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ABANA Membership Meeting
Richmond, Kentucky
July 8, 2004

President Don Kemper called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Board members present:

Maegan Crowley
Will Hightower
Bob Jacoby
Jerry Kagele
Dave Koenig

Scott Lankton
Murray Lowe
Dave Mudge
Dan Nauman
Dorothy Stiegler
Chris Winterstein

Clare Yellin
Elizabeth Brim
Don Kemper
Tim Ryan

The general membership in attendance numbered approximately 95 members

Motion #1:

Clare Yellin made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2002 Members Meeting held in La Crosse, Wisconsin as written, and that they not be read in their entirety. Seconded by Brian Gilbert. **PASSED.**

President's Report:

Presented by Don Kemper

Don reported that the state of ABANA was good and that the Board was productive. He encouraged the membership to step forward with new ideas and to make them happen.

Don also mentioned that the 2006 ABANA Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington and that plans were well underway to host the event.

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Dorothy Stiegler

Dorothy reported that the monthly audited financial statements can always be found on the ABANA website. She presented the most current figures available to the membership and discussed the 2004 Conference to date.

Secretaries Report

Presented by Jerry Kagele

Jerry summarized the role of the secretary and the supervision of the Central Office. He mentioned that the Central Office has spent a great deal of time with 2004 Conference business. He encouraged the membership to communicate with the Board and that all contact information for both himself and the ABANA Board can be found on the website. Jerry also discussed the diversity of the board and encouraged the membership run for office.

Committee Reports: Report by Division Chairs

Education Division:

Presented by Elizabeth Brim

Elizabeth mentioned that Dan Nauman and his committee have been very productive with the *Controlled Hand Forging* program with their efforts appearing in the Hammer's Blow. The articles have received excellence response.

Business Division:

Presented Jerry Kagele

See above, no additional comments were added.

Membership Division:

Dave Mudge

Dave discussed his efforts as Affiliate Liaison, Membership Services Chair and Internet Committee Chair. He discussed the need for Affiliate Liaison representatives to join the online group and to solicit feedback from their affiliate members so that they could relay these to the board and increase the communication level of the organization.

Dave also talked about the success of the poster contest that was held in conjunction with the current conference and hopes to have a similar contest for the 2006 ABANA Conference to be held in Seattle.

Communications Division:

Maegan Crowley

She mentioned Dave Mudge's efforts in the area of the ABANA website. She encouraged the membership to use the website to locate important and timely information.

Maegan mentioned that she was new to the Communications Division and has greatly enjoyed working with both Rob Edwards and Brian Gilbert, ABANA's editors. She encouraged the membership to submit work and articles to the magazines so their input could be shared with the organization.

Conference Division:

Dave Koenig

Dave discussed conference attendance figures to date. He thanked the University of Eastern Kentucky for hosting the event and thanked all the members present for attending.

He discussed the fact that the 2006 ABANA Conference will be in Seattle, Washington and that Jerry Kagele would be the 2006 Conference Chairman. He mentioned that there were pending proposals from two groups on the east coast for the 2008 event and interest from a group in Illinois for the conference in 2010.

President Don Kemper announced to the membership that there were not enough members in attendance to conduct business. Don then welcomed comments from the membership and instructed members interested in addressing the meeting to step up to the microphone.

COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Ed Thomas of Bergton, Virginia

Ed wanted to know about keeping some sort of permanent archival record of *The Anvil's Ring*, since the issues were in the process of being sold out of inventory.

Larry Stevens of Marble Falls, Texas

Larry wanted to thank the ABANA Board for their efforts. He mentioned that he had attended the Fall 2003 Board meeting in Memphis, Tennessee and was extremely pleased with the hard work and dedication of the board. He presented Don Kemper with an oak hammer and gavel for future meetings.

Mindy Gardner of Farmer City, Illinois

Mindy stated that she had received over twenty-one pounds of email from a former ABANA Board president. She asked the board for an explanation of the matters contained within said emails. She also mentioned that she had in her hand the accounting from the 1998 ABANA Conference should anyone wish to review the document. She wanted to know why ABANA was not doing more to market and promote members' work. She also suggested that ABANA should adopt a policy of term limits for board members and abolish the Executive Committee. She also recommended that ABANA hire a manager for the Central Office.

Mindy also asked for an explanation of what had transpired with the John Deere Foundation. She mentioned that the IVBA would be participating in an event to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of John Deere's birth.

Clifton Ralph of Gary, Indiana

Clifton thanked the Board for their hard work but also questioned the personal agenda of some board members. He thanked Dave Koenig and Paul Moffitt for their hard work on the conference. He also stated that it would be a shame if ABANA kicked Koenig out of ABANA in five years.

Motion #2:

Jack Giesler made a motion to close the Membership meeting. Seconded by Mary Fredell.
PASSED.

The Membership Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.