



# CONFERENCE NEWS



Conference  
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Edited for ABANA  
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## Conference Chairperson Dave Koenig has begun staffing committees

Dave Koenig of Houston, Texas is our Conference Chairperson. He has a monumental task lying ahead and will, no doubt, appreciate your insight, your comments and, of course, your volunteer spirit. He already has a lot of "irons in the fire!"

Maegan Crowley and Chris Winterstein are selecting demonstrators to fill the Thursday thru Saturday schedule. Demonstrator profiles will appear in upcoming issues.

The call for volunteers, those tireless workers who make the conference work, will be going out in the next month or so. There's plenty

of work to do, from registering attendees to building the forging stations to arranging the galleries.

A conference cannot be a success without the help of volunteers. So please lend your talents to this rewarding experience.

The EKU campus and the surrounding area have already been surveyed for lodging and food services.

Lodging varies from campus dorms to area motels and B&B's. There are camping facilities in the area as well as nearby state parks.

The EKU campus itself provides all types of food,

including vegetarian meals, at its cafeteria and food court. Complete details on lodging and food will be forthcoming.

And we are preparing maps to make your travel plans a snap!

There's much to do. Organizing the tail gate vendors is like a chess game. The family programs and tours are being developed. The auction and Iron-in-the-Hat don't just happen by themselves, you know.

The Kentucky conference will be a memorable one. So join Dave Koenig's conference team and be a part of the great memories.

## Conference News — An informal newsletter to keep members updated

A lot can happen between issues of **Hammer's Blow** and **The Anvil's Ring**. Given their quarterly printing, important and time-sensitive details can get lost on the calendar.

For this reason, we are publishing **Conference**

**News**, an informal newsletter, to fill in the gaps and keep you posted on all details of the 2004 ABANA Conference. **Conference News** is published as necessary and will be distributed via the ABANA website, in Affiliate mailings, as a hand-out at major conferences,

and mailed to our registered attendees.

Dave Allen, editor of the Appalachian Blacksmiths Association, volunteered to edit **Conference News**. Be sure to include him when routing your comments, suggestions and submissions.



[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

The 2004 ABANA  
Conference at  
Richmond, KY  
July 7-11, 2004



**On the web:**

Latest News  
[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

Eastern KY Univ.  
[www.eku.edu](http://www.eku.edu)

KY Dept of Travel  
[www.kytourism.com](http://www.kytourism.com)

Richmond, KY  
[www.richmond-ky.com](http://www.richmond-ky.com)

KY Tourism  
[www.tourky.com](http://www.tourky.com)

Mammoth Cave  
[www.nps.gov/macac](http://www.nps.gov/macac)

The campus of Eastern Kentucky University is located at Richmond on I-75, which runs from Canada to Florida. EKU is just 30 minutes south of Lexington (I-64), where the University of Kentucky and Keeneland call home.

## Just exactly what happens between July 7th and July 11th, 2004?

The conference opens on Wednesday, July 7th with a dinner and the Opening Ceremonies. Our keynote speaker will reflect on three decades of ABANA and it's contribution to the craft and to the resurgence of blacksmithing.

Thursday thru Saturday are days filled with demonstrations by national and international blacksmiths. You'll see hot forging, cold forging, ferrous and non-ferrous metalwork; all done by renowned artisans.

There are concurrent activities in the classrooms, in-

cluding slideshows.

A conference highlight is always the gallery of ABANA members' work. Here's where you get those new ideas for your projects. Bring your camera, tape measure and sketchpad to record these gems.

The conference always holds Iron-in-the-Hat, a blacksmith's treasure trove of "must haves!" Proceeds benefit ABANA's educational programs.

These three days also offer diversions for members of your party who tire of the an-

vil's ring. We have interesting tours and special events in the works.

The auction takes place on Saturday. Before and during the conference, we hope to exhibit ironwork at Richmond and Lexington art galleries to promote the craft and also to invite community attendance at the conference auction.

At Sunday's closing ceremonies, our keynote speaker will summarize the activities of the present conference as seen through his eyes.

Simply put, a lot happens at an ABANA Conference.

## Blacksmiths in the Land of Blue Grass *Now there's an original idea!*

Kentucky, the land of blue grass, mint juleps and thoroughbreds, anxiously awaits the arrival of the world's blacksmiths. The campus of Eastern Kentucky University is the site of the ABANA Conference in 2004.

Located at Richmond, EKU is nicely located so that you and your family can enjoy a wonderful vacation. Visit the nation's gold reserve at Fort Knox, Abraham Lincoln's birthplace at Hodgenville, Churchill Downs racetrack in Louisville, the Bardstown area, plus many more parks and attractions.

History buffs will slake their thirst. And there are tales about Dan'l Boone for the kids to relish.

There's so much to see and enjoy in this area that you will want to make the conference part of your family vacation.

Whether it's blue grass horse farms, Mammoth Cave National Park, baseball in Cincinnati, or a sternwheeler ride on the Ohio River, Kentucky and its surrounds offer you a myriad of ideas and diversions for your vacation.

