



Summer 2013

The Artist's Blacksmith Association of North America

"The Bridge Anvil" is the Affiliate Newsletter from ABANA to better enhance and "Bridge" the continuing relationship between ABANA and its Affiliates. The goal is to better forge a future for the blacksmithing community through constant communication, discussion, and sharing of ideas.

I have recently talked with several of the older members of ABANA; and also one of our founding fathers, Dimitri Gerakaris.

Our last issue of the Anvil's Ring (summer 2013) has been a great improvement over past issues. However, that said, there is still room for improvement. The Ring and all the hullabaloo that goes with it; I mean the people who like it and the people who don't, remind me of a job I once had.

Several years ago, I had a job that encompassed the designing and making of a retirement plaque for a devoted employee with 30 years of service at a Credit Union. Although the final design chosen after many meetings, was a forged tree with hammered leaves and all 66 members of the workforce had to have their names engraved on those leaves, I learned one thing for sure. Don't ever take a job where you have to please more than two people at one time.

Now, what does that have to do with ABANA, and the precious Anvil's Ring we all look forward to receiving? First of all, you can't please all the people all the time. Secondly, each of us must remember we are all part of a whole. Unless each and every individual contributes something to ABANA; ie, an article, a finished project with quality photographs, maybe our time as a teacher, something, just get involved. Think of ABANA as an ant colony or a bee hive. Each member has his or her duty towards the success of the whole.

Don't leave everything up to your Board of Directors. For our part, we try to make the right decisions. Our new Anvil's Ring editor is doing a great job, and she is there mostly because of Amy Pieh's insistence on giving her a chance. The Board wants to see ABANA prosper, wants to see the Ring as a class act, wants to see new members and more communication between us, (the Board), and the affiliate chapters. But that's not possible unless each and every member gets involved.

I, personally, am sending in three new articles. Help me by doing your part.

Ray Nager
Affiliate Chair
ABANA Board of Directors.

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From the President

Dear Members,

ABANA is 40 years old and we had a great convention in Columbus, Georgia to celebrate it! I thought this would be a good time for you to hear from our 2nd Vice President and founding member, Peter Renzetti.

Thank You,

David Hutchison

Communication and Sharing

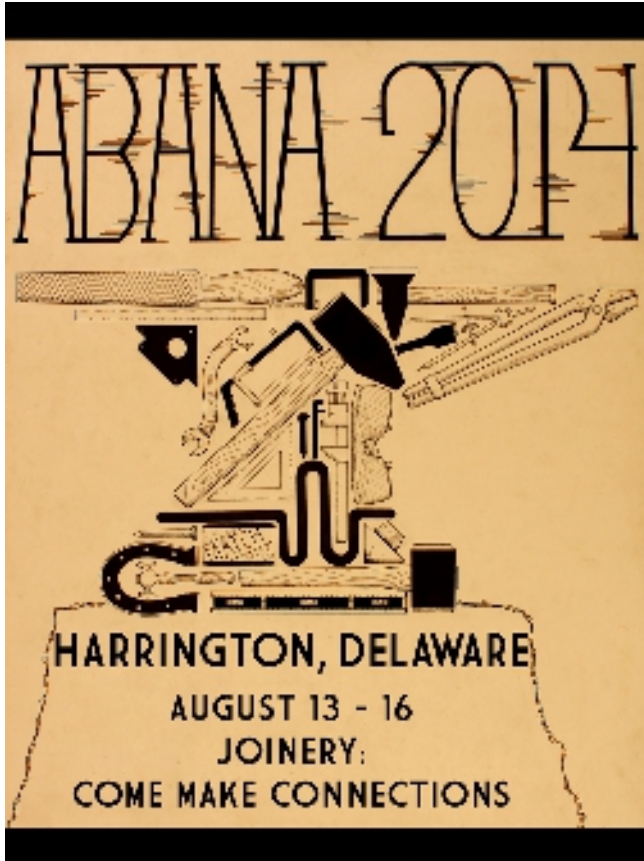
Well, here we are, after celebrating the 40th anniversary of ABANA on March 17, 2013; we look to our future with enthusiasm. At the convention, seven of the original “founding fathers” were able to attend. We installed a plaque on the forge door commemorating the event. The remembrances of our founding days and what inspired us to dive in deeper to discovery and sharing was very uplifting. The weather was perfect, as if we were blessed, and the demonstrations and presentations were inspiring. There were over 200 attendees at the Westville, GA site, with local groups demonstrating as well. The banquet had over 100 people with good food, great conversations, and wonderful memories to share. Sadly, as time goes on, there will be less of us founders to pass on what we know, and share what was given to us. I was, and am, very proud to be one of the founding members. And I am doing my best to serve ABANA as a board member. I also think of ABANA as a team. We have to work together to advance ourselves and others. To promote, practice, and share all that we have for the future of the craft. Communication is the key to any successful endeavor. We are here to serve the membership with information, resources, guidance, and inspiration. We ask that you, the members, share with us your ideas, tips of the trade, and articles of interest. Also, please share what (or who) inspired you to further your knowledge of the smithing trade. We are working hard to improve and upgrade our website and resource network. We ask that you share what you have so that we can make it available to us all. Actively participating by sharing and passing on your inspiration (along with your renewal membership) is the glue that holds us together. As the old saying goes, “united we stand, divided we fall.” Sometimes a few well-thought words mean more than volumes. My favorite is, “the more we share, the more we have.” What is really neat is that it works just as well in reverse—“the more we have, the more we share.” So take a few minutes, think about our team, send in your dues, articles to share, ideas, etc. —and tell us what is on your mind. We’ll listen and pass it on!!

