



Affiliate Letter July 2008

7/31/2008

To ABANA Affiliates and Affiliate Members,

This time the big news is the new ABANA Central Office. Many have already heard of this change but it is important enough to bear repeating. In addition a reminder of the upcoming election is in order.

#### Introduction to our new Central Office Administrator

Diane Walden, WH&L Associates, LLC, and her team have contracted with ABANA to provide services as the new ABANA Central Office. Walden brings to her clients more than 24 years of experience in the for-profit and non-profit arenas. Walden and her team, Teresa Hannon, technical services, Victoria Lonergan, membership, and Denise Propps, finance, are looking forward to working with the ABANA organization to help guide and grow the membership.

“We look forward to serving the needs of the ABANA organization to promote membership, to increase member retention efforts, and to assist the organization to create, develop and recommend strategies to move the organization forward. We realize the importance of preserving the integrity of blacksmithing and promoting the ‘love of the craft.’ Special thanks to ABANA for honoring us with the mission to serve your membership,” says Diane.

Diane Walden is founder of WH&L Associates, LLC, a consulting and service company, located in Dumfries, VA. WH&L Associates specializes in assisting association and corporate leaders with leadership initiatives, marketing, public relations, and administrative support.

ABANA Central Office  
15754 Widewater Drive  
Dumfries, VA 22025-1212

Phone: 703-680-1632  
Fax: 703-680-6222  
e-mail: [abana@abana.org](mailto:abana@abana.org)

The ABANA Board would also like to thank Heather Hutton for the dedicated service she provided during her time as the Central Office Administrator. Heather decided to pursue an opportunity to be a blacksmith. Now who do you suppose would give the poor girl that idea?

#### ABANA Election coming up

The next Anvil’s Ring features the work of Dan Nauman and the BAM Conference Ring project. It also is the annual election issue. Exercise your right to influence the future of ABANA by voting for the candidates who will do the best job for the organization.

The revised bylaws will be up for a vote at the same time. The Bylaws committee respectfully requests that you reward their efforts with your attention and vote when the Summer Anvil’s Ring appears in your mailbox. (See the draft bylaws ([www.abana.org/business/Proposed\\_bylaws.shtml](http://www.abana.org/business/Proposed_bylaws.shtml))).

#### ABANA Appreciation Day – Blacksmith Guild of Virginia

Thanks to the BG of VA for donating the proceeds of their Iron-in-the-Hat at this event towards seed money for the ABANA 2010 Conference. Over \$1000 was raised.

#### Progress on the ABANA 2010 Conference:

The ABANA Board has approved Memphis, TN as the site and the first week in June as the date of the 2010 Conference. Final details will be forthcoming when a contract with the site has been obtained.

Best Regards and please be in touch ([pboulay@abana.org](mailto:pboulay@abana.org)).

Paul Boulay

ABANA Affiliate Relations Board Member