

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

The Official Publication of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
520-323-9154

## Officers

President - David Schulte 954-8554  
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2018 John Poole 777-5588 (Advisor)

## Membership Chairperson

Janet Keisler 333-3398

Please join us February 2nd at 9AM for the monthly meeting. There is an optional social hour that begins at 8:00am followed by an educational program at 9:00am, followed by the monthly meeting. Visitors are always welcome.



Articles or news to be included in the *Cutting Remarks* should be emailed to your Editor, Mike DeMeritt ([silverlininggemstones@gmail.com](mailto:silverlininggemstones@gmail.com)), or feel free to call him at 520-455-5378 or (520) 240-5133. Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

# THE PREZ SEZ ..... by David Schulte



2/3/19

Welcome to the New Year and may it be one full learning and excitement for all of you! The Gem show is here and I hope everyone finds lot of great deals this year. Our business board meeting for January was held on Friday, January 4th, 2019. Our next business board meeting will be held on Friday, February 1st in the main building at the club at 10 AM. As always, members are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the board meetings and discussions.

Pat Droll is still collecting items to be displayed at the Gem show that you all have made or could have made at the club. If you're interested in showing off your work, please see Pat or John Poole and give them the pieces that you would like to enter in the show. They are the judges for which pieces get selected to go into our display case. Your pieces will be returned to you after the show and make sure that you have your contact information in the boxes you give to Pat or John when you bring them in. Bob Powell will be doing the collecting for the items to display at the County Fair this year. Bob is still looking for volunteers to man our booth at the fair and the sign-up sheet is on the board in the kitchen in the main building.

The Gem show has arrived once again. If you have some suggestions on which vendors will have deals or specials at the Gem show, please bring these to the club and share with our other club members. Gloria has posted the class schedule and speakers for the Faceters Frolic events at the club for any of those interested in attending. The dates are February 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and the Hob Nob will be held in the main building starting at 6 PM on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to see some marvelous faceted stones and we always have folks selling rough semi and precious faceting material. If you want to set up a table and sell rough, the cost for a table during the Hob Nob event is \$50. Gloria is once again hosting this event for the club with help from Billy Bob Riley and David Richardson and various volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering to help, please contact Gloria at 520-369-7225.

The OPLC side walk sale will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> right after the club member meeting. Bring your jewelry, cabs,

rough, tools and whatever else you might have to sell and set up in the parking lot. Sales will NOT start until after the club meeting.

We have a new 24 inch saw coming into the big saw room sometime in February. We hope that the vendor will bring it to the Gem Show to avoid the shipping costs for the club. We'll be open and ready to cut up whatever nice rocks that you find at the Gem show. Remember that this time of year with so much material coming into the saw room, the wait times for your slabs will be slightly longer. Thanks to all the volunteers that man this lab and keep it running!

Dave Richardson and Billy Bob are working on increasing the height of the benches in the faceting lab. They have removed the old carpeting to get rid of the dust collection in the lab. They have all the new braces built for the benches and are in the process of installing the new bench platforms. This should be complete in January. Thanks to Malcom Currie for his welding efforts in building the new braces for the lab and Dave Richardson, Billy Bob, Mike Rose and Randy Hirsch for their construction efforts in putting it all together!

Chuck Lundstrom is back in town and is going to working with Liz Williams in the casting lab. This will open up the casting lab for investing and casting on the second and third Saturday's of the month respectively starting in March. Welcome back to Chuck and thanks to Liz as the casting lab lead. We will also be starting up classes in the near future for silver broom casting and salt casting. These classes and efforts will be accomplished in the casting lab as it requires metal melting and this is the only lab set up for this activity. We'll let you know prices and dates once we have this firmed up.

We welcome any and all donations to the club and we'll give you a tax receipt so you can claim them on your taxes. Due to some folks putting sand and rocks in aluminum cans at the recycle place, they no longer accept crushed cans. When you bring in your cans just leave them as is and thanks for bringing them in. Have a great Gem show and I hope everyone gets some fantastic material and deals!

