CFMS Director	Angie G
Co-Secretary	Marcia G*		Director #1 ('26-'27)	Pat C
Co-Secretary	Ahni D*		Director #2 ('26-'27)	Bert V

*These Co-Secretary nominees were agreed to by the person and the Board.

She stated to the nominees: Do each of you accept your nomination? All said yes.

Angie asked three times, “Are there any other nominations for any of these positions?” Hearing none she declared the nominations closed.

A motion to vote the slate by acclamation was made by Angie and seconded by Paul B.

The slate was approved.

(d) Installation Luncheon: January 10, 2026, Hof’s Hut Seal Beach, 11:30am – 3:30pm. President recommendation, Board approved (e-mail poll). Full details will be on our website and included in the January 2026 Bulletin and a separate e-mail, and 5 snail mails will be sent to all members.

** addendum, luncheon changed to 1:30-4:00*

Program

Angie turned the meeting over to MSSC’s Speaker’s Chair, Carolyn, who introduced the night’s speaker. Charles Rogers presenting “An Armchair visit to the Crater Rock Museum.”

From MSSC website: Crater Rock Museum is owned by Roxy-Ann Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Crater Rock Museum houses one of the finest displays of gems, minerals, rocks, and fossils on the West Coast. Exhibits include a collection of world-class minerals, collection of petrified wood, fossils, and much more! The museum gift shop is filled with the works of local artists from the Roxy Ann Gem & Mineral Society and rocks and minerals from around the world. The museum started out as a humble “shack” where locals could visit and perhaps ask about an interesting rock, or to gather around as a group and share “rockhounding” stories. It’s grown a lot since 1954. In fact, we’ve recently completed our expansion project that began in 2003. The original 5,400 square foot museum is now more than 12,000 square feet, housing community meeting rooms, a larger gift shop, workshop, and exhibit areas. Guided tours are available by appointment.

Who We Are- The operation and development of the Crater Rock Museum have been entrusted to the Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society. RAGMS is organized as a non-profit corporation: Roxy

Mission Statement- *The mission of Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral, Inc. dba Crater Rock Museum is to educate and enlighten people of all ages through the study of earth sciences, geology, lapidary, mineralogy, natural history, and paleontology by conducting tours, teaching classes, and maintaining museum displays.*

Their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RoxyAnnGemandMineral>

Website <https://craterrock.com/>

Crater Rock Museum Overview

Charles presented an overview of the Crater Rock Museum, highlighting its history, expansion, and current operations. He explained how the museum was founded by Delmar and Frida Smith and later expanded with a large donation from a benefactor. Charles described the museum's exhibits, including a lapidary shop, mineral displays, and a black light room. He also discussed the museum's staff, gift shop, and various programs like field trips and meteorite displays. Michael inquired about the museum's use of volunteers, and Charles explained that volunteers are organized through the Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society, a non-profit organization. Angie G. inquired about field trips, and Charles described the variety of locations visited, including private properties and public land for collecting fossils and minerals.

Museum Collections and Outreach Overview

Charles presented an overview of the museum's collections and activities, including their black light room, artifact displays, fossil discovery room, petrified wood exhibits, and mineral specimens. He discussed their outreach efforts, such as Kids Day at the museum and monthly geology classes. The museum also hosts a gem and mineral show in March and has a collection of rare minerals, including a large rhodochrosite specimen. Bill inquired about the museum's plans for a room where visitors could bring in samples for identification, which Charles mentioned they received a collection from a closed college but had limited involvement in its handling. Bert V. commented on the decline of geology programs in universities and the increasing importance of geologists in areas like alternative energy sources and strategic minerals.

Enhancing Geology Program Engagement

The group discussed the challenges of maintaining geology programs at universities, noting that larger schools are better equipped to fund research and attract staff. They explored ways to increase interest in geology, including using smartphone apps for rock identification and organizing field trips to collect minerals. Charles shared details about the Grants Pass Rock and Mineral Club's museum and efforts to promote it to tourists and local residents. The club, which has about 1,100-1,200 members, is working on outreach strategies to attract more visitors and maintain its membership base.

Angie thanked Charles for his presentation and congratulated him on the success of the museum and staff. A discussion about minerals and a potential field trip to the Castle Butte area was mentioned. The group also discussed the Rainbow Ridge Jasper claim and a trilobite area near Baker.

Announcements

-Marek - Field Trips none currently scheduled. Maybe one to the W. Mojave in early 2026. Bert V. mentioned a potential field trip to the Castle Butte area. The group also discussed the Rainbow Ridge Jasper claim and a trilobite area near Baker.

-Rudy – Angie said, “We wish you the best outcome and recovery following your upcoming shoulder surgeries. Here’s to many happy fishing days ahead. “

-Angie – PMC will be held in Fallbrook January 30, 31 and Feb 1 (field trip day). Refer to MSSC’s website and/or December ’25 Bulletin for registration and event information.

