



Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Winter 2024-25

<http://nameregionn2.org>

From Regional Coordinator Ynez Fritsch

A lot has happened in the last few months

I attended the NAME Convention in Franklin, TN. There were twelve miniaturists from our N2 region at the convention. We had the opportunity to meet and discuss various issues within our region as well as to discuss moving forward with our clubs. The convention was, as always, so much fun. I spent all four days in a whirlwind of activities, from 'Theme Luncheons' to the 'Thursday night Project,' NAME meetings, Special Luncheons, the yard sale and so much more.

The Summer at Tahoe workshop, "It's All About the Doors," was held on August 10th. A workshop that I look forward to every summer, with my granddaughter attending the last few years. I signed up for the workshop, though life interfered and we were unable to attend. A friend who did attend brought my 'doors' kit to me. I am now anxious to get started on that kit.

On October 5th we attended NAME Day in Sacramento. Once again it was so much fun and wonderful to meet miniaturists from other parts of our Region. Fran Bigler put on an impressive spread for a continental breakfast and a wonderful lunch. The kits this year were somewhat different in that we didn't have a single kit to work on together, but 14 different kits with most in three scales. Some miniaturists chose to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase kits from prior years that may never be available again and others brought kits from home to work on.

We attended Good Sam in San Jose on October 12 and 13th. This was the first time attending as Regional Coordinators. We were very busy on the sales floor promoting NAME, then helping at NAME Night. As our first time doing this job, all I can say is that 'the learning curve is a killer,' we were so tired and had very little time to shop.

We are now very busy with planning our mini garage sale for Sacramento. The sale will be May 3rd, 2025 at the Robertson Community Center, 3525 Norwood, Sacramento, CA 95838. We hope to see you there.

Ynez Fritsch, Co-Regional Coordinator

Fran Bigler, Co-Regional Coordinator



Cassie's finished roombox



Beth's finished roombox



*Ladies are working hard on their projects
at the NAME Day in Sacramento*



Cassie and Beth at Summer at Tahoe

Small Talk

Congratulations to our N2 Regional Ambassador Award Recipient for 2024-2025

Frances Bigler

The Regional Ambassador award is given annually to a member of N2 who has shown outstanding efforts to promote NAME and public awareness of miniatures and the miniature hobby

Frances goes above and beyond the guidelines of the Regional Ambassador's award. She is always available to help with individual projects, as well as planning and preparing club meetings and events. Fran is a valued member of many clubs including: The "Itty Bitties," "By Small Design," "Quarter Persuasion," and "Sac Valley Miniatures." She has held many offices at the club level and is now a Regional Coordinator for N2. Fran does all of this with a smile and a warm welcome for all who meet her.

Barbara Thornton-Hill and I had the privilege of presenting Frances with her award on October 5th at the NAME Day celebration in Sacramento.

Please, join me in a big CONGRATULATIONS to Fran Bigler for a job well done and bringing more cheer and creativity into our lives.

Ynez Fritsch



Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures

Our 2024 Showcase of Miniatures was a smashing success. Thanks to all who continue to support us each year. We have already begun to plan for a special 50th Anniversary in 2026!

Meanwhile, we have a new volunteer chair and some of you regulars may have slipped through the cracks in transition. Please let us know that you are available for 2025.

We're looking for someone to help with our Youth Roundtables; either at the show and/or developing simple projects. Send any ideas you have to me at grouchybeartoo@aol.com.

Look for us on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook.

Keep up to date by checking our website: Goodsamshocase.org.

Ruth Heisch

Small Talk

HELP OUR REGION

Are miniatures starting to overrun your house; are you running out of room for your newer endeavors?

Have you ever had to buy 20 of a particular item when you only wanted two? Is your “stash” taking over your life?

Do you love rocking chairs or fire places in your mini houses, only to find that you now have 49 kits to make, which is about 30 more than you can use in this lifetime?

Call us, we can help.

We are members of the N2 region of NAME and we need your donations.



The smaller items we make into grab bags that we sell at various functions and we use the larger finished treasures as raffle items and prizes.

The funds that we generate from your donations are deposited into a Region N2 fund to benefit the miniaturists in our region.

Some of the benefits provided by these funds include:

- Payment for our N2 website and newsletter
- We project using these funds to offer an N2 project weekend or a ‘State Day’.
- We anticipate a request for a substantial sum to help defer the cost of the 2026 NAME convention that will be held on the West coast, in the Palm Springs area of California.