David

**Front Cover Pictures:** Though **Amethyst**, the purple variety of quartz, is quite common, fine examples like this faceted stone are rare; incredible **Sugilite with Richterite** from Wessels, South Africa

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## PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES... Patrick Droll, Secretary

### OLD PUEBLO LAPIDARY CLUB

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, JAN. 12,  
2019

Secretary, William Penrose,  
[wrp0143@comcast.net](mailto:wrp0143@comcast.net), 520-780-1143

- Kevin Lane Smith, a Tucson jewelry artist, gave a superbly illustrated talk displaying his original art work, done largely in gold and mixed gemstones.
- Helen Serras-Herman reported a nearly full schedule of talks for 2019.
- Breakfast snacks for the January meeting were procured by Leia Ballard. Thank you, Leia.
- November's meeting minutes were approved by the membership.
- Seven new members were introduced to the membership. Also, Chuck Lundstrom, who taught the casting class for many years, has returned to Tucson and the club.
- The new Executive and Board are in place, and their contact information will be posted in the next newsletter. David Schulte remains as President, Victoria Fila as Vice President, William Penrose as Secretary, and Pat Droll as Treasurer. David Richardson is joining the Board, as well as taking charge of the Silent Auction and faceting lab owner. Janet Keisler is now Membership Chairman, while Wayne Klement will continue doing many of the other essential tasks he has been doing for years.
- The President personally thanked Bob Powell, Wayne Klement, Tom McDevitt, and Abe and Norma Lackow for the necessary and sometimes invisible tasks they've been doing for years, without which the club could not sustain itself. Bob Powell will remain on the Board as Member at Large. Tom McDevitt will contribute where needed, especially helping with the Silent Auction.
- The Treasurer reported a total of \$5900 in cash and \$34,369 in CDs. The problem of the nonexistent CDs has finally been resolved.
- The Membership Chairman reported 515 members. 2019 dues are now due and must be paid before using the lab facilities, in part for insurance reasons.
- Field Trips – Victoria Fila is investigating two possible sites for March field trips. At present no trips have been scheduled. Liability waivers are needed for each trip, over and above any liability statements needed for membership.
- Library Status – Bill Penrose reported for Bill Cascio that the library is up and running.

Christmas Celebration – Thanks to Victoria Fila who headed up the efforts for our pot luck Christmas dinner in December, Wayne Klement for cooking the hams for the event, Skip Barclay and Bill Penrose for cooking the turkeys and David Richardson for the beef brisket last year and all the other folks that helped set up, clean up and brought in side dishes for the event.

David Richardson, as the silent auction and donation lead, is looking for a volunteer to help with pick-ups and sorting of material as it comes into the club. Please see David if you are interested in getting involved in this.

The water pipe replacement project is complete and within the \$6500 budget.

OPLC has a booth on the floor of the TGMS show February 14th - 17th. The club is looking for members who would like to display their handmade work at the show. Each member can submit up to three items that were made by them either at the club or at home. We are looking for cut and polished stones, faceted gemstones, castings and jewelry. Each piece should be individually wrapped in paper for protection if needed and bagged with your name on it and phone number. You can give the items to John Poole at the club

(Continued on page 7)

## February, 2019 OPLC Speaker: Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio



We are very fortunate to continue our New Year 2019 with another wonderful international gem artist, Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio, who will be our speaker for our February 2, 2019 OPLC monthly meeting.

Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio follows a second generation family tradition, since 1968, in the creation of objects d'art and gemstone carving. An engineer by profession, he grew up surrounded by art, sculpture, minerals & gemstones; artists, master carvers and jewelers were ingrained in his everyday life at his family studio in Lima, Peru where he spent most of his formative years. His knowledge on precious stones was organically acquired during constant visits to mines around the world where he hunted for exceptional gemstones; making the quest for rarity and quality an exquisite lifetime pursuit.

His art is characterized by the fusion of sculpting techniques and jewelry fabrication, the use of exceptional gemstones, the daring design and the flawless execution carried out by hand which is vital in order to give a soul to each creation. His studio specializes in carving ruby.

After mastering his craft, Luis moved to Paris in search for a new vision and to broaden his scope through the specialization in luxury goods, soon after in 2013 he founded L'AQUART, a brand that specializes in the creation of ultra-luxury utilitarian art objects mainly composed in precious and semi-precious stones. His works are displayed in museums in the United States (Carnegie in Pittsburgh, Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Chicago, GIA museum in Carlsbad) and Europe (Museum of Natural History, Vienna, Austria, Deutsches Edelsteinmuseum, Idar-Oberstein, Germany) and enjoyed by private collectors around the World.

A totally unique presentation, please do not miss it! Looking forward to seeing all of you,  
Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program Chair

## OPLC 2019 Speakers Forecast

There are some changes and additions since the last announcement. Here is the latest list.

