ABANA

Board of Directors Meeting

February 5, 2020

1. Call to order: President Leigh Morrell called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm EST

   PRESENT: Laura Armstrong, Jim Archambault, Doug Eichert, Ray Grosshans, Scott Kretschmer, Leigh Morrell, Victor Plitt, Linda Tanner, Bob Valentine, John Williams, Tom Owens, Eddie Rainey

   Others in attendance: Jerry Boyd, John Dittmyer, Anne Autorne, Angelo Brusatory, James Garvey

2. Secretary’s report:

   The minutes were sent previously for Board review.

3. Approval of the minutes of January 8, 2020:

   In a motion by Jim Archambault, seconded by Eddie Rainey it was voted to approve the meeting minutes of January 8, 2020 as amended. (minor spelling errors) Vote unanimous

4. Matters arising out of the minutes:

   Hoof Care Summit

   Eddie reported that he had meet with a lot of people. Several signed up as members and many were interested in the upcoming conference. Doug also attended at the request of President Morrell. Doug commented on how well the trade show was run.

   Winterfest,

   Laura reported that she was well received by the 70 folks who attended. And that the Arizona Artist Blacksmiths Association (AABA) welcomes a continuing presence of ABANA in the future. She made herself available to help with the event and answer question concerning ABANA and the ABANA Board. During the event she signed up or renewed six members.

   Laura suggested that, for ABANA to be relevant in the future we need to be present at events like this to foster a positive relationship with affiliates.

5. Treasurer’s report:

   Treasure’s report was sent prior to the meeting.

   Tom briefly reviewed, Balance sheet 1-31-2020, P&L for 1-31-2020 and the 2020 Conference Budget vs Actual. On the Conference budget Tom commented that he was concerned that the budgeted attendees might be higher than the number actually attending. Bob suggested that the number could be adjusted but at this point we should wait to see how attendance numbers look in the future and that he was comfortable with the numbers at this time.

   In a motion by Jim Archambault, seconded by Victor Plitt it was voted to receive the treasure’s report. Vote unanimous
At this point Leigh, at request of Ray, moved to the report from the Johnstown Implementation Committee.

Johnstown Implementation: Ray Grosshans

Ray reported that he had sent out previously, for board comment, a draft Executive Director (ED) job description, draft two-year budget and target rental expense for Johnstown.

As part of Ray’s work gathering information for a potential ABANA presence in Johnstown he has scheduled several meetings with important individuals for his visit the week of the 10th of February. He reported that everyone he has contacted so far were very interested in having ABANA be part of their community. Those meetings will include; meetings with the Center For Metal Arts (CMA) and Patrick Quinn, in order to further discuss on the possibility of renting space from CMA for an ABANA office as well as terms of a lease, a meeting with a local real estate agent to see what other options may be available in the area and current pricing for rental space, meetings with City Economic Development officials and an individual from one of the Community Colleges to discuss potential grants ABANA may be eligible for. These grants would defray the cost of hiring an ED and renting space in Johnstown. Victor offered to assist Ray in his visit by attending the meetings.

Several board members expressed their thoughts on the prospect of having a presence in Johnstown as well as the hiring of an ABANA ED.

Bob was concerned that there are currently no dollars available for either renting space or hiring an ED and that before the board consider either, funds should be identified.

Scott was also concerned with the cost for both hiring an ED and renting space without some certainty of available funds.

Tom felt that because this process would take time, having office space available and hiring an ED, we should start the search process for a ED now. Tom also felt the funds would become available.

Laura suggested that a transition person be hired to network with local officials to speed along the potential for grants. That person would not need an office space for their work and could be a local person with contacts in the community.

After much further discussion Leigh suggested that a special meeting of the board be held on February 19, 2020 for further discussion on the subject, before any action is taken on hiring a ED. This would allow Ray the opportunity to have the meetings and report back. All agreed to meet again on the 19th.

6. President’s report:

Leigh decided to forgo his report due to the amount of time taken on discussion concerning the Johnstown committee and the balance of business that needs to be conducted during the meeting.

7. Committee reports:

Awards: Scott Kretschmer

Humble Award:

Scott mentioned he now has four nominations and is waiting on response from committee members.

Doug suggest that the board consider honoring Bruce Jarrell for his dedication and hard work with a Whitaker Coin.
In a motion made by Scott Kretschmer, seconded by Victor Plitt it was voted to award Bruce Jarrell a Whitaker coin for his dedication and service to ABANA. Vote unanimous

(Note: Bruce recently step down as a board member because of his appointment as Interim President of the University of Maryland Baltimore, which precludes him from continuing to serve as a board member.)

Affiliates: Need new chair

Nothing to report at this time.

By-Laws & PPM: Bob Valentine

Nothing to report at this time.

Competition: John Williams

John has spoken to individuals at Austin Metals Authority, Mobile Loaves & Fishes and Austin Community College concerning the annual Austin Forging Competition to understand how their forging completion is run. He has also reached out Darrel Nelson, Blacksmithing Wars, to get his thoughts.

John will be attending the upcoming Austin Forging Competition March 7, 2020 to better understand how that competition is run and what tools we may need to run our own. After which, he will be getting committee members together for further discussion.

Leigh suggested that John’s expense for attending be paid for by the Strategic Planning budget, given the fact that Competition Committee currently has no budget. John will speak to the Strategic Planning Committee when he has information concerning the cost of attending. The committee believes it does have the funds to help out.

Leigh also suggest ABANA give a $500.00 grant to the Austin Forging Competition, which is organized by Austin Metals Authority, for the benefit of Mobile Loaves & Fishes, to help with the forging contest. He also would like to have Laura attend and represent ABANA with a booth.

