



President's Message  
Fall 2013

## Making Connections 2013

The next ABANA Conference is less than a year away, and we are planning to make it a great one. As always, we need your help to do this. The most important ingredient in a great conference is you—  
The Conference Attendees.

**We need you there!** Yes, the airports are 1 1/2 hours away . . . so in keeping with the theme of the conference, connect with some of your old friends or with some new ones flying in and share a rental car. Driving from home, consider getting a group together and fill up that car. Driving past BWI or the Philadelphia Airport on your way to the conference and willing to adjust your plans to pick up an arriving attendee that's flying in? Let us know and together we can help you make those connections. We are planning to put up a bulletin board on our web site to help travelers make these connections.

I live just 45 minutes from the conference site so I do know that it will probably be hot. Here's a little info on the site that should help temper your concerns. The site of the conference on the Delaware State Fairgrounds is level and we have air conditioned buildings for registration, indoor vendors, the gallery, lectures, and the auction. Tailgating will be under cover and the demonstrators will be in tents on grass right next to the Grove Camping Area. There's plenty of camping under the trees in the Grove with electric and water hook-ups, and plenty of showers in a clean bright facility adjacent to the Grove.

The registration price is only \$175 (**\$125 for you early birds**) as we have faith that a lot of you will be coming to the event!

Use your blacksmithing skills to help support the event with items for the auction and iron-in-the-hat. The iron-in-the-hat profit goes to the scholarships and grants program. The auction proceeds help with conference expenses and provide seed money for the 2016 conference. I would like to challenge all the affiliates to make something for the auction. I think this will help connect us a little better. We also need items from individual members. Don't forget to put your touch mark and date on them, as it does add value.

Finally we need items for the Gallery. All the items submitted for the auction will be displayed in the Gallery.

Harrington is located in Delaware and is about a one hour drive to the Delaware and Maryland beaches. This area between the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean contains Delaware, as well as parts of Maryland and Virginia and is called **DeIMarVa** by the locals. In keeping with the location and its food production, for your Saturday evening meal you will be treated to BBQ chicken and crab cakes!

So come to Harrington for the ABANA Conference, making connections there and along the way, and we're certain you'll have a **DeIMarVa-Lous** experience!

Keep Forging,  
David Hutchison