Kevin Lane Smith, lapidary and jewelry artist (January 12, 2019)

Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio, gem artist, "A Contemporary Take: Behind The Scenes with Lapidary Artists Today" (February 9, 2019)

Wolfgang Mueller, "Arizona Gemstones" (March 9, 2019)

Gregory McNamee, "Monumental Places: National Parks & Monuments in the Grand

Canyon State (May 11, 2019)

Les Presmyk, "U of A Gem & Mineral Museum" (June 8, 2019)

Stan Hart, "Origin, Age & Evolution of Earth" (September 14, 2019)

Larry Fellows, "Pompeii & Vesuvius" (October 12, 2019)

Jim Turner, "Zuni Fetishes & Carvings" (November 9, 2019)

Please do come to the meetings and enjoy these great speakers and their presentations.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Helen Serras-Herman, OPLC Program chair

## ***2019 Tucson Faceters Frolic***

*At*

***The Old Pueblo Lapidary Club***

***3118 North Dale Avenue***

***Tucson, AZ 85712***

## FEBRUARY'S BIRTHSTONE: AMETHYST

Unlike January, a month with an entire *species* of gemstone, February goes the opposite direction: it aggrandizes a particular variety of one of the most common minerals on Earth - the tectosilicate quartz, and particularly quartz's beautiful and colorful violet-hued variety **Amethyst**. Quartz occurs in a large number of varieties. They are divided into common macrocrystalline varieties (in which color is the essential criterion), and microcrystalline varieties, consisting of small fibrous or granular crystallites (these microcrystalline varieties include all chalcedonies, agates, and jaspers that we lapidaries are so fond of cutting...) Amethyst is a macrocrystalline variety found in shades of violet owing to the presence of small amounts of iron (as Fe<sup>3+</sup>) as an impurity. Amethyst, like all macrocrystalline quartz, commonly forms as trigonal crystals.



*Fine Gem Amethyst from Uruguay*

These crystals are typically prismatic, consisting of a hexagonal prism, terminated by two rhombohedra, together resembling a hexagonal bipyramid when uniformly developed; to this can be added a trigonal bipyramid, and occasionally the general crystal form, a trigonal trapezohedron. The trapezohedron reveals the true symmetry of quartz and shows whether a crystal is "right-handed" or "left-handed" - when a trapezohedral face is located above and to the right in relation to a prism face viewed from the front, the crystal is right-handed; in the opposite case, the crystal is left-handed. Twinning is very common, and typical twin laws include *Dauphine*, *Brazil*, and *Japan*. It has no cleavage planes and a conchoidal fracture. Hardness is 7.0 (Moh's Scale), and density is 2.65. Amethyst has a vitreous luster and is transparent to translucent. All macrocrystalline quartz is fairly pure chemically; the impurities that cause color are found in incredibly minute amounts. In the crystal structure of quartz, the [SiO<sub>4</sub>] tetrahedra are arranged in helices parallel with the *c* axis of the crystal. The helices are either right- or left-handed and are linked sideways such that every [SiO<sub>4</sub>] tetrahedron shares all four corners with others. Quartz is widespread in many geological environments, and is an essential mineral in many metamorphic rocks such as gneisses, mica-schists, quartzites, and eclogites, and in Si-rich igneous rocks such as granites and grandiorites, including the related pegmatites and veins (these are where our facet-grade amethysts come from!) Owing to its great hardness and chemical resistance, quartz is the principal mineral in many consolidated or unconsolidated sediments, such as sandstones, conglomerates, and the like.

Amethyst is found all over the world, and important gem deposits include Brazil, Russia, Uruguay, Bolivia, Africa, and even the Four Peaks area here in Arizona, among many others. Specimen collectors appreciate these and many more, including Vera Cruz and Guerrero, Mexico. Facetors like myself are always on the hunt for crystals of "Siberian" color - those of deep purple with flashes of blue, violet, and red. Though the term "Siberian" is still used today, most of the famous Russian material was faceted long ago (I have seen true Siberian material, and it was not terribly impressive - the good ones are long gone!) Top-color and clarity amethyst is best in the Uruguayan material, which falls into the "most expensive quartz variety" category! The best and biggest gem-quality crystals can run as much as \$5 per carat in the rough, with finished prices often exceeding the \$100/ct. mark! Though amethyst is common, don't expect to find the "perfect" piece of facet rough without sorting many parcels - I myself am still on the quest after 25 years of searching! Top-grade amethyst *is not* actually rare, but *is* apparently rare, and exceptionally difficult to find in the modern gem marketplace. Amethyst is a joy to cut, and relatively easy for beginners. If you have trouble with pre-polish or polish, try changing your lap direction - often helps with quartz's cyclical grain. If you are a beginner or money's tight, excellent Brazilian material can be had for between \$1 - \$3 per carat. Look for material with top clarity in lighter tones.

*Written/Compiled by Mike DeMeritt, Feb 2013*

Tuesday morning from 9am-noon or to Pat Droll at the club Monday afternoon 1pm-4pm or Saturday from 9am-2pm. The last day for accepting display items is Saturday, February 9th. This is chance to show off all the wonderful pieces that we make here so get with John or Pat when you have a chance.

