



President's Message Spring 2015

Four Requests . . .

In this President's Message to the Anvil's Ring readers, I seek your assistance in helping the ABANA board accomplish three tasks of importance to the blacksmithing community and its next generation of blacksmiths.

The first request relates to service on the ABANA board. Serving on the board is exactly that--serving. With the introduction of the recent members to the board, we went through a process where members, new and old, wrote a brief description of their background and why they agreed to serve on the board. Several themes were very consistent: I have a passion for blacksmithing; I want to help the profession grow and thrive; and I care about the next generation. Being on a board like the ABANA board means you are there to serve the community, and it is my impression that each member takes this role seriously. Furthermore, members give significant amounts of their time and talent to make the board a success. This year, we will have five vacancies. Also, three of our members, including me, cannot seek reelection, as stated in our bylaws. I urge those of you who share similar passions for blacksmithing to become a candidate. It's not always easy or convenient to serve. We are each busy. Though we all have a passion for blacksmithing, there are a number of differing views in our community that we ought to address. We need those views from you to help the artistic blacksmith community thrive and better serve its educational mission. We are a small tight-knit community, with great creativity and a bright future. Help me and the board keep it that way.

The second area, also related to service, is demonstrators. ABANA sponsors a section of our website to list those blacksmiths available to demonstrate. The number who have signed up is dwindling, and we need more. I remember my teachers, and give special thanks that they showed me that right angle bend, that corkscrew twist, or that rose. We need to keep that enthusiasm alive. Blacksmiths who demonstrate do a great service for us all. If you have the skills, please consider passing them on to others.

The third area where I need your help is in seeking a new editor for the Hammer's Blow. I do this at the request and in concert with the ABANA Publications Committee. This issue of the Anvil's Ring has advertised the HB editor job description. It is critical that we name a new editor before the end of the year to continue the excellent magazine that Mark Aspery has edited. I have learned over the years that editing a magazine like this is more than simply another job of assembling words and pictures into a final magazine. It is also not just publishing a series of technical steps to create a project. It is about inspiring readers to say, "Oh, so that's how you do that forging!" Or, "I could learn several new techniques if I make this project." Or, "Look at how a skilled blacksmith can also be a skilled teacher." Said another way, creating this magazine can be a great way to lead and serve our community. Mark often created his own content, but he also able to persuade others to contribute. The committee and I seek your assistance in identifying able and willing individuals, or a team, to fill Mark's shoes, to continue the traditional excellence of the HB. Please think of candidates and persuade them to apply.

Finally, the committee and I request that you remember to consider submitting your work for both magazines. ABANA needs our members to submit material. What our community submits for consideration is certainly one strong indicator of what it is interested in seeing. We urge all of you to take this challenge. I, for one, look forward to seeing your work!

Keep Forging

David Hutchison, President

and The Publication Committee