ABANA Special Board Meeting
March 26, 2020
8:00 pm EST

1. Call to order: President Leigh Morrell called the meeting to order at 8:16 pm EST

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

Others in attendance: JoAnn Bentley

2. Close out 2020 conference:

JoAnn reported that the process of refunding registrations has been going well although it has been somewhat slowed because of restriction on the number of checks that can be processed each day by SunTrust. She complimented Karen Sims, 2020 Conference Registration Coordinator, for having a well-organized spread sheet to work from.

She also reported that donations to ABANA to offset conference losses have reach over $9,000.00.

Bob Valentine reported that Greg Hagen had donated a 3 pack of Holland Anival swage blocks as a way of helping ABANA, a $500.00 value. Mark Asprey was able to secure a buyer for the full value of the blocks, Carol J. de Maintenon. Those funds were part of the $7,000.00 collected.

Discussion ensued on how best to thank all of those who have donated. Some thought a conference tee shirt would be a good way while others thought we should be something costing less given the purpose of people making donations. In the end, it was decided to send donors an ABANA lapel pin and 2020 sticker if some were still available.

Victor will look into having ABANA 2020 tee shirts made for those interested in purchasing them.

Items that were to be raffled at the 2020 Conference;

Board member discussed various options for handling the items donated and purchased for the 2020 Conference auction. They included, a BAM Box filled with tools make by prominent smiths, a Big Blu power hammer, purchased and restored by 2020 conference committee, and a 240 lb Peter Wright anvil donated by Richard Wright.

After considering several options, a motion was made by Bob Valentine seconded by Jim Archambault to offer the items for raffle 1st prize BAM Box 2nd prize Big Blu hammer, 3rd prize 240lb Peter Wright with a $10.00 per ticket price total number of tickets 2000. The raffle being run by the Central Office. Vote unanimous.

The timing, (start and finish dates), will be taken up at the April 1st meeting after JoAnn has a had chance to research printing ticketing.
Also discussed was the possibility of having an online auction for other items that may be donated. These include a copy of Josh Kavett’s new book, a sculpture by Ellen Durkan and signed bourbon barrel. The consensus was to save these items for an auction at our 2021 Johnstown venture.

**Next issue of the Anvil’s Ring:**

Leigh Morrell asked Mark Kochan to inquire with Sundance Press the cost of increasing the next issue of the AR by 4 pages in order to feature demonstrators who would have demonstrated at the 2020 Conference. Mark Kochan would reach out to the smiths for articles related to things they were to make. If the pages were added Mark’s fee would not change for the added pages. Sundance would charge an additional $270 for the increase in pages, not including the cost of mailing.

In a motion made by Tom Owens seconded by Scott Kretschmer it was voted to add 4 pages to the next issue of the AR in order to feature 2020 Conference demonstrators and their projects. Vote unanimous.

**ABANA trailer and conference supplies:**

Leigh pointed out that we now have to move the ABANA trailer out of the Washington County Fairgrounds and also find a place to put it along with the items purchased for the 2020 Conference, including the 10 new forges made by New England Blacksmiths.

Ray has already reached out to his contacts in Johnstown PA about a place for these items and will hear back from them soon. Leigh has also had contact with Dale Martin about facilitating the moving of the trailer.

**Johnstown 2021 Hammer In:**

Jim Archambault suggested that ABANA have a Hammer In in Johnstown in 2021 that would feature some of the demonstrators that would have demonstrated at the 2020 Conference. He thought it could be less formal low cost event for ABANA members to attend. It could be billed as a beginning of our relationship with the City of Johnstown. It was agreed by all that the Strategic Planning Committee would work to formulate a plan for 2021 in Johnstown. Annie Arthur and Laura Armstrong indicated a desire to join the SPC.

**Closing of the 2020 Facebook page:**

After discussion it was decided that John Dittmeier and Annie Arthur would work with Frank Van Pelt, Central Office, to bring the 2020 content and followers to a unified Facebook page for all ABANA functions.

3. Adjournment:

In a motion made by Scott Kretschmer seconded by Tom Owens in was voted to adjourn at 10:00 pm EST. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Valentine, Secretary