-Angie – Installation Luncheon on January 10, 2026, at Hof’s Hut in Seal Beach

Last Words:

Angie G. said, “To all of you, my appreciation for your support during my terms as President of MSSC. It has been my pleasure to serve you, and I am much richer for the experience. Thank you! “

Adjournment: President Guzman adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by MSSC Secretary, Leslie O.

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation!

List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
Meeting Dates::	ZOOM February 13, 2026	TBA
	ZOOM March 13, 2026	TBA
MSSC Banquet	January 10, 2025	1:30pm to 4:00pm at Hof’s Hut in Seal Beach see below for full info
Board Meeting	ZOOM January 18th, 2026	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
Pacific MicroMount Conference	January 30 – February 1, 2026	See full information in December 2025 Bulletin
Field Trip		No News At This Time

Note: Dates and programs shown above are subject to change. Check your bulletins to confirm final information each month.

The Ride Share Listing is being temporarily discontinued until such time as MSSC starts holding in-person meetings again.

Messages from Angie Guzman, MSSC’s Outgoing President

CONGRATULATIONS to the Mineralogical Society of Southern California’s (MSSC) new incoming Officers for 2026 and Directors for 2026-2027. It looks to be an exciting time ahead for MSSC. I am looking forward to serving as your California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Director for 2026.

President.....Leslie O
Vice President.....Renee K
Co-Secretary.....Marcia G
Co-Secretary.....Ahni D

Treasurer.....Pat S
CFMS Dir.....Angie G
Dir #1.....Pat C
Dir #2.....Bert V

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Mexican Lace Agate
Photo: Angie Guzman

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Installation of Officers/Directors and Silent Auction Luncheon will be held from 1:30pm till 4:00pm on January 10, 2026, at Hof's Hut in Seal Beach. The daylight hours were chosen so that those of you who do not drive at night may attend. Food items will be directly off Hof's menu. The menu has a wide range of dishes (vegan, gluten-free, pescatarian, etc.) that *you may choose*. *MSSC is not catering or holding to a special menu, which means each person pays for what they order*. There is no fee to attend. However, **please RSVP** as soon as possible for MSSC to provide Hof's with a number of attendees. E-mail Carolyn at cmseitz@mindspring.com

There will be a **Silent Auction** so *bring your donations*. We have bid-sheets; the Treasurer will collect at the close of the Silent Auction.

We're offering a mineral **Show and Tell** segment which includes *swapping specimens* with members. MSSC has had swaps in the past, and we'd like to revive that fun and lively aspect of this event. For *Show and Tell*, bring a special mineral and tell us about it, why you picked it up, where you got it and other tidbits about the mineral. Sharing is a great educational aspect of collecting. C'mon, bring your stuff!

Here's the Important Information:

DATE: January 10, 2026, Saturday
TIME: 1:30PM – 4:00PM
PLACE: Hof's Hut in Seal Beach
ADDRESS: 12489 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach, CA 90740.

...

The 2026 **Pacific Micro Mineral Conference (PMC)** will be held January 30, 31 and February 1 (Field trip day) at the Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society's hall located at 123 Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028. Check the MSSC Bulletin and website for registration and all other information. This will mark PMC's 59th annual conference! You won't want to miss the great speakers, micros, auctions (silent and oral) and the fabulous conversations with old and new friends. Sign up now for early bird price. See you there!

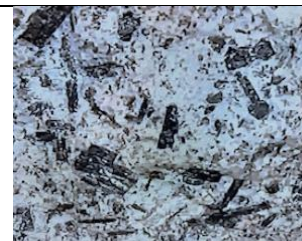
Happy New Year!!! Here's to you. And thanks again for your support!
Angie

OTHER (FREE) THINGS TO DO...by Ann Meister

The **Watson Lecture** is on Wednesday, **January 21** at 7:30 PM at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The speaker is **Francois Tissot**, Professor of Geochemistry, Caltech. The title is "**Lead Contamination: An Old Foe Rises from the Ashes of the Eaton Fire.**" In 1965, Caltech geochemist Clair Patterson published what was, at the time, a highly controversial finding: that leaded gasoline and other products like canned food solder, paints, and insecticide were exposing Americans to dangerously high levels of lead. His work helped galvanize the environmental movement, ultimately leading to the Clean Air Act of 1970. Fifty years later, Caltech researchers, led by Francois Tissot, professor of geochemistry and Heritage Medical Research Institute Investigator, were once again at the center of investigations on environmental lead contamination when



Benitoite
Photo: Angie Guzman



Andesite
Photo: Angie Guzman

the Eaton fire devastated communities surrounding Caltech. A year on from the LA fires of 2025, Tissot will discuss Patterson's legacy and its connections to his own research group's efforts to study the presence of lead and other toxic metals in the aftermath of the fires. He will also share the impact of his findings to date—and how they can help communities prepare as fires at the wildland-urban interface grow increasingly common. [Watch the preview](#)

► [Register for Francois Tissot's Watson Lecture](#) Enjoy pre-lecture activities and music including food, drinks, and books available for purchase starting at 6 PM. Find past lectures on [Caltech Watson Lecture Series - YouTube](#)

The **Von Kármán Lecture** is on Thursday, **January ??** at 5:00 PM. Available live on YouTube at [NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - YouTube](#). Date, speaker, and topic were not available at time of publication. Check website for information and past lectures [Lecture Series \(nasa.gov\)](#). Previous lectures are available on YouTube.

