



ABANA

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Happy New Year!

Being the New Year, and keeping in line with the time-honored tradition of New Year's resolutions, I would like to share with everyone how ABANA is focusing our attention on our affiliates and membership. Below I have listed a few points of interest regarding publicity, participation, and prosperity within our organization.

1. We want to give our affiliates more coverage, both on the internet and in our publications. So, here are two FREE things you can do to spread your affiliate out to the masses:
 - A. ABANA website: There are a couple of things the ABANA website can do for you other than simply having your affiliate information listed. We want to know what you are doing! Send us the dates and general information of your events so we can add them to the Events Calendar.

There is also banner space available at the top of the website. This is for you to advertise your hammer-ins, conferences and bigger events to anyone and everyone who visits the website. All you need to do is create a banner to meet these requirements to put yours into rotation with the others –390 x 57 pixels as either a jpg or gif file – and we will get it going. Try not to put too much in the ad – just enough to get the attention of the visitor to click on the ad! Please make sure you also send along a link to attach to the banner so people can be directed to your website for more information!
 - B. I want to ask each of you to write an article about YOUR organization. It can be on anything your affiliate would like to share with us. Here are some example topics:
 1. History of the guild
 2. Veteran member recognition/special award presentation
 3. Meeting place (some of you meet at historical villages, etc.)
 4. Meeting or Special event
 5. Community service projects
 6. How-To (anything on planning an event to projects, tips, etc.)
 7. Group projects
 8. Anything else you can think of!!

I am also on the Publications and Internet Committees, so contact me with your events to be posted, banners to be added, and articles to be published!!!
2. The time is NOW to start planning for the 2010 ABANA Conference in Memphis. There are a few things that are being done specifically for the affiliates:
 - A. There will actually be three ring projects! These rings can be submitted by individuals or groups. This is a great opportunity to get together and make something great. (...and possibly even write an article on it too!) Please see the attached pages for more ring instructions and info. Something new for this year is that the proceeds will be split 50/50 with participating affiliates. This means that this great tradition is now a fundraiser for everyone involved!

- B.** There will be a designated area in the gallery for YOU to display your banners and forged banner stands. If you do not have one yet, then get busy planning a group project to make one.
 - C.** There will also be free vendor space for the affiliates. You may use this area to set up an informational table so that others may learn more about your organization. The space is free, but you will have to pay for electrical plug-ins and table/chair rental if you do not bring your own. Selling of merchandise is prohibited unless you file for a vendor license. This is indoor space, so there is no worry of weather getting in the way of your display! The vendor area is also open to the public, so you will be able to get some exposure to the general public as well as fellow blacksmiths.
 - D.** It is also not too late to sponsor an area, demonstrator, etc. at the conference. There are still a number of things that need sponsorship. So far the following affiliates have stepped up: Louisiana Metalsmiths Association, The Blacksmith Guild of Virginia, Balcones Forge, Mid-Atlantic Smiths Association, California Blacksmith Association, Saltfork Craftsmen, Guild of Metalsmiths, Central Virginia Blacksmith Guild and Dakota Artist Blacksmith Association. How about you? There are sponsorship opportunities still for demonstrators, support crews, gallery, and more ranging from \$500.00 up to \$1,500.00. Those who are sponsoring parts of the conference will have signs posted for all to know who is helping make it a great conference!
 - E.** The daily Iron in the Hat drawings are going to be for donated tools and items. This is also a GREAT place for the affiliates to get involved!
- 3.** There is a need to revitalize the ABANA Affiliate Liaison program to become something that can serve everyone involved. To date, the Liaison program has been a more or less one way street that allows ABANA an avenue to disseminate information. I think it is time to allow ideas and discussion flow not only back to ABANA, but directly with other affiliates as well. What I want to do is create a blog for the liaisons to “meet” and discuss any ideas and/or issues, ask questions, give advice, or communicate anything else that may be helpful to others. For ABANA to become a better organization, we need a direct link to our members and affiliates. Choosing the liaison is completely up to the individual affiliate. It can be the President, Editor, or any member you feel can best represent your organization. This is not something that is mandatory, but the more involved we all are, the better we can all become. Please send me the person’s name and contact information when your liaison is chosen.

I am so excited about this upcoming conference year for us all. This is just the beginning of highlighting our great affiliates and what it is you all do! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas you may have!

Forge On!
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Ring Project Info:

THE THREE THEMES ARE:

National Ornamental Metal Museum

The rings and framework of this piece will acknowledge the important presence of the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis, Tennessee and classical ornamental metal work in general. Ring submissions might draw their inspiration from American or European mastersmiths.

Mississippi River

These rings will acknowledge the importance of the Mississippi River from the headwaters of Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota to the Mississippi River delta in New Orleans. Rings might include flora, fauna, fish, birds, boats, river towns, and history associated with the river.

Memphis Music

These rings will acknowledge the Memphis music scene. Rings might reference musicians (Elvis Presley), music (Beale Street blues), instruments (Gibson guitars), etc.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this undertaking is to promote friendly competition for blacksmiths and metalsmiths, to raise revenue for ABANA, and for fun and camaraderie.

CALL FOR RINGS

Anyone interested in submitting a ring (or rings) is encouraged to make and send his or her best work for possible inclusion into one of the frameworks.

Commitments are requested by November 30, 2009; however all rings are welcome at the ABANA conference. Rings must be handed in by noon June 3, 2010. To commit, contact project coordinator Rome Hutchings, The Prairie Forge, 13633 Ferman Avenue NW, Clearwater, MN 55320, 763-878-1694. E-mail: forge@theprairieismyarden.com.

Rings received before the conference may be used for photo opportunities advertising the conference, a great incentive to contact the project coordinator and get those rings in early!

SPECIFICATIONS FOR MAKING THE RINGS

- Ring size is 10" O.D. (outside diameter, and must be accurate) made from 1/4" x 1" steel flat stock bent the hard way.
- Each ring needs space left at the 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock, and 9 o'clock positions with a minimum of 5 minutes (using the clock analogy) on either side of these positions for mounting. Refer to the sketch below.
- Materials inside the ring can be ferrous or nonferrous metals.
- All rings are offset from the framework 1/2" (ring construction cannot protrude greater than 1/2" towards the back side).

Selection will be based on: interpretation of theme, quality of execution using traditional forging techniques (chiseling, forge welds, rivet joinery etc.), and meeting specifications.

Twelve rings will be selected, four for each theme, from all the rings submitted.

The funds raised from the ABANA 2010 Ring Project will help offset conference costs and support the educational mission of ABANA, grants, scholarships to individuals, and special projects of an educational nature. Those ring makers whose rings are selected for one of the three frameworks will receive 50% of the net auction proceeds. All other rings not selected for the project will be auctioned individually and the maker will receive 50% of the proceeds.

To view past ring projects hosted by ABANA, visit:

<http://www.photoworks.com> and click on "my photoworks." Login as blacksmithblacksmith@hotmail.com and enter password: anvil. After you login, click on "My albums" or the "Choose album" box. Photos are in folders titled: Ring Project "Ring of Fire" and BAM Conference Ring Project.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the ring framework design and construction team: Bill Krawczeski, Charlie Bateman, Myron Hanson, Marty Hicks, Nick Hinen, Tom Latane, Rob Murray, Chris Rand, Ann Schroeder, Bob Walsh, Anna Yust, and John Yust.

Ring Areas That Need to Remain Clear for Mounting

