



## FMDAC Presidents Message

Fall 2014

This newsletter is bit late. Been a very busy year for me and we just held our annual board meeting. So I wanted to wait until after the meeting. Many items were discussed at the meeting and you will see a few new items as the coming year progresses.

First off I want to announce that our long time treasurer Jill McFeeders has decided to step down at the end of this term which ends Jan 1. I want to personally thank her for her many years of service to the FMDAC. It is even more impressive when you realize that she is not a detectorist! Her husband Carl is. We will definitely miss her in that capacity and the board voted, as the by-laws allow, to make her an honorary life member. Thank you Jill.

Now that left a dilemma as no one had been nominated for the position. John Howard, northern region director expressed interest in filling the position. So with board approval he was appointed to the position effective Jan 1, 2015. That of course leaves the northern director position open. Debbie Buxton of Holland, New York has agreed to accept that position. With board approval she will take over on Jan 1, 2015. Please give her your support and welcome aboard Debbie.

A new website should be up and running very soon. Hopefully by the time you read this. We will also have a forum available. It will be used for passing on information and answering questions. Soon we will have the membership applications available to fill out right online. More on that later when it is running. Our new webmaster Trinna Pitts has been working diligently on it.

Membership renewals are due with the new year. Please get them in soon as possible. We are doing a 2 peso gold coin give away. All the clubs that get their dues in by Jan 31st will be in a drawing for the gold coin. The club can use it however they want. Independent members will be in a drawing for a free membership.

We are also putting together a couple of raffles. We have a nice large historical book published in 1898 filled with detailed sketches of a military nature. It is an impressive book. This was donated by a long time member. The binding was not in good shape so it is being repaired right now. We will also be doing a detector raffle. More on these items later as we get them set up.

We do have something in the works for a get together in 2015. If we can pull it together it will be a bit different then what we have historically done but we feel it will be have interest to all including non-hunters. Have a few details to work out and hopefully we can announce it around the first of the year.

We have not seen anything new on the legislative arena lately. The elections have been keeping the politicians occupied. There is one issue that does need attention from every citizen n this country. The clean water act that was defeated several times is showing itself again. This is where the wording in the present law would be changed from “navigable waters” to “all waters of the United States.” The Corp of Engineers and the EPA would have jurisdiction. This would include private property and even areas that are only occasionally wet from rain and runoff. Any activity that affects the water area would be

regulated by the EPA. This is not just taking control of water but it would also be a major land control grab. It would devastate the farming community. That wet spot on your property would be under government control. Don't try killing weeds around it! This time it is not in the form of a bill. This lawless administration has told the EPA to simply write it all as regulations. No bill has passed congress. They have no authority to do this. Contact your legislators and voice your concerns. Tell them to oppose the EPA WOTUS (waters of the US) regulations.

We can always use help. If you would like to take a turn at protecting the hobby then please let us know. There are a number of items we would like to do but do not have the time and need some individuals to take charge of them. Please volunteer to help.

Mark Schuessler

National President

For the most part things have been rather quiet. The board held a very productive meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Among the topics discussed were the revamped web site, a new web master, and a location for next year's convention. We also discussed the need for a fund raiser for 2015. The discussions were lively and well received. In general, all members had valued input with the future of the FMDAC in mind. I believe we are doing well, in spite of the retirement of our treasurer Jill McFeeders. Her contributions and dedication will be sorely missed.

Ed Burke

National Vice President

### **Central Region News**

I have been working with Ken Weitlauf of Cincinnati, OH on a new hunter certification for the area parks. Hunters in the area are having trouble where they are not being allowed to hunt the parks. As of now there is no law to keep them out but they are still being asked to leave.

Ken and some other hunters and area clubs are trying to be proactive and get a certification program in place where hunters who are certified can hunt the parks as long as they follow all the rules set forth in the certification process. This is just to ensure that no one is going in and digging large holes and leaving trash in the parks. We need to leave it better than we found it. Ken is working on getting with the parks superintendent to talk about the process of certification. I will have more on this action after the meeting.

Don't forget that dues are due January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and are still only \$5. This year any club that sends in their dues before January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 will be in a drawing for a 2 Peso Gold Coin. The coin will be given to the club to use as they please. For our independent members there will be a drawing for a free year's membership. So get those dues in before January 31<sup>st</sup> and get in on the winning.

