



Affiliate Letter January 2008

2/5/2008

Greetings Friends of Blacksmithing,

As I write this January is now history. It has been a busy two months for your ABANA Board.

We have a new Affiliate organization! The Association of Alaska Blacksmiths has joined with Jerry Frost as Coordinator.

Since my letter in November we have the privilege to welcome 2 new members to the board. The ABANA Board was short two members due to the resignations of Bobby Floyd and Will Hightower. John H. Yust, an architect from St. Paul Minnesota was elected to the board position expiring in 2010 and Peyton Anderson of Farmville, Virginia to the board position expiring in 2009. Peyton is President of the Blacksmith Guild of Virginia. Subsequently, Linda Tanner was elected to the office of Treasurer. I am happy to report that Peyton has joined me on the Internet Committee and is doing great work for the membership.

Speaking of membership, January membership results are in. With your help January's new and renewal memberships were better than any month of 2007. We are excited by these results and heartened by the trust you have placed in us. But there is still more to do. So we have decided to **extend the Hammer's Blow Archive CD offer until March 31st**. But that is the absolute deadline. (See the notice on the lower right corner of the www.ABANA.org home page.) Don't miss out!

Your ABANA Board Sales and Member services committees are almost ready to unveil a new member benefit. This will be announced on the web site as soon as the final details are worked out. **Current ABANA members will get a 5% discount from a number of leading Blacksmithing supply firms.** I would especially like to recognize Linda Tanner for leading this effort.

ABANA board members will make an extra effort to be available to you at affiliate conferences this spring and summer. Two in particular will have an extra ABANA connection. The California Blacksmith Association conference (April 22-25 in Vista, California – see www.CalSmith.org) will host the Bealer Award ceremony. The Bealer Award is ABANA's highest recognition for service to the blacksmithing community. Also, ABANA will sponsor a demonstrator from Europe at the Blacksmith Association of Missouri conference (May 1-3 in Sedalia, MO – see www.BAMsite.org).

The ABANA web site is being updated with new features:

- Six new installments in the Controlled Hand Forging series from the Hammer's Blow were posted in December. (see <http://www.abana.org/resources/education/chf.shtml>)
- A page on the site for professionals will provide resources not available elsewhere. See the article on securing work doing public art projects by Jill Turman. (http://www.abana.org/business/Professionals_corner.shtml)

A number of groups are getting close to the goal of getting a free day of demonstration for their events. Several of the board members including Chris Winterstein and Dorothy Stiegler are donating their services as demonstrators; some off-board blacksmiths including Dan Nauman are participating as well. Affiliates (or groups of affiliates meeting together) who have 15-20 new or returning paid-up ABANA members can take part. Chris is the lead demonstrator on this program. He will donate a full day of demonstrating at a weekend event anyplace within half a day's drive of his current locations in Pennsylvania or North Carolina. Full details and availability dates on application. Affiliates may offer to raffle off these demonstrator's services as private tutors as well.

Best Regards and please be in touch (pboulay@abana.org),

Paul Boulay
ABANA Affiliate Relations Board Member