We can help with pickup in most areas, please email or call:

Ynez Fritsch–Co-Regional Coordinator

nezytwo@msn.com

Fran Bigler–Co-Regional Coordinator

Fran_big@comcast.net

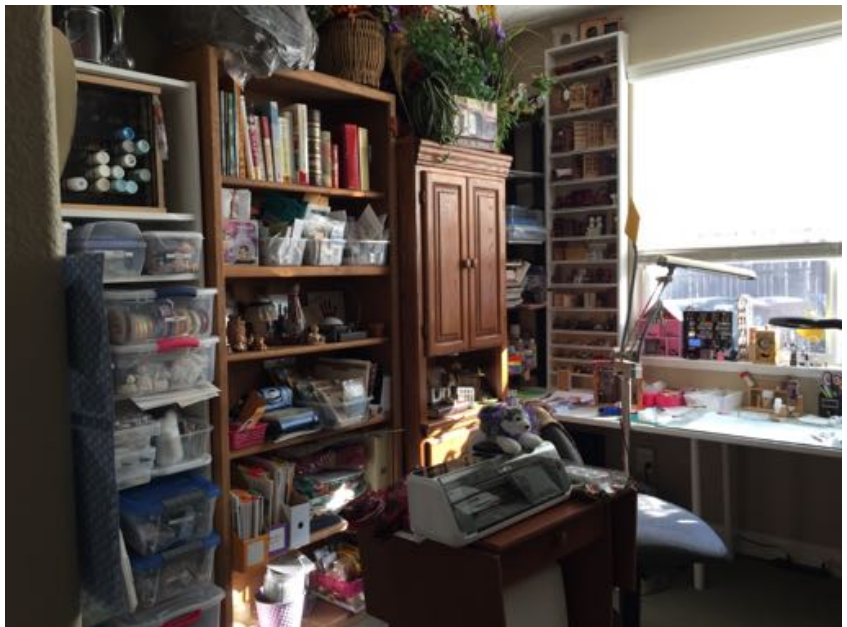
(916) 505-1505

Barbara Thornton-Hill

State Representative and Adviser

bathca@gmail.com

(650) 380-2028



Small Talk

State Rep Reports

North Central

Margaret Gordus

Our Little Mini Club: My “little” journey into the world of miniatures started in 1982 with a visit to a miniature store in Chico. What a delightful experience that was! So many big ideas were brought to life with miniature detail. I was hooked, and started building miniatures on my own. My little hobby quickly became a big part of my life! I helped start this club with Margie Wannamaker and five other miniaturists. It has been a real pleasure to see our miniature club blossom over the years. It’s not so miniature anymore! We might build at 1/12 the scale, but we have twelve times the fun!

Since moving to Clovis, I joined another miniature club (The Tinker Belles), so now I have the pleasure of participating in two groups! I feel so privileged that at 91 I can still enjoy the quiet pleasure of making 1/12 scale miniatures with all of you. I am always eager to learn more, and am so grateful I can continue to do this over Zoom.

—Margaret Gordus



Zoom flower class with Debbie Laue, Dragonfly International



Zoom flower class with Debbie Laue and dolls with Carrie Lourenco



Easter cart with Bonnie Helterhoff



Easter cart with Fimo bunny with Cat Wingler



Wine class with Castle Crafts' Belinda McWilliam

San Francisco, No. Peninsula

Open Position

Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

Open Position

Quarter Persuasion: Four of our local Quarter Persuasion members attended the Sacramento NAME Day on October 5. That was a lovely day. It was heartwarming to see mini friends from near and far once again, as well as make new friends. We had our choice of which past NAME Day project to work on. The breakfast and lunch choices were wonderful. Along with the goodie bags given out near the beginning of the event, club/committee members handed out additional gifts throughout the day. Several of those gifts were handmade by the committee members, making the event so very special. I think everyone there won at least one raffle prize, near the end of the event.

Three of our local QP members attended National, as well as a few members of our club who live further away. It sounded like they all had a ball.

I'm looking forward to our QP once-a-year in person luncheon. Last year we met in February. December is pretty busy, so January or February could be a good time to schedule it.

—Laura Seibert



Some of the 1" scale baby dolls for your doll that Laura bought in the past few months from miniature dollmaker Alicia Volta from Portugal (AligraDolls on Etsy). These are three sets of twins made from clay. I have them sitting in or near the lap of my 1" scale porcelain doll I made as a teenager (age 15 or 16).

