



Affiliate Letter May 2008

5/28/2008

To ABANA Affiliates and Affiliate Members,

Early this month about half of the ABANA Board members attended the BAM Ozark conference in Sedalia Missouri. We had a great time talking to all the great people there and taking in the whole conference experience. We heard lots of encouraging words and many helpful suggestions. Hopefully you too were able get out this spring and see some great blacksmithing.

ABANA News and Notes:

Just before the BAM Conference Tom Clark was presented the Bealer Award for outstanding contributions to ABANA and to blacksmithing. (For details see the News article on the ABANA home page.)

The ABANA Board of Directors election deadline for candidates is fast approaching. See the ABANA Board of directors page for details. (www.abana.org/business/abana_board.shtml) You can find the candidates statements from those who have tossed their hats in the ring at the ABANA web site main business page. (www.abana.org/business/index.shtml) Contact Jim Masterson (Jim@ABANA.org) for any information about the election, it is not too late, yet.

The revised bylaws will be up for a vote at the same time as the board election. Since the March edition of this letter they have undergone a final set of tweaks. The Bylaws committee respectfully requests that you reward their efforts with your attention and vote when the Summer Anvil's Ring appears in your mailbox. (See this 5/22/08 version at (www.abana.org/business/Proposed_bylaws.shtml).

As a service to affiliates the ABANA Demonstrator list has been updated and is available at this web page: (www.abana.org/downloads/demo_web.pdf). If you were at a conference lately and the demonstrator did a great job – look him/her up. If not on the list, let the ABANA office know of this omission and we will take it from there.

Thanks to the efforts of Peyton Anderson and others on the ABANA board, the members survey report is available for download. (See: www.abana.org/downloads/FINAL_ABANA_Survey_Analysis.pdf).

New ABANA Affiliate Groups

Clinch River Blacksmith Guild – Meets in the Knoxville, Tennessee Area.

Blacksmith Association of Taroudant (Morocco) – This group of about 40 smiths was put in touch with ABANA by Peace Corps volunteers. They are eager to make connections with the international community of artisans.

BeBale: The Israeli Blacksmith Association – with Amit Har-lev as president – invites all who are in that part of the world to look them up.

Rumors heard around the ABANA board:

The ABANA Conference committee has narrowed the list of cities being considered for the 2010 and 2012 conferences. The front-runner for 2010 is Memphis and for 2012 it is Rapid City, SD. Nothing final quite yet but that's the rumor.

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

Paul Boulay
ABANA Affiliate Relations Board Member