In a motion made by Doug Eichert, seconded by Tom Owens it was voted to give a $500.00 grant to the Austin Forging Competition. Vote unanimous

Communications: Tom Owens

Tom is stepping down as chair due to other commitments.

Nothing to report at this time.

Education Outreach & Professional Development: Co-Chairs Jim Archambault, Doug Eichert

Jim has had contact with the Northern Rocky Mountain Blacksmiths Association concerning the use of their safety program with other affiliates and they have agreed. They are currently updating their program given recent safety changes in welding.

Elections: Co-Chairs Doug Eichert, John Williams

Ballots are now available to fill the current vacancies on the ABANA board. Web site and paper copies are being made available to those who need them. Voting closes on February 29th.
The committee now has several individuals who are interested in running for the board at the next regular election, June 2020.

Finance: Bob Valentine

The committee discussed having New England Blacksmiths (NEB) make ten stackable forges for the conference at a cost of $1,000.00 each. The forges would include hoods, cast iron fire pots and electric blowers and would be built at a workshop in March. It was agreed to bring the expenditure to the board for their consideration. Tom suggested that funds are available for the purchase through the Wells Fargo bank account dedicated to conference equipment and Iron In the Hat.

In a motion made John Williams, seconded by Jim Archambault it was voted to appropriate $10,000.00 form the Wells Fargo account to purchase 10 portable forges from NEB. Vote unanimous

The Finance Committee would like to have the QuickBooks files on line through QuickBooks Cloud. Tom explained the process for both the Treasurer and Finance Committee to review the files and how the process is cumbersome and not frequent enough.

In a motion made by Tom Owens, seconded by Laura Armstrong it was voted to transition to QuickBooks on line for a cost not to exceed $80.00 per month. Vote unanimous

Grants: Scott Kretschmer

Grants has an application for attendee to EMMA International Collaboration in Saskatchewan Canada. EMMA International Collaboration is a gathering of artist from around the globe to “share in an experience of raw creation and open possibilities” in blacksmithing, small metals, raising, drawing & painting, furniture, woodworking, turning, stone carving, weaving, sculpture, glass, ceramics, printmaking, leatherworking, clothing & fibers. The gathering takes place over seven days and the cost is $1,500.00. Because of a requirement for three-week class in order to get a $1,500.00 grant the committee will only grant $500.00. The grant recipient will write an article for the Anvils Ring.

History and Archives: Need new Chair

Leigh suggested Clair Guy as an off-board member to the committee, there were no objections.

Membership services: Linda Tanner

Linda had distributed previously, via email, a report from the committee concerning membership dues changes. Linda suggested that any changes wait until after the upcoming conference. She would also like to send a Constant Contacts message to expired members to try and get them to re-new their memberships.

Laura suggested we make clear the benefits of being an ABANA member.

Doug pointed out the importance of the Central Office having value statement(s) for prospective and current members.

Bob had some suggestions in the fee structure that he will send to Linda and board members for consideration.

Leigh noted the last change in dues was 16 years ago. Any board member that has suggestion should sent those suggestions to Linda for the committee’s consideration.

The proposed changes will be taken up the next meeting.
Publications: Need new chair

Victor agreed to be chair. Committee members Victor, Eddie and Bruce Jarrell, off board member

Sales: Victor Plitt

Victor explained the online Shopify.com purchase of merchandise is done and his testing of the process as well as the quality of the products. He proposed for the time being Shopify be used for additional options when purchasing ABANA merchandise. Later it may replace the need for having inventory at the Central Office but that inventory and sales will continue for the time being. The cost would be $600.00 to set up and maintain the Shopify account.

In a motion made by Victor Plitt, seconded by Tom Owens, it was voted to proceed with creating a Shopify account with a budget of $600.00. Vote unanimous

Strategic planning: Co-Chairs Linda Tanner, Tom Owens

The committee continues its work, looking into having the 2022 Conference in Dallas TX. Tom has had additional conversation with Dan Richman, North Texas Blacksmiths Association about a site for the conference. More information will be available for the next board meeting.

Technology: John Williams

Nothing to report at this time.

2020 Conference: Bob Valentine

Conference planning continues, working committee now meeting every two weeks until the conference.

As of the evening of 2-2-2020 (total primary registrations 200) (total spouse/children 101) Total sales including advertising $83,288

Board member who have volunteered to help;

Scott, sound systems Laura, Tailgating Leigh, vendors

Still need help with crafts and main gate.

Vendor registration is now live on the 2020 website. Vendors can choose their booths online as well as many other advertising options.

Currently working to make sure we have appropriate insurance for the conference and for demonstrators.

Exhibition: Laura Armstrong

Queries to venues continue for placement of the Measured Making - 150mm Challenge. There are two (2) firm commitments to date: Appalachian Center for Craft (Jun 16 - Aug 10, 2020), and The Metal Museum (Mar 28 - July 4, 2021). Contracts from the U.K. organizer and exhibition venues are being reviewed by legal before signature by ABANA.

A letter of commitment between ABANA and Joshua Kavett of the Fisher & Norris Factory Museum was drawn up and signed on 01-10-20.

Old business:
None

New business:

Leigh reminded board members that meals are not reimbursable when board members attend event promoting ABANA.

Bob mentioned that he attended a 18th Century Artisans Show in Lewisburg PA this past week end and promoted ABANA and the upcoming 2020 Conference. He also signed up 3 new members and handed out several member registrations forms.

Leigh also promoted ABANA at the recently held Gichner event, several new members were also signed up.

Adjournment:

In a motion made by Scott seconded by Tom it was vote to adjourn at 10:53 EST. Vote unanimous

Respectfully submitted

Bob Valentine, Secretary