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

Itty Bitties: The Itty Bitties members worked on a vanity set for a future project. Deb and Linda showed us how to paint details on the vanity set which we planned to use for a setting for our October project. Our club invited Carrie Lourenco to do a class on dressing a Victorian doll. She was in the area so we were able to get her to work with us for two days. We all had a great time and most of us were able to complete the project. In September Dr. Deb Taylor taught us how to construct a chair, which we will learn how to upholster in November. We are fortunate to get exceptional miniature upholstery fabric through Dragonfly International.

Some of our members met in Winters for lunch and headed to the Winters' Library to set up a miniature display. It was a great team-building activity to showcase our hobby. We hope to set up more displays in the future.

In October, we usually do not have a regular monthly meeting so we can participate in Name Day and the Good Sam Show. We will wrap up the year with a Holiday lunch in December to enjoy each others' company.

—**Fran Bigler**



Examples of completed Projects

A Winters Display in Sunny Northern California

By Maria Dover, new club member

When you hear the word Winter, your first thought may not be California sunshine. But to the Itty Bitties club of Sacramento, CA, Winters plays a big part

of their club. Founded in 2008 by Renata Winter (the first Winter) the Itty Bitties not only are a Blue Ribbon NAME club, but they are also very warm and welcoming with a focus on being very active in the Miniatures Community. Renata, now an honorary member at age 93, wanted to start a club that focused on fun, inexpensive, do-it-yourself minis. The club was a great success and has grown from 8 to 14 members! Our club members enjoy participating in local and regional events, from hosting the yearly Sacramento Miniatures Garage sale, to attending the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose and Miniatures in the Wine Country in Lodi. Members also enjoy participating in local workshops like Folsom Fiesta.

In October 2024, the Itty Bitties hosted "The Last Look" Miniature Porcelain Doll workshop by Carrie Lourenco, to great fun and success, even for 1st time dollmakers. Member Coni Smith runs Sacramento Area Miniaturist group on Facebook. We are proud to have Frances Bigler and Ynez Fritsch who are the new NAME Regional Coordinators for our N-2 region. Their warm and sunny personalities are perfect for this role!

Our favorite community event takes place in the small, rural, agricultural town of Winters, CA. It's the hometown of member Debra Taylor, who takes great pride in being an active part of her community, while sharing her love for all things miniature, including a love for art, craft, and history. Winters Community Library has a perfect display case and since 2011, Debra and then the Itty Bitties have had great fun in planning a large display of mini treasures. This summer's display featured personal favorites, NAME Day projects, workshop treasures, and beautiful collectibles. We incorporated books and magazines on Miniatures, new and old, to highlight the many resources

available. This year we included several examples of the same project completed by different people to highlight style and personality. On set-up day, we meet at the best local café for a big, hearty lunch and fuel up for all the wagonloads of minis. Although the town is called Winters, it is very hot and sunny especially in the summer and loading and unloading multiple cars can really take it's toll!

Busy-bee Debra worked with the local newspaper to advertise our display and planned a "Meet the Artist" reception party on take-down day complete with snacks and festivities to foster conversations with those interested in learning more. Personally, I was shocked when someone asked about my "art," as I never thought of myself as an artist, just a simple maker. Another highlight was relating to others on how immersing myself in a tiny project helps to take a break from the "real world" and can be very therapeutic and calming. The library staff love the displays and have shared how special and inspiring it is to them and to other library patrons of all ages.

Next year's display has already been "booked" and the club is very, very excited! The idea is to make a Book Nook as our 2025 club project. Although as a club, we tend to do 1" scale projects, some members love and prefer smaller scales. The book nooks will be perfect for adapting to a preferred scale. We will each have the same nook, graciously laser-cut by member Deb Laue and her husband. The nook can be a scene from a personal favorite book or can be a room that has books in it, like a reading nook or a den. We will include the actual inspiration books in the overall display. Monthly club meeting during the cooler winter and spring months will be used to work on this project in stages so there will be plenty of time (fingers crossed) to complete each nook. There is even talk of presenting a small miniatures class in

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

the library classroom next year. Member Linda Vertrees says her favorite thing about summer in Winters is seeing everyone's hard work and getting new and young people interested in miniatures. Very active Club President Carolyn Paul sums it up perfectly "You learn to make things and share stories with your friends. I got a late start with this hobby but it keeps me young at heart to be able to create and share with my friends." All things worthwhile take a village and members Mary Ann Chapman, Sandra Dawson, Margaret Guidi, Jan Kimbro, and Annie Piper-Makin complete our busy little club. We hope our next summer display in Winters will inspire as much California dreamin' in others as it has in the Itty Bitties.