Cheers,

Peter A. Renzetti

‘The Unknown Blacksmith’

ABANA Conference



Conference Details Here:

www.abana.org/2014

ABANA 2014 Conference planning is under way. The only thing that can make this better is affiliate representation in the gallery, sponsor support, banner displays, and much more. Affiliates are encouraged to set up an information table, at no cost, to share with everyone what you are doing. Feel free to bring your “colors” and display your banner too.

As always, we need sponsors (individuals and organizations) to all aspects of the conference. With a monetary donation you can sponsor a demonstrator, tent, gallery, set up crew, or anything you think is representative of your affiliate. There are some specific amounts for certain aspects, but ABANA wants any support you can give. Your Affiliate name will be proudly displayed in the area of your support along with a listing in the conference booklet.

Please contact Bill Clemens or David Hutchison if you are interested in supporting the conference: billclemens@abana.org -- (570) 239-6439. davidhutchison@abana.org - (410) 310-3347

Much Needed Website Upgrades:

Jeff Dunkelberger, and the internet committee have been hard at work updating, fixing, and re-organizing [abana.org](http://www.abana.org). We hope to be up and running on a new Platform by this Fall. Please encourage your members to take a minute or two and visit the site and send us your ideas and suggestions.

<http://www.abana.org/>

ABANA Grants and Loans

ABANA Provides Funds for Both Individuals:

http://www.abana.org/downloads/abana_scholarship.pdf

and Affiliates:

http://www.abana.org/downloads/aff_grant.pdf

ABANA Insurance Program

ABANA has arranged for Insurance to meet the needs of self-employed Blacksmiths

<http://www.abana.org/resources/Shop-Insurance.shtml>

Options Include Shop (Property and Liability), Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance

Just for Affiliates:

Here are a few reminders of things we can do to help you right now!!!

- Free Event Calendar listing of events!
- Free Banner Space to advertise events!
- Free Constant Contact emails of events!
- Free Affiliate Map for smiths to find you!
- Free use of the ABANA Curriculum!
- Care packages for your auctions and Iron in the Hats!
- Bulk ABANA Membership discounts!
- Free table space at the ABANA Conferences!

Provide Event details to the:

[ABANA Central Office](#)

Keep Your Contact Info Up to Date

Like always, please update your current Affiliate information. We want visitors to the website to find YOU! We now have an interactive Affiliate map and complete listing. Please let us know if our information is out dated.

Affiliate Relations Chairperson

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Bulk Membership Rates for Affiliates ONLY:

- 5 pack \$160 Download Details:
- 10 Pack \$300 [Bulk Membership PDF](#)

An Affiliate purchases a batch of vouchers that can be exchanged for a 1-year membership starting from the time the member presents the voucher to the ABANA Central Office. The vouchers expire 2 years after date of issue by the ABANA central office. Contact the Central Office to order yours!

ABANA New and Renewed Membership Form:

Name: _____ Membership ID# _____
for renewals, if known. (Not required)

Street: _____ City: _____ State/Prov: _____

Zip/PC: _____ Country: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

New

Renewal Type _____ Amount \$ _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVVS _____
_____/_____/_____

Membership Rates

Type	1 yr	2 yr
Regular	55.00	105.00
Senior	50.00	95.00
Foreign	65.00	125.00
Student(Full Time)	45.00	85.00
Youth (18 and Under)	20.00	
<small>(Hammer’s Blow Only – Non Voting Member)</small>		
Contributory	150.00 and UP	
<i>Educational Institute</i>	250.00	

ABANA Affiliate: _____
Credit card orders can be faxed, be sure to sign this form. Fax: 423-913-1023
Mail to: ABANA, 259 Muddy Fork Rd, Jonesborough, TN 37659 USA
(Please pay by Check, U.S. Money Order or Credit Card)
Phone: 423-913-1022 or join online at www.abana.org