



Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
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2006 ABANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Seattle, Washington

July 6, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 9:28 p.m. by President Don Kemper and the roll was taken.

Those in attendance were:

Elizabeth Brim

Jerry Kagele

Scott Lankton

Murray Lowe

Dorothy Stiegler

Chris Winterstein

Clare Yellin

Don Kemper

Bob Jacoby

Erik Ryser

James Viste

Erik Lander

Other persons in attendance were Rob Edwards, Editor of *The Anvil's Ring*, Brian Gilbert, Editor of *Hammer's Blow*, LeeAnn Mitchell, ABANA Central Office Executive Director. Also present were Jonathan Nedbor, Ryan Blessey, Ian Rose and Jim Ryan from the 2008 ABANA Conference organizing committee.

Proof of notice of the meeting was given.

MOTION # 1

James Viste made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Dorothy Stiegler.
PASSED.

President's Report:

Presented by Don Kemper

Don mentioned that the ABANA Relief Fund has been one of the most satisfying events of the year and as of June 1, 2006 the membership had raised \$37,919.00. Of that amount \$28,000 had been distributed and the remaining amount of \$ 9,919.00 would be distributed immediately after the conference. Don also wished to thank the anonymous donor who made the entire project possible. He also wished to thank committee members John Steel, Chirs Holt, Cinde Wagner, LeeAnn Mitchell, Dave Koenig, Paul Moffett and Toby Hickman for their efforts.

Don discussed the finalization of the ABANA Educational Endowment Trust which currently had \$148,509.28 committed in trust with \$10,866.20 committed for scholarships. He also wished to thank Dorothy Stiegler, Cinde Wagner and the ABANA Educational Endowment Trust Committee for bringing this project to fruition.

Don also reported that the ABANA Budget was on target as the April 2006 financial report reflected \$329,105.91 versus the 2006 projected budget of \$341,734.00. As an act of faith one third of the fluid assets of ABANA have been committed to the ABANA Educational Endowment Trust which will promote grants and scholarships for the future. Don discussed that we needed

to be very careful in the fiscal management of the organization, but felt like the move was a good one. Don also discussed the sales of the magazines at a reduced rate to decrease inventory and to get the resource rich back issues into the hands of the membership.

Don spoke briefly about the awarding of a Lifetime Membership to Brent Kington at the meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. He wished to thank Brent for his lifetime commitment to the art and craft of blacksmithing and was sorry that Brent was unable to attend the conference as one of the keynote speakers but that it was certainly understandable due to Brent's recent health problem.

Don concluded his report by mentioning that the deadline to run for the ABANA Board of Directors had been extended from June 15, 2006 to July 15, 2006 in order to recruit members at the conference. *The Anvil's Ring* would still be published on time. He also hoped that everyone would be able to join him at the 2008 ABANA Conference in New Paltz, New York in June of 2008.

Treasurer's Report

Dorothy Stiegler indicated that the financials for ABANA were doing fine and that after the conference she will be sending an updated version soon via email and they will also be available on the ABANA website.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee

Presented by James Viste

James reported that the Individual Scholarship Form had been revised in December of 2005 and posted on the ABANA website in January of 2006. He reported that as of June 29, 2006 there had been no new applications received. He suggested a push for applications and possibly more diversified incentives for applicants.

Teaching Programs: Program B - "Articles, Tips & Teaching Opportunities"

Presented by James Viste

James mentioned that a Foundry Teaching / Technician job was to be posted soon. Maegan Crowley and James Viste both propose assessment of this committee's necessity. James felt this committee shows potential in the long run, but has produced few results since its inception. He urged the board's consideration and advisement.

Exhibition Committee

Presented by James Viste

A very recent proposal from the Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston was recently fielded by James for a possible exhibition opportunity featuring the artwork of the ABANA Board of Directors. He passed on the contact information to Elizabeth Brim for consideration.

Contact Information:

Fabio Fernandez, Exhibition Manager
The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 266-1810 x13
exhibitiongallery@societyofcrafts.org
www.societyofcrafts.org

Division Reports:

Conference Division

Murray Lowe reported that the next conference is scheduled to take place in New Paltz, New York in late June of 2008. He has been in contact with the Jennifer Piren, the contact at SUNY New Paltz, and she indicated she would not be ready to work on a contract until September of 2006. Murray hopes to have most of this in place in time for the fall board meeting so that we can formalize a date. On the whole Murray felt things were progressing nicely and that the 2008 ABANA Conference planning committee was on schedule and doing a great job.

Jonathan Nedbor mentioned that his crew was here 'spying'. He indicated that he, Ryan Blessey, Ian Rose and Tom Ryan were learning a great deal about the entire conference procedure. Jonathan also mentioned that Jerry Kagele had set a high standard for the opening ceremonies! The proposed dates for the 2008 ABANA Conference in New Paltz are June 24-29, 2008, but that this would not be absolute until ABANA had signed a contract with the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Jonathan also mentioned that they have a location for the ABANA containers and asked the board if it was okay to proceed. He also mentioned that the Samuel Dorsky Museum was still up in the air about a commitment for an exhibition.

Tom Ryan mentioned that their connections and contacts were good in the area in terms of equipment. He also mentioned that the ABANA Affiliate connections were strong and that several different affiliates had already indicated a willingness to participate.

With permission from the board to relocate the containers to the New Paltz area, Jonathan discussed several ideas on how we could keep the containers a bit dryer to

reduce rust and mold. The idea of replacing the containers after the New York conference was also discussed.

Ryan Blessey addressed the idea that we need to make it clear how we should all communicate with all parties involved for the production of the 2008 ABANA Conference. This includes ABANA, Northeast Blacksmith Association and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Motion #2:

Dorothy Stiegler made a motion to hold the 2006 ABANA Board of Directors meeting November 9-11, 2006 in New Paltz, New York. Eric Ryser seconded the motion. PASSED.

New Business:

Don Kemper mentioned that he had received an email from Johan Lantinga on behalf of the Dutch Guild of Artist Blacksmiths (NGK). The group is proposing to organize a specific European demonstrators pavilion at the 2008 ABANA Conference. Members of the NGK were in attendance in Seattle and were checking out the structure of the conference.

LeeAnn Mitchell mentioned that several cities including Knoxville, Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Columbus, Georgia and several locations in Illinois had approached her about having the 2010 ABANA conference in their cities.

Motion #3:

Murray Lowe made a motion to adjourn the ABANA Board meeting. Chris Winterstein seconded the motion. PASSED

The meeting was adjourned 9:56 p.m.