ABANA Board Meeting
Conference Room
Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Johnstown, PA
Minutes November 1st and 2nd 2019

Meeting called to order at 8:45 am EST

Members Present: Leigh Morrell, Tom Owens, Scott Kretschmer, Jim Archambault, Linda Tanner, Victor Plitt, Eddie Rainey, Bruce Jarrell, Bob Valentine, Mark Kochan, Ray Grosshans, Laura Armstrong, John Williams, Doug Eichert

Absent: Carson Sams,

Guests: Patrick Quinn and Dan Neville

October 2nd meeting minutes:
Motion made by Bob Valentine, Seconded by Jim Archambault to approve.


Abstentions: Tom Owens, Ray Grosshans, Laura Armstrong, John Williams, Doug Eichert.


9:20 Johnstown Introduction Video by Patrick Quinn.

Vote on Officers for ensuing year:

#29 Motion made by Bob Valentine to re-elect Leigh Morrell as President, Seconded by: Scott Kretschmer. There were no other nominations.
Vote: Approved, Unanimous

#30 Motion made by John Williams, seconded by Jim Archambault to re-elect the current slate of officers with the exception of the Secretary.
Vote: Approved, Unanimous

Nominations for Secretary: Leigh Morrell made a motion to elect Mark Kochan Secretary, seconded by Tom Owens. Motion made by Eddie Rainey to elect Bob Valentine Secretary, seconded by Jim A.

Vote: 7 to 4 Paper secret ballot. Mark Kochan elected Secretary, Bob Valentine Proposed as Second, Accepted.

Committee Chair Reports:

Awards: Scott Kretschmer requests an increase in the Awards budget from the existing $250.00 each for the, Bealer, Heritage and Humble Awards
Finance Report: Chair, Mark Kochan reports that Central Office contracts are currently being reviewed by Committee and rewritten to conform to updated job descriptions. Tom Owens and Bob Valentine to elaborate.

Affiliates: Chair, Mark Kochan reports that requests made to Affiliates to provide updated contact information are currently being collecting and updated by Central Office.

Publications Committee:
Chair, Bruce Jarrell updated the board on the committees work and recommendation. #31 Motion made by Bruce Jarrell to offer the Hammers Blow Editor position to Nathan Griffith. Seconded by: Victor Plitt. Discussion. Vote: Approved, Unanimous. Amount of offer, $3750.00 per issue.

Bruce Jarrell also reported on Editor selection process for the Anvils Ring.

Because Mark Kochan is one of the candidates he was asked to step out of the room before discussion. (Meeting notes taken by 2nd Bob Valentine)

Final selection narrowed to field of three. Mark Kochan, Tom Boucher and Valerie Osternak.

Committee will continue working to identify a candidate to recommend. *Note: Committee will convey the contractual requirements of the Anvils Ring to all. Bruce will report back at a later date. (Secretary Kochan returned to meeting).

LUNCH BREAK: Recessed at 12:15 Reconvene 1:42 pm

New Business:
Eddie Rainey reported on “T”shirt orders by Central Office. Victor Plitt requested $600.00 for Winter style shirts. Victor to follow up and report back on request.

Bob Valentine requested insurance information on 2020 Conference. Bob to follow up with Central Office.

John Williams requests information on tool and equipment inventory taken at in 2018 by Linda Tanner. Inventory will be located and made available.

Linda Tanner: Reports on The Lawson House. It is a building where ABANA could display its history. It is planned to be moved to its new home at historic Westville, Columbus, Georgia. Questions raised: Can this be a site for ABANA’s Hall of Fame or a location to display plaques and awards? (Contact: Terra Martinez) Linda proposes a fund raiser to help with the move. No action, Linda will get more information and bring it to the next meeting.

David Kahn is stepping down as legal counsel to ABANA. David has been generous with his time taking on issues pro-bono.
Eddie Rainey motioned to gift a “Whitaker Coin” to Ex-Pro Bono lawyer David as a Thank You for his years of service to ABANA, seconded by Victor Plitt **Vote:** Approved unanimously

Bob Valentine motioned to affirm all existing off-Board Conference Committee Members, seconded by Jim Archambault. **Vote:** Approved, Unanimous.