The **UCLA Meteorite Gallery** is open to the public weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm and on Sundays from 1 to 4 pm when it is staffed with volunteer docents. Admission is always free. The monthly lectures seem to have been discontinued but the gallery is well worth exploring. Visit the website and check on events, videos, and other neat things including resources for teachers, Go to <https://meteorites.ucla.edu>

Calendar of Events:

Only S. CA shows are listed here. Other CFMS Club shows can be found at: <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

2026 Shows

January 17-18, 2026, Exeter, CA

Tule Gem and Mineral Society

Exeter Mineral Building,

324 N. Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA

Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

Free admission and parking.

Website: <http://tulegem.com>

February 12 – March 1, 2025 (13 days) – Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society

Riverside County Fairgrounds, 46350 Arabia St.,

Indio, CA 92201

Hours are Thursday-Friday (12-13th, 19-20th, 26-

27th) 3 pm-10 pm. Saturday-Monday (14th-16th) 10

am-10 pm and Saturday-Sunday (21-22nd, 28th-March 1) 10 am-10 pm.

Website: <http://sgmgs.org>

March 7-8, 2026 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.,
Ventura, CA 93001

Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 13-15, 2026 – Apple Valley, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

7 Miles down Stoddard Wells Rd., Apple Valley CA

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM daily

Stoddard Well Rockhound Tailgate

March 15, 2026 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society

123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028

Hours: 12 Noon – 3 PM

Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Location: Antelope Valley Fairgrounds,

2551 W Ave H, Lancaster, CA 93534

Hours: Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

Parking will cost \$10. Show in the Van Dam building.

Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club

470 Champion St., Lemoore, CA 93245

Hours: Sat 10 AM – 6 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

MSSC Advertisement Policy:			
Mineral-related ads are allowable in the MSSC bulletin. Below is the price per month			
	Business Card	\$5.00	
	One-third page	\$10.00	
	One-half page	\$20.00	
	Full Page	\$35.00	
In addition, any advertiser who purchases 12 months of space in advance will receive a discount of 12 months for the price of 10 months. The copy for the ads should be mailed to the editor at bulletin@mineralsocal.org and the payment should be sent to the MSSC Treasurer 16 La Ramada Place, Pomona, Ca 91766			



Happy New Year

2026 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Leslie Ogg	president@mineralsocal.org
Vice President	Renee Kraus	vicepresident@mineralsocal.org
Co-Secretaries	Ahni Dodge / Marsha Goetz	secretary@mineralsocal.org
Treasurer	Pat Stevens	treasurer@mineralsocal.org
CFMS Director	Angie Guzman	
Past President	Angie Guzman	
DIRECTORS		
2025--2026	Rudy Lopez	
2025--2026	David Lesperance	
2025--2026	Pat Stevens	
2024-2025	Pat Caplette	
2024-2025	Bert Vogler	
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Bulletin Editor	Linda Elsnau	bulletin@mineralsocal.org
Field Trip	Marek Chorazewicz	
Historian	Ann Meister	
Hospitality	Laura Davis	
Membership	Linda Elsnau	membership@mineralsocal.org
Micro Mount Conf. Chair	Al Wilkins	
Program and Education	Rudy Lopez	programs@mineralsocal.org
Speaker Bureau	Carolyn Seitz	treasurer@mineralsocal.org
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	webmaster@mineralsocal.org

About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study of mineral specimens. We are a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports those endeavors through public outreach, field study and related programs. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc.

The MSSC meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., MSSC meetings are conducted via ZOOM conferencing until further notice. The annual Installation Banquet occurs in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting are in August. Check the Society website for details.

The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micro mount Symposium held at the Fallbrook Mineral Museum during the last weekend of January.

Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are \$30.00 for an individual membership, \$40.00 for a family membership. Bulletins are sent by email; there is an additional annual fee if you prefer paper bulletins mailed to your address. The Society's contact information:

Mineralogical Society of Southern California

13781 Alderwood Lane, 22-J, Seal Beach, CA 90740

E-mail: treasurer@mineralsocal.org

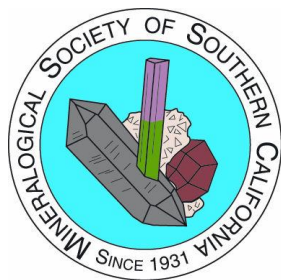
Website: www.mineralsocal.org **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

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MSSC Bulletin Editor
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Glendale, CA 91214-2415

To:



With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

***Your MSSC
Bulletin Is
Here!***