

ABANA Board Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2021

8:00 pm EDT

1. Call to order, roll call: 8:04pm

Laura Armstrong, John Dittmeier, Doug Eichert, Pete Engelbert, Scott Kretschmer, Leigh Morrell, Victor Plitt, Josh Reynolds, Chris Rowan, Stuart Shirley, Linda Tanner, Bob Valentine, John Williams.

Absent: Tom Owens,

Others in attendance. Janie Grela, Mark Kochan, Andy Quittner

2. Secretary's report:

The minutes were sent previously for Board review.

Approval of the minutes of April 6, 2020

Scott K. moved with a second by Stuart to approve the minutes.

3. Matters arising out of the minutes:

1. Turley forge acquisition, proposal has been presented to Junita. Junita is tentative to approve without an appraisal. Scott has solicited appraisals from smiths within the ABANA community. Holding action till the next meeting.
2. Janie has contacted JAHA and city of Johnstown in regards to available funds to commission a sign bracket for the ABANA Home Office. Waiting to release a solicitation for bracket designs to the affiliates.
3. 366 Hooks exhibition will be the next traveling exhibit ushered to the US by the ABANA Exhibition Committee. Matt Jenkins created this body of work over a leap year and assembled into an exhibit with the help of his wife Rudy. In May of 2022 at ABANA conference the Hooks exhibit will kick off and tour for a year. #150mmChallenge will be on exhibit for the last time at this conference. Discussion about availability of funds for traveling exhibit; possible sources are from the endowment or from operational.
4. Program for 2021 Iron to Art festival and history on ABANA and Johnstown Train Station building. 8.5x11 similar to Anvils Ring but half the pages. John Williams to meet Dorothy Stigler about ABANA history and photos for this program.
5. Doug Eichert visited to UMBA meeting, signed two new members and one renewal. Mathew Burnett demonstrator is in ABANA NCI training and plugged the curriculum multiple times.
6. Janie attended the Blacksmith Gathering in Reynoldsville, PA. Promoted the Iron to Art festival to good reception from vendors and attendees. Over 500 in attendance over several days.

4. Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Tom Owens, Presented by Bob Valentine

Sent under separate cover.

Member dues discussion pre-paid dues vs projections for this year. Projected dues to date are better than anticipated. There is a desire to see a membership campaign.

After a motion by Chris Rowan, second by Scott Kretschmer. Motion Carried unanimously.

5.Executive Director's Report:

Report to Executive Board- June 2021

Janie Grela, Executive Director Cell 412 289-3352 Home Office 814 254-4817

Addresses: PO Box 462 Johnstown, PA 15907-0462 Physical Address: 47 Walnut Street, Suite 200 Johnstown, PA 15901-1521

Be sure to use email: exedir@abana.org

Johnstown Site Update

Site improvements have begun and are being paid for and completed by Vision 2025 Johnstown a group of volunteers. They have completed some interior painting, cleaned up the parking lot, and planted flowers in planters. This is at no cost to ABANA. A group working on preservation of the caboose located at the end of the property has also been planning projects. Janie has taken before and after photos.

Iron to Art Festival

The planning committee has met and is implementing essential timeline tasks. Sponsor packages and food and craft vendor lists are being developed along with costs. Blocks at three local hotels have been secured, one being pet friendly: The Quality Inn. A contract for important parking areas across from the park needed for vendors has been completed. A quote for the festival's event insurance continues to be refined and reviewed.

Grants and Opportunities

A proposal to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies' Initiatives Fund Grants category was submitted requesting \$12,000. The proposal requests support for costs to help ABANA Improve on-line marketing, web development, POS system purchase, and marketing and development tasks. Awards should be announced in August.

Follow up on pending opportunities:

The application submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities is still pending. The proposal is to support planning of programming and educational exhibition components for general public on humanities. The request was for \$40,000. And should be announced in August.

The matching grant request for \$5,000. National Railway Historical Society awards will now be announced at the 2021 National Convention will be held from August 23 - 28.

Partnerships and Promotion

Janie has collaborated with local events to have ABANA information at gatherings including: The Johnstown Taste and Tour, The Polka Fest, The Lorain Beer and Wine Festival, Thunder in the Valley and others. At the Thunder in the Valley motorcycle event, held by the Cambria County Regional Chamber of Commerce, ABANA will have a blacksmithing demonstration and an ad promoting the Iron to Art Festival in the event brochure. The event attracts over 2,000 visitors. Janie also represented ABANA at the Reynoldsville PA Blacksmith Gathering last month.

Fundraising

A check was received from a Network for Good to ABANA for the Giving Thursday contributions totaling \$1,932.