The Faceting Frolic will be held again in 2019 during the TGMS show. Set up for the event will be on Thursday 2/7/19 with the classes being held on Friday 2/8/19 and Saturday 2/9/19. The Hob Nob and associated faceting competition will be held on Saturday night on 2/9/19. Gloria Shenanaquet (369-7225) is organizing the event, and we are looking for volunteers to help set up and run the event. The speakers events to be held during the Frolic are posted on the board as well as the classes. If you are interested in attending the speaking events they are free to all club members. If you want to participate in the faceting class work please see Billy Bob Riley or David Richardson. Spaces are limited so see them soon.

The proposed budget for 2019 was approved for submission to the membership last week by the new board. The proposed budget for 2019 is \$44,950. This budget includes the purchase of the new 24 inch saw and blade for the big saw room as the old saw is shot and Pete Peterson and Mike Tucker have a preference on which unit they want to buy (at a discounted price) and a way to avoid the shipping costs for the club. The proposed budget for 2018 was \$45,860 with an actual expenditure of \$41,767. The expenditures in 2018 included the unexpected water main repair cost of \$6000. The income for 2018 for the club was \$39,831. Since we had a quorum, the proposed budget was

approved unanimously by the members present.

There was a vehicle left in the parking lot Friday, Jan. 11, after the last lab was finished. The monitor left the gate open to allow the car to be picked up. David has instructed monitors to LOCK the facility if they are the last ones to leave. If a car is left in the parking lot it WILL BE LOCKED behind the gates when the monitors leave the facility so don't leave your car here unless you are willing to wait until another monitor comes in.

Silver Lab - The blade in the new Potter sheet cutting tool has been damaged once again by someone cutting something other than the approved material and thickness. I will be bringing it down for repair next week and the tool will be out of commission for about two weeks again. We will be putting a lock on this tool when it comes back and in order to use the tool members will have to now do so under the supervision of the monitor on duty.

Casting Lab - Liz Williams is assuming the role of instructor and head.

Faceting Lab – Dave Richardson is the new lead of the faceting lab. Billy Bob will be teaching faceting beginning on Tuesdays. A signup sheet has been posted.

The termite inspection from Truly Nolan was completed yesterday for the facility in order to retain our termite warranty.

An anonymous member refurbished the sign for the training building, which certainly involved many hours of work.

The door prize was won by Ben Santoro. The raffle netted \$176 in cash.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Lois Sharon**

**Connie Peckham**

**Amanda Kelly**

**Fernando Rendon**

**John Richardson**

**Ben & Anne Santoro**

**Marty & Charlotte  
Potter**

**Reginald King**

**Jim Ricker**

**Mary Palbykin**

*Criticism comes easier  
than craftsmanship*

---

**-Zeuxius, 400 BC**



**Patty Polk:** Box of misc. rock

**Ted Rupp:** Sack of misc rock

**Anonymous:** Pair of magnifier glasses

**Joe Domerez:** One pound Oregon Sunstone faceting material (to be used for faceting students)

To donate to OPLC, just contact Dave Richardson at (520) 245-2172.



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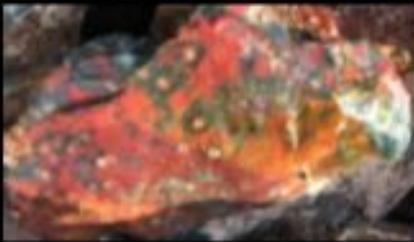
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**3401 Dodge Blvd, Tucson**
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- **Jay's of Tucson** - 30% discount excluding orange tag items, sterling silver sheet and wire. 520-323-1123 (**4813 E Speedway in Pinecrest Center** )  
**4627 E Speedway, Tucson**
- **Jed's Rock Shop** - 20% on all items. 520-882-6044 - **6275 N Sandario Rd, Tucson**
- **Copper City Rock Shop** - See ad in this issue. 10% discount with ad. 928-425-7885  
**566 Ash, Globe, AZ 85501**
- **Kent's Tools** - 10% discount. 520-624-8098 - **2745 N 1st Avenue, Tucson**
- **Tucson Mineral & Gem World** - 10% 520-883-0682 Web address: [www.tucsonmineral.com](http://www.tucsonmineral.com)  
**2801 South Kinney Road, Tucson**
- **Arizona Lapidary** - Arizona Lapidary & Gem Rough - 10% Discount off rough rock 520-399-6641  
7320 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson
- **Silver Lining Gemstones** - 20-35% discount on most items. 520-203-8430, or see Mike DeMeritt at any of his labs. Includes Instagram Store (IG Name **silverlininggemstones**)
- **Starr Gems** - 10% Discount on select merchandise, and 3-ounce price break for all silver purchases. See ad in this issue. **220 W Drachman, Tucson**

