



Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
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Hello Affiliates!

We are so close to the conference that I can just about smell the coal smoke, hear the ringing of the anvils, and taste that Memphis style BBQ! Below are some things to keep in mind as far as the relationship between the affiliates and the conference:

The Affiliate Area: This area is located in the main dome of the AgriCenter next to the vendor area. This is where you can have the space to set up and promote yourselves and sell promotional items like T-shirts, videos, etc. If you are planning on selling anything you **MUST** have the proper forms filled out for state sales tax purposes. Just contact the Central Office for more details! This 10ft.x10ft. space is provided to you free of charge because the affiliates are so important to our organization, all you need is a paying attendee of the conference and your affiliate to be in charge of the table! If you need tables, chairs, and/or electricity they can all be rented from the AgriCenter. This is also perfect to hang you Banners and flags!!! Contact the Central Office to get your space today!!!

Affiliate Sessions at the Conference:

1. Representatives from the Affiliates will have the opportunity to meet with the full Board to express their concerns, ideas, etc. This will be a great chance to have your concerns voiced, and ask questions that you may want answered.
2. There will be an affiliate Representative Roundtable session to go over the data collected in our affiliate survey. We are hoping that finding possible solutions together will be the first step in better serving all the affiliates within ABANA. Come with your ideas and opinions!!! If you have not taken the survey then click here: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2rn3s78g6awiq5d/start>
3. We will also have a session set aside specifically for the editors! This will be a great time to share story ideas, techniques, and possibly begin to ponder how to better bring the use of the internet and the newsletter exchange tradition together!

If you have any specific ideas, comments, or suggestions for these sessions please feel free to contact me and we can get a head start on them, and make sure they are covered when the time comes!

Other Conference Reminders:

1. **The Ring Project:** You still have time to get a ring made and sent in! And the rings that do not get used will be auctioned off with 50% of the money going **BACK** to the affiliate! Details click here: http://www.abana.org/membership/conference/Ring_Page.shtml
2. **BAM Box Tools:** We are still looking for tools to fill the box. If you have something for the box let us know ASAP!

3. **The Gallery:** The gallery space at this year's conference is big enough to hold a lot of well made pieces...well made pieces by your affiliate! How about bringing or shipping something in! Contact Steve for more info: sslw2@aol.com
4. **The Auction:** We are also on the lookout for donations to the auction! This is a great opportunity to not only gain some revenue for ABANA, but to also share your work with others who can truly appreciate it!

Other things to keep in mind:

1. **Bulk ABANA Memberships:** You can buy several memberships for discounted rates to give out as awards, auction items, Iron in the Hat, etc!!!
Package Prices:
5 pack \$160
10 Pack \$300
2. **Upcoming Elections!** This is the time when we need you the most! Put the word out within your group to find our next ABANA Board member! Here is the time line:
June 15, 2010: Nominations deadline for candidate's statements to be published in the election issue of the *Anvil's Ring*.
July 1, 2010: Nominations deadline date, submitted to the ABANA Central Office, 15754 Widewater Drive, Dumfries, VA 22025-1212
September, 2010: Ballot mailing
October, 2010: Postmark deadline for completed ballots
October, 2010: Notification to elected Board members
Notifications will be made as soon as possible.
November, 2010: Board Meeting starts at the Metal Museum in Memphis.
New Board members assume their duties.

See you at the conference!

Forge On!
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