Sales

IT submitted a monthly sales report. Janie is gathering quotes on apparel and merchandise including Iron to Art Festival items. Plans to augment online sales, the website design and systems are being reviewed with hopes to change and improve what ABANA offers in communications and value-added experience for members, site visitors and shoppers.

Membership Development

Membership count: 3221 with 41 new members May 1-31

Thanks to Doug and all the board members who help to recruit new members. Make sure to bring ABANA info when you travel to gatherings! The Executive Director continues to handle membership responsibilities and process memberships. Janie continues to actively monitor and manage the expired members and to refine the folders within the system.

Education

The Executive Director worked with members of the Education Committee to finalize certificates for instructors. The Business of Blacksmithing class was a success and the committee discussed making the classes available digitally to members behind a pay wall on the ABANA site.

Publications

Janie continues to manage the responsibilities of advertising, invoicing, and mailing of the two publications. An HB reader recommend shipping the publication in a sleeve. Janie will research. I thank both Mark and Nathan for their support in this responsibility.

Payments / Vendors

The Executive Director and bookkeeper continue to update accounts, submit payment vouchers, and make payments in accordance to the approved budget and in planning with the Treasurer and Bookkeeper. The bookkeeper has worked to updates financial reports and submit payments to vendors as approved.

Ornament Contest

We are hoping for increased entries with the push in the AR carrier sheet ad. Only 2 entries have been received thus far. Due to link not being active for March and April, the application deadline is extended to Friday, June 18, 2021 for all entries to be completed for on our site and paid for. The delivery of the works deadline is Monday, October 18th incase smiths want to drop off ornaments at the Iron to Art Festival.

6. President's report:

1. Beginning a touchmark registry for ABANA, to be stored in group.io archive. Requesting image of mark, smith, and a representative piece of work. The registry will be an archive and is a possible poster making opportunity, offered for sale. Linda and Dennis Murphy have a touch mark garden, discussion about temporary loan for future events/exhibit.
2. Pat McCarty is providing BAM box #68 for the Iron to Art conference, call out for tools to the box. Tool donors will be entered into a drawing for 1-year ABANA membership. Raffle of the box at the festival, must be present to win.

3. Christmas tree ornament contest, only two entries. Advertising and roll out conflicts could lead to canceling program.
4. The new trailer has been purchased registered and will be ready for Iron to Art Festival. Inventory of equipment in old trailer is needed.
5. Iron to Art festival; Four months remaining. Vendors starting registration, work assignments were made to board members. I2A committee will ensure all tasks are covered. In relation to need of equipment inventory methods to source workstations for education tent were discussed.

The president opened the floor for the floor to nominations for secretary. Bob Valentine nominated Stuart Shirley, he accepted. After short discussion Bob Valentine made a motion to end nominations with a second from Pete Englebert. Unanimous approval of the board.

6. Committee reports:

Strategic planning, Co-Chairs Linda Tanner, Tom Owens

2021 Johnstown

Awards, Scott Kretschmer

Nothing at this time

Affiliates, Chris Rowan

Nothing at this time

Chris was asked to solicit the affiliates for volunteers to host the 2024 conference.

By Laws & PPM, Bob Valentine

Review is needed. Request by Bob for board to review the bylaws and offer clarifying feedback. Request by Janie to discuss possible revisions following BoD elections.

Competition, John Williams

In development to include competitions geared towards covering National Curriculum content.

Communications & Technology, Laura Armstrong, John Dittmeier, Stuart Shirley, Josh Reynolds

No new information at this time

Education Outreach & Professional Development, Co-Chairs John Williams, Doug Eichert

Doug will query Leigh and Bob for knowledge of affiliates with equipment trailers that could be partnered with for National Curriculum classes.

Elections, Chair, John Williams

Nothing at this time

Exhibition, Laura Armstrong

The #150mmChallenge has been extremely well-received according to the Metal Museum.

The #366 Hooks exhibit is being shopped to venues for placement.

The Finance Committee has been asked to provide guidance on fee structure for exhibits and catalogues/books, as the current model is not self-funding.

Finance, Bob Valentine, Tom Owens

Nothing at this time

Grants, Scott Kretschmer

Nothing at this time

History and Archives, John Dittmeier

Membership services, Linda Tanner

Publications, Victor Plitt

Publications committee is developing a workflow to help streamline edits for Mark Kochan.

Sales, Victor Plitt

7. Old business:

8. New business:

1. Received an inquiry about a bequest in a will, this was passed to Andy Quitner to coordinate.

9. Adjournment:

After a motion by Scott Kretschmer, seconded by Pete Engelbert, the BoD unanimously approved at 9:43 eastern.

Minutes submitted by: Stuart Shirley