



President's Message  
Winter 2015

## Looking Forward

ABANA's purpose is educational. I think the 2014 ABANA conference fulfilled that goal to all that attended and to many others as the info trickles out to them.

That is now history so what's next? The 2016 ABANA conference in Salt Lake City is now being planned. So we all have something to look forward to!

In the meantime, what can we do to further the craft? Some ideas that affiliates have done are to have a Learn-To-Smith Day or weekend aimed at beginners. Take on a civic project that would not get done otherwise because of lack of funding, etc. It could be to restore some ironwork or make something new for the community, such as a park bench. Pick something that does not take paying work away from another smith. You know your community, so look around and pick something. By doing this as a group everyone will learn something, have a good time, and have something they can point to and say they helped with. Oh and be sure to get the press to cover the story! Use social media to get the news spread!

I know the affiliates do a great job on a lot of things, but I would like to challenge all of them to do something like this in the next year. If you do other things let us know what they are so maybe we all could try them. Send us some pictures of your successes.

Safe Forging

David Hutchison, President