All other committees will review their off board members to see if they are willing to continue to serve as appropriate.

Jim Archambault motioned to create a new Exhibition Committee, seconded by Scott Kretschmer. **Discussion:** Planning, execution of travel and locations dates are to be researched for the 150 mm Challenge and the 366 Hook Display. Two year time frame. **Vote:** Approve, Unanimous.

**Meeting Recessed 5pm**

**Saturday November 2nd.**

Board tours Johnstown. **Meeting reconvened.**

**Discussion concerning the possibility of having an International forging competition:**

Tom Owens motioned that an International Competition be created on alternating years to the ABANA Conference. Seconded by Jim Archambault. Discussion. Members felt it would be advantages to have an International forging contest in the odd years, given that a conference is held every even year. It is hoped that there will be an agreement to have a home base in Johnstown where the competition can be held. **Vote:** Approved, Unanimous.

Ray Grosshans motioned, as the Strategic Planning Committee has established the desirability and feasibility of creating a permanent ABANA home base in Johnstown, PA. Board establishes and empowers an Implementation Committee to proceed with search for location. Tom Owens, Seconded. Discussion: Linda Tanner proposed asking Patrick Quinn to speak to the Board of CMA about subletting the first floor of one of their buildings as home base for ABANA. **Vote:** Approved, Unanimous.

**Conference Committee:** Bob Valentine inquired on the possibility of ABANA purchasing forges from NEB for the conference, replacing the large forges in the conference trailer. After discussion it was decided to take up the issue at a later meeting.

**Implementation Committee:**
Leigh Morrell asked for members to join the newly formed Implementation Committee. Ray Grosshans, Tom Owens, Linda Tanner, Victor Plitt, John Williams and Scott Kretschner.

**Budgets:** New Budget approval and Budgets for Committees have been postponed until next Board meeting. Updates and requests to be given to Finance Committee in the next two weeks. The budget will be sent out with the agenda for the next meeting, Wednesday December 4th, 8 pm EST.

**Meeting Adjourned. Saturday November 2nd. 7.01pm**
Committees:

Awards: Chair, Scott Kretschmer – Doug Eichert  
Off Board: Clay Spencer, Gerald Franklin, Mark Aspery

Affiliates: Chair, Mark Kochan – Scott Kretschmer, Laura Armstrong, Ray Grosshans, John Williams

By Laws & PPM: Chair, Bob Valentine – Ray Grosshans

Communications: Chair, Tom Owens - Victor Plitt, Carson Sams, Laura Armstrong, Doug Eichert, John Williams

Education & Proff: Co-chair, Jim Archambault – Co-Chair, Doug Eichert – Ray Grosshans, Victor Plitt, John Williams
Off Board: David Osmundsen, John Mclellan, Mark Aspery

Elections: Co-Chair, Doug Eichert – Co-Chair, John Williams

Finance: Chair, Bob Valentine – Mark Kochan, Tom Owens

Grants: Chair, Scott Kretschmer – Jim Archambault, Doug Eichert

History & Archives: Chair Bruce Jarrell – Linda Tanner
Off Board: John Dittmeier, Peter Renzetti

Membership Services: Chair, Linda Tanner – Jim Archambault

Publication: Chair, Bruce Jarrell – Mark Kochan, Victor Plitt, Eddie Rainey, Victor Plitt

Sales: Chair, Victor Plitt - Linda Tanner Eddie Rainey

Strategic Planning: Co-Chair, Linda Tanner – Co-Chair, Tom Owens – Scott Kretschmer, Ray Grosshans, 
Off Board: Gerald Franklin

Technology: Chair, John Williams – Carson Sams, Tom Owens, Mark Kochan

Conference: Chair, Bob Valentine – Tom Owens, Mark Kochan, Linda Tanner, Victor Plitt
Off Board: Bob Menard, Rand Condell, Mark Aspery, Dick Sargent, Karen Sims, Dale Martin, Dan Flanders, Josh Reynolds

Exhibition: Chair, Laura Armstrong – Jim Archambault

Johnstown Implementation: Chair, Ray Grosshans – Tom Owens, Linda Tanner, John Williams, Victor Plitt, Scott Kretschmer.