Have a great winter,

Don Hayes

## **Northern Region**

The Detecting Season is almost over for most of us in the Northern Region. Time to put up our detectors, remove the batteries, and start our research for detecting spots for next year. For those of you that can detect year round, I envy you.

FMDAC National Treasure Jill McFeeders has decided to retire at the end of this year. National President Mark Schuessler has appointed me to replace her as of 1/1/15. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Northeast Chapter President and then Northern Region Director. I know I can serve you as well in the position of National Treasure.

President Schuessler has appointed Debbie Buxton to the position of Northern Regional Director. Debbie has been involved and active in the metal detecting hobby for many years, and is currently President of the Niagara Frontier Relic Hunters Association, and a member of the Genesee Valley Treasure Seekers Metal detecting Club.

I want to remind everyone that it is time to get your 2015 Dues sent in. There will be a drawing for a 2 peso gold coin from the clubs whose dues are paid before Jan. 31, 2015, and for a free years dues for the independent members whose dues are paid before Jan. 31, 2015.

This probably be my last newsletter too, so I want to wish everyone happy Holidays and a Happy New Year

John Howard

Northern Region Director

## **Southern Region**

Of the clubs I have been able to make contact with (2 as of tonight) there seems to be no issues other than both were wondering if the FMDAC still existed. I in fact explained that we are (FMDAC) working on several items. I explained that we now have a new WEB Master. We will be using the site for information to keep everybody informed. Calendar of events, Legislative issues as they arise, or any other pertinent Information that may need to be put out to the clubs as well as the other non-FMDAC clubs. I introduced myself to the new president of the South Carolina Treasure and Artifact Association. Randy Reese was the previous President, now Kenny Brackett is their new president. All seemed quiet. I also asked to meet with them sometime this year coming and was welcomed.

I was able to make contact with another South Carolina club which was SC Metal Detector and Relic Association. He too was curious about the FMDAC and where we were at. I also explained that we were looking at a get together in 2015 at new an interesting location but it is not confirmed at the moment

On the first weekend of January 2015 there is a Relic Show at the OMAR Temple in Charleston. Butch and Anita Holcombe, the publishers of American Digger magazine are scheduled to attend. Along with

that show I have ask Butch and Anita if they would give a talk to our club and another local club on the Saturday Evening. They have agreed to attend. Details need to be worked out.

Art Difilippo

Southern Region Director

## **NATIONAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

The weekend of October 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> was fully consumed by the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Federation. Between the travel time and the meeting, the weekend was fully consumed and was very productive.

The Directors met in a long session on Saturday. The three National Officers plus the three regional Directors and the Membership committee spend a number of hours discussing the past state of affairs of the Federation, and the future direction that we desired to see the organization move toward. As a progressive organization, communications are extremely important to us, and necessary for us to be able to effectively keep in touch with the membership.

Accordingly, it is important for you (the members) to realize that we, the officers of the Federation want to hear from you. Please visit our website at [FMDAC.org](http://FMDAC.org) for contact information with the Board of Directors, and for any current news updates. In addition, we can be seen on FaceBook at FMDAC. Just ask to join and someone will shortly accept your application.

There are many things happening around the country, and it is important for you to keep the Directors of your area up to date on any situations or problems. In addition, it is important that you keep us up to date about any situation that you many have had and been able to rectify on your own.

This will enable us to teach other areas of the country how to handle situations that may occur in their areas. It is important that we band together as a group. We have a small society and if we don't work together then we will certainly never be able to keep or maintain our rights to detect. Once a right is lost, it is very difficult to regain it.

We are planning many new and exciting things for the future of the Federation, and you will hear about them as they develop. Sadly, due to economic times, the Annual Convention for 2014 was not financially sound and could not be held, however, the future is looking much brighter. In the year 2015 we hope to be able to return to the annual Convention. We are considering some exciting possibilities.

We have to find an interesting location and one that will permit us to hold the annual hunts. If you and your club would like to help us hold a Convention, please contact your Director or Mark Schuessler, National President, and offer your suggestions. We would love to come to your area to hold a hunt and Convention. Please contact Mark or a Director to find out what the requirements for the Convention are, and we certainly hope to hear from you as soon as possible.

Remember, we can't be everywhere, we desperately need your input to be able to keep on top of developments throughout the country. If you have a problem, speak out and be heard. We hope to hear

from you and see you soon.

Frank Coletti