## **DON'T FORGET**

Please don't forget to continue to bring in **YOUR** (or anyone else's for that matter) aluminum cans to the Club for recycling. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated to help add \$'s to the Club's treasury. **Thanks!**

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Pete Petersen 886-9021

### PROGRAMS

Helen Serras-Herman 761-9907

### CLASSES

Victoria Fila 664-0302

### FIELD TRIPS (COMMITTEE)

Victoria Fila 664-0302

### HISTORIAN

(Unfilled)

### JUNIOR EDUCATION

Ron Graichen 529-2661

### KITCHEN

General Membership

### LIBRARIAN

Bill Cascio 638-8144

### MEMBERSHIP

Janet Keisler 333-3398

### SECURITY

John Poole 777-5588

### SILENT AUCTION

Dave Richardson 245-2172

### BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Leah Ballard 780-8641

**WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE Phone 323-9154**

**Mondays**

9AM - Noon **Faceting Lab**  
Monitor - Dave Richardson 245-2172  
1PM - 4PM **Silversmith Lab**  
Monitor - Pat Droll 345-2792  
3:30PM - 6PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Margarette Harris 561-2315  
6PM - 9PM **Faceting Class**  
Monitor - Earl Zoeller 886-3518  
6PM - 9PM **Cabbing\*\***  
Monitor - Donovan Wagner 869-2050

**Tuesdays**

9AM - 1PM **Cabbing\***  
Monitor - Mike DeMeritt 520-455-5378  
9AM - Noon **Silversmithing Lab**  
Monitor - John Poole 777-5588  
1PM - 4PM **Faceting Class/Open Lab**  
Monitor - Dave Richardson 245-2172  
1PM - 4PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Liz Williams (818)300-5262  
6PM—9PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Victoria Fila 664-0302

**Wednesdays**

9AM - Noon **Cabbing**  
Monitor— Sharon Wilcox 878-8685  
9AM - 1PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Dennis Murphy 490-9188  
Noon - 3PM **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Sharon Wilcox 878-8685  
6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Keith Haubert 784-8283  
6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing Lab**  
Monitor - Bill Penrose 780-1143

**Thursdays**

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Pete Petersen 886-9021  
9AM - Noon **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Bob Powell 403-8980  
1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**

Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219  
6PM - 9PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Bill Cascio 638-8144  
6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Tom Tuten 803-260-5423

**Fridays**

9AM - Noon **Cabbing\*\***  
Monitor - David Schulte 954-8554  
9AM—Noon **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - James Germaine, 288-0135  
1PM - 4PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Lou Ackerman 290-6968  
1PM - 4PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Pete Valentine, 208-409-7910  
6PM - 9PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Victoria Fila 664-0302

**Saturdays**

9AM - 2PM **Silversmithing**  
Monitor - Pat Droll 345-2792  
9AM - 2PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Ron Bryan 619-495-7967

**Casting Class**

Monitor - Chuck Lundstrom 241-9262  
*investing second Saturday of every month 12 - 3*  
*casting pore third Saturday of every month 3PM until done.*  
*This will not start until March 2019.*

**Sundays**

9AM - Noon **Rock Sawing**  
Monitor - Mark Gibson 297-4412  
10AM - 3PM **Silversmithing Lab**  
Monitor - Giac D'Aquisto 207-6219  
10AM - 2PM **Cabbing**  
Monitor - Gloria Jean Dana 369-7225

• **INSTRUCTION AS AVAILABLE**

\*\* **FIRST TWO MON/FRI OF EVERY MONTH IS CAB-  
OCHON CLASS, WHILE THE OTHERS ARE OPEN  
LAB**

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - February 2019)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

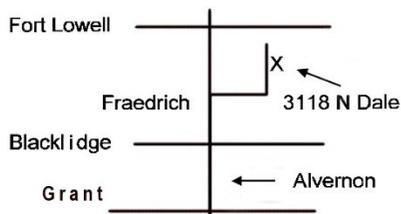
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Annual Renewals</u>
Single Member	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Couple (same address)	\$35.00	\$27.00	\$22.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Junior	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10.00

Mail to: Membership Chairperson, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712



The Business Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. A pre-meeting social hour (except for the December meeting) is at 8:00 a.m., followed by an educational program, and ends with the monthly meeting. Visitors are most welcome.