Itty Bitties with their library display



Winters lunch

Sac Valley Miniatures: The greater Sacramento Valley of Northern California is ripe with miniature enthusiasts. Home of one of the oldest standalone Miniature stores in the country (The Elegant Dollhouse) and an area with several Miniature shows and sales annually, it's no surprise that we are often asked if there is space available in the one Miniature club we have in the area. This year we heeded the calling and are excited to announce our newest monthly in-person miniature club The Sac Valley Miniatures. It was not difficult to find members and we have started with a group of 11 who met for the first time on Sunday, November 2. In theme with the holidays, our first club project is a carvable pumpkin. Our first meeting project was led by Ynez Fritch where we created a pumpkin vine. We are excited to show off our talent with our completed projects at next year's good Sam showcase of Miniatures In October in San Jose, California. We are looking forward to a holiday themed December meeting, and can't wait to see the diversity and talent this newest group of Miniatures will display. Please join us

in welcoming the newest members of our club. Below are some pictures from our first meeting.

—Connie Ribble



Sac Vally's first meeting



Ynez's pumpkin vine project

East Bay, Tri-Valley

Open Position

No. Nevada, Tahoe

Mary Ann Van Buskirk



Itty Bitties library display

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

Barbara Thornton-Hill

Wine Country Miniature Society: Our club continues to be very active. In September, we assembled the 2024 NAME Club Project, the Display Case. In October, for NAME Day month we each came with whatever project we had to finish from the past 14 years of NAME Days.

At our meetings, we all bring a snack to share (great day for grazing) and we have a table for anything someone wants to sell or give away. Another table is available for sharing current or past finished projects. This is always fun to look at and find out “how” others have done certain things.

Our club is currently working on providing two samples of what can be done with the 2025 NAME Day project. It's a group effort and we are having fun planning these and finishing them. We can't provide a sample just yet as it has not been announced yet but stay tuned for the future samples for NAME Day 2025. It's a great project.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill



Rafael Acevedo's Display Case, the NAME 2025 Club Project

Fresno

Barbara Fairbanks

Tinker Belles: Fresno Tinker Belles are still meeting the first Saturday of each month and have room for more people to join us. Only a few members are working on 1" scale while the rest of us work on 1/2 scale or 1/4 scale.

Carolyn Cave, Glendon Davis, Kayanne Yung, and Marlene Foster joined Wendy Biddy, and myself for a road trip to Good Sam. We had a super good time and came home with some new projects to work on over the winter. Of course we stopped on the way home for some Baskin Robbins!!

For our December meeting we will be going to have lunch together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

—Barbara Fairbanks

Hawaii

Open Position

North Coastal

Sharon Ocheltree

South Bay, Peninsula

Open Position

MiniCals: The MiniCals have been busy since ending their summer vacations. We had a fun NAME day in September focusing on a Halloween theme. Many of our members were busy with the very successful Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in October. We have three new members in our group: Sheila Dodd, Lisa Panken, and Rhona Lee.

Our monthly meetings will focus on completion of a trunk project, and a traditional hutch is in the works for next year. We are planning more workshops starting in January so save these dates.

Costs and more details will be in the next newsletter.

January 18 Catch Up Day

February 15 Terrarium

March 15. Plant making

April 12. Stained Glass

May 17. Spring Fling Sale

Location: 18665 Madrone Parkway, Morgan Hill at 10am

—Brenda Huff

Mini Attics: Autumn is always a busy time for the MiniAttics. We finish our exhibits in time for the Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures. Then they go on to our annual Redwood City Library exhibit. We had more than enough for the library cases this year. It was a cheerful crowd of Laura Johnson, Cindy Loman, Diane Phillips, Brenda Hough, Carol Walls, and Michelle Ortez who showed up to help with set up.

