

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
HOUSTON AREA BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION  
JUNE 16, 2003

The Annual Meeting of the HABA was held on June 16, 2003 at Stress Engineering Services. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Les Cook. President Les Cook, Vice President Richard Boswell, Treasurer James Porter, Secretary Frank Walters, Past President Dave Koenig and Past ~~President~~ Larry Hoff were present. The Agenda schedule to be covered listed ten items.

1. Election: The first order of business was election of a secretay whose term had expired. Secretary Frank Walters' term of office expired and Larry Hoff was nominated to that office. A vote was taken and Larry Hoff was elected to the office of Secretary.

2. Disposition of Bob Collier's donation: The second order of business was concerning the disposition of Bob Collier's donation which is a print by Norman Rockwell of a Blacksmith Horse Shoeing Contest. Motion was made and passed to hold an informal raffle involving the selling of tickets. The ticket prices are as follows: \$1.00 for one ticket, \$5.00 for 6 tickets and \$10.00 for 15 tickets. It was agreed that the winner did not have to be present to win.

3. Life Memberships - keep or discontinue?: Life Memberships were discussed but no decision was reached. This question was tabled for a future meeting. One point - metalogists memberships will run from 1-04 to 1-05.

4. Pay members to demonstrate: There was discussion on the matter of paying members to demonstrate. Discussion went in two areas: (1) Paying for the demo outside membership and (2) reimbursing the member to demo. Another point was brought up to secure money (up to \$600) from ABANA to cover the cost of demos once every two years. This was tabled for future discussion.

5. Shirts, caps, etc.: There was some discussion on designing a LOGO. Some agreement on reordering the caps as before. Discussed certificates to be given for special events, such as workshops.

6. Oldenburg Fall edition Skiles/Fionini demo: There was discussion on renting or buying two tents (approx. 30' X 30') to house demos. First tent will need to house demo with 4 ton press and setting for pay for viewing \$20 ticket fee assessed to see demo (\$250-300 paid to professional blacksmith demonstrating). Second tent will house sale items by membership and demo by HABA membership to public (no charge). No decisions reached on tent and pricing to be done. Contact Tents-R-Us for prices. Suggestion made to secure property across Bauer Road from Kenny Hall for professional blacksmith show, call to Kenny Hall for assistance in possible rental of adjacent building.

7. Insurance: Discussion began on this problem covering liability insurance for HABA costs \$400. The discussion covered the insurance company's guidelines for coverage. There were more questions than answers on coverage for demo HABA membership vs. no coverage if selling to public. Also question about insurance covering a benefit. No resolution other than to look into other providers.

8. Future Activities: There was discussion in the area of an awards banquet with covered dish theme. Point made to have family attend so that they can be included in a HABA function. At this banquet a "Member of the Year" award could be presented. It was tentatively decided to hold this banquet on the third weekend of November. July meeting discussed - guilds at Contemporary Art Museum - TV coverage Thursday with Dave Koenig; August meeting - planning and review; September meeting - to complete gas forge.

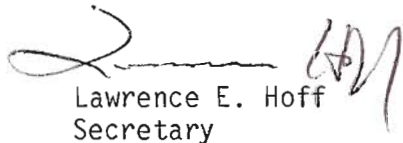
9. Training Program: Discussion took off in an area of the progressive journeyman program. Dave Koenig and Frank Walters had previously developed a progressive program based on somewhat similar progressing in Alabama, California and Minnesota. Discussion included looking for a member to head the committee (Lee Oates or Dave Koenig names mentioned) and developing a packet of materials to assist in the program. No final decision made - tabled for future meeting.

10. Committees: Discussion covered the different committees needed. Program Committee to organize demos and Arrangement Committee to assist with drinks for meetings, set-up and tear down or special meetings. Some assessment or requesting other members get involved. No decision reached.

Again the need was mentioned to get more of the membership in HABA to participate - more than just the 6 to 10 members that usually participate in major events. Some discussion on how the lack of participation may affect next year's activities and how many functions will be held. No agreed plan set - tabled for future discussion.

Meeting adjourned around 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lawrence E. Hoff  
Secretary