AFMS BULLETIN CONTEST SPECIFIC GUIDELINES - Added 7/30/2023 for contests beginning in 2024

WILD CARD CATEGORY FOR BEACs ARTICLES, WRITTEN FEATURES, DRAWN FEATURES, & POETRY

1. **AUTHORS** of Written & Drawn Materials:
   - must be an adult, 18 years of age or older
   - must be the BEAC of a regional federation during the year the material was published
   - may have up to 3 written entries & 1 drawn entry (i.e.: 1 article, 1 written feature, 1 poem, & 1 drawn feature, OR 2 articles, 1 poem, & 1 drawn feature, OR 1 written feature, 2 poems, & 1 drawn feature, OR just 1 written entry, etc.)
   - BEACs may enter the WILD CARD contest every year

2. **An Original Adult Article:**
   - may be written for a club bulletin, for a regional federation newsletter, or for the AFMS Newsletter
   - must be hobby-related
   - was written by the regional BEAC during the year it was published
   - has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
   - has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar
   - fulfills the requirements for whichever type of written or drawn material was entered
   - can be only one part (published in 1 bulletin issue) of a series of articles (i.e.: only Part 1 of a 4-part series)
   - should list sources in a bibliography if research was required
   - illustrations/photos should be credited, and if copyrighted must include permission to reprint
   - should not be copied verbatim from a source (plagiarism! – copyright violation!)

3. **A Written Feature:**
   - fulfills the requirements for whichever type of written or drawn material was entered
   - is NOT a poem
   - is hobby-related
   - is an original contribution that does not follow an article format
   - is generally shorter than 1 page in length
   - may be any of the following:
     - humorous anecdote
     - president’s column
     - shop hints
     - play on mineral names
     - special club contest
     - club history commentary (not just copied quotes from past newsletters)
     - member biography/accolade
     - website commentary
     - book review
     - field trip report/travelogue
     - review of a program
     - report of a presentation for a school/community
- shows originality, wit, and/or creativity in enlightening the reader
- **was written by the regional BEAC during the year it was published**
- has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
- has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar
- should list sources in a bibliography if research was required
- illustrations/photos should be credited, and if copyrighted must include permission to reprint
- should not be copied verbatim from a source (plagiarism! – copyright violation!)

4. **A Drawn Feature:**
- fulfills the requirements for whichever type of written or drawn material was entered
- was created for a club bulletin, a regional federation newsletter, or for the AFMS Newsletter
- **was created by the regional BEAC during the year it was published**
- is hobby-related
- is an original creation of the artist/author
- **CAN be computer-generated (i.e.: computer graphics, ClickArt®, Clipart, Photoshop, etc.)**
- is NOT a word search, word scramble, anagram, or crossword puzzle
- should have a heading/description, but the drawing predominates
- may be any of the following (but not limited to these):
  - puzzles made up of a form or shape
  - cartoons
  - crystal structures drawn by the author and incorporated in an original application
- has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
- has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar

5. **Original Adult Poetry:**
- fulfills the requirements for whichever type of written or drawn material was entered
- was created for a club bulletin, a regional federation newsletter, or for the AFMS Newsletter
- **was created by the regional BEAC during the year it was published**
- is hobby-related
- has NOT been previously published in a magazine or company publication
- has NOT been previously used for a display case, show handout, or class/seminar

6. **Judging**
- all entries created by BEACs will be sent to the current AFMS BEAC, who will assign appropriate judges
- judging sheets will be identical to the ones used for the same categories in the AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest
- a plaque will be awarded to the highest scoring BEAC entry in each: articles, written features, drawn features, & poetry
  (total of 4 plaques)