2024 was also a 20 year anniversary for the MiniAttics. Members who challenged themselves to turn the 2023 NAME Day kit into MiniAttics 20th Anniversary celebrations rushed to finish up in time to submit them for an article that was just published in the November/December Miniature Gazette. What a thrill to see Meg Milani's flower-filled project featured on the cover! A number of MiniAttic projects centered around flower making. Meg is a biologist, and flower lover, and is very active in a camellia club. She brought it all together for this project. Thanks to all who contributed to the article. Carol Walls, Marjorie Milani, Meg Milani, Diane Phillips, Laura Johnson (who made the 20th anniversary cake) and Lynn Miller all created projects.

Lynn Miller wrote the article and the poem. I owe so many, thanks to the Gazette editor, Cynthia Erickson. She was so helpful, and absolutely wonderful and easy to work with. She calmed all my anxieties and pre-publication jitters, which were considerable. We were all so pleased with her result. She is also a

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

working teacher, so give yourself ample time if you think you might like to write an article, and don't hesitate to ask her questions. Thank you Cynthia!

NAME Day with the MiniCals workshop created a flurry of different projects. Marjorie Milani is working on a 1/12 scale Window Shopping kit. Three members are working on witch kitchens. Diane Phillips and Carol Walls are focusing on the NAME Day butcher block work station and a MiniCal workshop stove as the core pieces for their projects. Laura Johnson enlarged on the stove and the butcher block work center selections by adding the NAME Day hutch as well.

This month we are excited to welcome Sandra Wyche, as a new member. Sandra is originally from Peru. She and Carole Walls met at the Good Sam Show, and we are looking forward to getting to know her better. Sandra likes the 1/12 scale and is busy figuring out ideas for her next project. Our traditional holiday party has been scheduled for January when people's schedules slow down and the holiday dust clears. Best wishes to all!

—Lynn Miller



Meg's NAME Day project on the cover of Miniature Gazette



Mini Attics members working on the Redwood City Library display



Mini Attics Redwood City library display

Cindy's Pinnacles Display

I finished my room box in the lantern. It features the Tiffany lamp that I made in Juanita's class in Morgan Hill as well as the wicker chair that I made from scratch. The items on the table—the books, eyeglasses and mug of tea were gifts from NAME Day 2023 in Morgan Hill. The lantern was something I had that had started to look a bit weathered, so I donated it to my miniatures hobby. The postcard was a souvenir from a camping trip that I did earlier this year.

Cindy Loman



A perfect container for Cindy's Pinnacles exhibit

Wee Housers: The Wee Housers club members continue to work on their individual projects. We're hoping to have a meeting soon.

Rhona is restoring Bonnie and Steve Goode and Eve Karobilis and Ed Mabes' Old Time Cobbler shop's shoes. The building and all of the shoes made from real leather wee created from scratch.

Another of our club members finished her Rapunzel project.

Laura has almost finished her Create year-long Challenge project. It is the Richardsonian Shop by Bluette Melony.

Small Talk

State Rep Reports

Laura completed the building many years ago at a class at Shellies Miniature Mania. She decided to turn it into a jewelry shop.

—Laura Johnson



There is a brass plate on the front of Rhona's Old Time Cobbler Shop: "NAME N-1 1986."



The shoes, made from real leather; were made from scratch.



The evil witch keeps watch over Rapunzel



Rapunzel's tower all lit up



Closeup view of the lovely Rapunzel

Small Talk

Join us for the 13TH ANNUAL
**MINIATURES IN THE
WINECOUNTRY
MINIATURE SHOW**

2 Shows ~ 1 Location

March 29, 2025

OVER 70 TABLES OF MINIATURES

\$7 Admission for both Shows

Cabernet Hall		Burghundy Hall
9:00am to 3:00pm		9am to 6pm
FREE RAFFLE		Food Available

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
413 E. Lockeford Street
Lodi, CA 95240
www.miniaturesinthewinecountry.com

Small Talk

SAVE THE DATE

MINIATURES IN THE WINE COUNTRY MARCH 29, 2025

2 SHOWS OVER 80 TABLES FILLED WITH MINIATURE TREASURES!!

SPECIAL OFFERING THIS YEAR AT DEBBIE HEARD'S BUILDING:

I WILL BE SHOWCASING THE KRISTINE HILL COLLECTION THIS WILL BE THE FIRST SHOW THE COLLECTION WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC. KRISTINE WAS ONE OF THE MOST TALENTED MINIATURISTS I HAVE KNOWN. SHE RAN THE SEATTLE SHOW YEARS AGO AND I KNEW HER WHEN I WAS MUCH YOUNGER. I WAS FORTUNATE TO ACQUIRE HER BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION FROM HER LOVELY DAUGHTER.

