

ABANA Affiliate Liaison Letter

To ABANA Affiliates and Affiliate Members,

Bruce Woodward resigned from the Board on August 22 due to personal reasons. Bruce had this letter all but done when he stepped down. Out of respect for his service to ABANA and the hard work he has put forth I have only made minor additions to this. Please join me in thanking Bruce for his enthusiastic service to the ABANA Board. I will be taking over his Affiliate responsibilities. My contact info is as follows:

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The 2010 ABANA Conference

The ABANA Conference next year is first priority in the thoughts and actions of everyone at ABANA. Our great country and most of the world is in the middle of the worst recession since the great depression of the 1930's. Unemployment has hit unbelievable numbers and people have stopped spending money in an effort to survive. And that includes many blacksmiths and unfortunately many of their customers. But blacksmiths can adapt to their situations. What they can't buy, they make. What they can't make, they modify. And that is what the Conference Committee is doing so the conference will fit the times and be a success despite the fickle economy. The Committee is doing everything possible to keep the registration cost and other expenses such as food and lodging as low as possible (car/tent camping and RV hookups permitted) etc. See ABANA's web site under Latest News for the most up to date information as we get closer to June 2010. There is also a blog where you can express your thoughts as well which can also be viewed through the website. Also attached to this letter is the registration form. No better way to get the conference juices flowing than early registration!

Affiliates and affiliate members can also help ABANA keep the cost down so the blacksmithing community can have a successful event at a low cost to blacksmiths by directly sponsoring one of the Conference venues or demonstrators. Contact Lance Davis (lance@bentoaks.org) or Paul Boulay (pboulay@earthlink.net). Several Affiliates have stepped up to sponsor parts of the conference already. Take a look at the demonstrator list. Are any of the demonstrators in your area? If so, why not show your support for them by sponsoring them!

ABANA Conference Demonstrators

Joe Anderson : forged kitchen ware and sculpture.

Mark Aspery : tool -making .

Gerald Boggs : teaching station.

Dan Boone : dragon's heads.

Dan and Judy Boone : round table discussion on how to market their wares.

Phil Cox : mechanical and air hammers use and rebuilding.

Dan Nauman : repousse.

Darryl Nelson : forging animal heads.

Steve Parker : power hammer tools and forging.

Amit Har-Lev and Tsur Sadan (of Israel): team forging

Shelley Thomas (of England): techniques for working with pipe.

Tom Latante and the Meticulous Metalsmiths: forging a lock.

Mark Aspery with Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs: Green Coal teaching stations.

ABANA Conference Volunteers

Conferences take a lot of labor. People to set up and tear down the demo sites, people to be there during the demo, and many other chores. ABANA also needs experienced area managers who can take charge and get the job done efficiently and well done using the volunteer help available. And for a successful conference many volunteers will be needed. Smiths and affiliates throughout the region are urged to contact the ABANA 2010 Volunteer Coordinator, Ken Preiser (ph:931-393-1610, email:kpreiser@charter.net).

ABANA Conference Ring Projects

Calling all blacksmiths and metalsmiths. ABANA is sponsoring three different ring projects at the Conference. The themes are: Mississippi River, Memphis Music and Metal Museum. Each theme frame will hold four rings. After the selected rings are installed in their frame they will be auctioned with 50% of sale price returned to the donor. Rings not used with the frames will also be auctioned under the same terms. See ABANA's web site for details

(http://www.abana.org/membership/conference/Ring_Page.shtml)

IRON 2010 Exhibit

Congratulations to the selected artist-blacksmiths for the Metal Museum's exhibit of contemporary blacksmithing. See the Metal Museum's web site.

New ABANA Board of Directors Member

Jack Parks from Piedmont, SD is one of the founders of Dakota Artist Blacksmith Association. Jack has been a practicing smith for over twenty years. Welcome on Board, Jack.

Warmest Regards to all!

Forge On!

Peyton Anderson

Affiliate Rep.