THE COLLECTION INCLUDES STUNNING ROOM BOXES BY RAY WHITLEDGE, ARTISAN, FILLED WITH THE FINEST QUALITY MINIATURES. THE SHOW WILL INCLUDE ITEMS MADE BY RAY WHITLEDGE, LYNN WHISENANT, MARITZA MORAN, KAREN MARKLAND, OLDHAM STUDIOS, WILLIAM CLINGER, CAROL HARDY, BARBARA RAHEB, TERESA WELCH, FERD SOBOL, PETE AQUISTO, OBADIAH FISHER, CHRIS OKUBO,

HEMY, STOKESAY WARE, AVON CHINA, JUDY BEALS, RAINBOW HAND, JUST TO NAME A VERY FEW OF THE FINE ARTISAN PIECES WE WILL HAVE FOR SALE.

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT! WE HAVE BLOCKED HOTEL ROOMS ON THE WEBSITE. FLY IN FOR THE DAY. IT WILL BE WELL WORTH THE TRIP.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT MINIATURESINTHEWINECOUNTRY.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WE WILL BE ADDING PHOTOS EVERY FEW WEEKS TO GIVE YOU A SNEAK PEAK AT A SMALL SELECTION OF WHAT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SHOWS.



Small Talk

Sacramento Miniatures Sale

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025
Robertson Community Center
3525 Norwood Ave. Sacramento, CA

- - - - -

Two sizes of tables will be sold. 6 feet - \$30 or 8 feet - \$40

Tables are limited to two per vendor. If you would like more than two, we can call you two weeks before the event to let you know if any are available. Please indicate that on the form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of tables needed 6 ft. _____ \$ _____ 8 ft. _____ \$ _____

I would like to be called if more tables are available. _____

You can mail or email completed form and payment to: Ynez Fritsch at 10390 Nicanor Ct. Elk Grove, CA 95757 or email to: nezytwo@msn.com on or before April 19, 2025.

Payment options: check payable to By Small Design,
Venmo or Zelle – if you prefer one of these options, email this form to Ynez and she will help you with this process.

Tables will be assigned but if you have any special requests, please note it here. _____

*Questions? Call Ynez Fritsch – 916.838.8153
or Frances Bigler – 916.505.1505*

Small Talk

NAME Region N2 Calendar

January 18	MiniCals Catch Up Day
February 15	MiniCals Terrarium
March 15	MiniCals Plant Making
March 29	13 th Annual Miniatures in the Wine Country Shows
April 12	MiniCals Stained Glass
May 3	Sacramento Miniatures Sale
May 17	Spring Fling Sale

Check the N2 Website

There are now more opportunities to get together and share our enthusiasm for miniatures online! Check out the calendar on our N2 website: nameregionn2.org/events-calendar It's updated with online events, including workshops and sales.

If you know of a miniature related event or have information/photos to share, please contact Carol (namen2regionwebmaster@gmail.com) to add it to the calendar page of the website.

NAME 130 N. Rangeline Rd. Carmel, IN 46032 317-571-8094	Newcomer/ Welcome Chair Open Position	Hawaii Open Position	Sacramento/Central Valley/ Sierra Foothills Open Position
Regional Coordinators Fran Bigler fran_big@comcast.net 916-505-1505 Ynez Fritsch 916-838-8153 nezytwo@msn.com	East Bay/Tri-Valley Open Position	North Central Margaret Gordus 530-872-8787 mh6gordus@gmail.com	South Bay/Peninsula Open Position
Newsletter Editor Laura Johnson 650-533-1239 dollsinmin@sbcglobal.net	Marin/Napa Valley/ Sonoma/Solano Barbara Thornton-Hill 650-380-2028 bathca@gmail.com	North Coastal Sharon Ocheltree 707-668-5708 oldenshepdog@aol.com	
N2 Webmaster Carol Kubrican true2scale@gmail.com	San Francisco/ N. Peninsula Open Position	Northern Nevada/ Tahoe Area Mary Ann Van Buskirk 530-541-0891 laketahoeblindgal@yahoo.com	
	Fresno Barbara Fairbanks 559-907-6051 minimage1@gmail.com		