

## **Agenda/Minutes**

CBA Board Meeting April 29, 2017  
Spring Conference, Vista

### Board members

1. Herb Upham \*
2. John McLellan \*
3. Dave Carroll \*
4. Shawn Lovell
5. Tom Owens
6. Anton Standteiner \*
7. Francis Leidinger
8. Mike Mumford \*
9. Jack da Silva \*
10. Mark Kochan \*
11. Paul Boulay \*
12. Eric Chang

**\*Indicates present**

### **Guests:**

### Board members not attending:

Shawn Lovell  
Tom Owens  
Eric Chang  
Francis Leidinger

## **AGENDA**

1. Attendance – Herb Upham
  - a. Roll: Board Members (8) Guests (3)
2. Approval of Agenda – Herb Upham Approved
- ...
3. Approval of Minutes – Herb Upham
  - a. Approved by e-mail January 29, 2017 by e-mail and posted on calsmith.org web site
4. Treasurer's Report – Tom Owens absent due to illness
  - a. John Dale, Mark to contact to determine his interest

## **Committee Reports:**

1. Spring Conference 2017  
Very few problems except for wind ... minor issues such as building access  
  
Helmut is building a railing for stairs to new building  
  
Demonstrators are working well, crowd has been very good  
  
Volunteers have been very good  
  
T shirts could not hammerhead shark silk screened ... Dave took responsibility for issues  
  
Food ... did not have vegan or vegetarian  
  
New building will allow extra curriculum to the offerings at Vista
2. O'fest discussion  
Limit attendance to 150 / 200 max Head  
  
count of children eating ... \$/head
3. Spring Conference 2018 – Dennis Dusek  
  
Placerville Spring Conference update:  
Here is the rough draft Placerville logo made by Daniel Hopper. (40th year, Look what we have done together. )  
  
  - 1) In the process of getting the demonstrator rooms reserved and a block of rooms at the hotel.
  - 2) Making some prototype locking wooden display cases to use in gallery for smaller items.
  - 3) Did a walkthrough of the fairgrounds site with John McLellan. Good ideas exchanged. These layout ideas seem to evolve.
  - 4) Will have a team meeting in the near future going over the outline of event, contests and equipment/tooling needed to make this successful.
  - 5) I would like to rework another budget draft and get some input so we can come up with the proper price to attend. Maybe closer to the next meeting we can have a budget review.

If anyone has any questions or ideas please, please call me or email me. Let make this a good time.



CBA font size needs to be larger

4. Membership – Currently CBA has 720 members and 762 that have not renewed ...
  - a. ACTION: Herb, roaring camp post card to non renewals, send file to Dan Perkins
5. Magazine Editor - Mike Mumford

Editor Inputs for CBA Apr 2017 board meeting  
22 Apr 2017

1. **Magazine:** The 2017-2018 Calendars were mailed in early April. The calendar contains photos selected from the 4392 photos that I received during 2016. The May-June magazine was mailed on April 21st.

We've decided to hold off a bit on re-assessing our printing/ mailing service - quality issues have improved after several discussions with the printer/ mailer.

The July-August edition is roughed out now.

2. **Website:** There have been a lot of routine website updates and postings/corrections, especially for Spring Conference.

The Store page has a draft page up. It's on hold for now.

3. **Articles:** As always, I'm searching for more home-grown articles. (Every newsletter editor has this problem). Kindly help push people to create articles for us.

PLEASE: as always, do not assume that I hear about an event, class, or happening. I would much rather be told about something by many people than not know about it.

4. **Statistics:** The Mar-Apr edition totaled 1,068 copies in both print runs. We averaged 932 print copies over the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

5. **Article reprints:** As of April 11, we have had 8 articles reprinted in other newsletters.

6. **Magazine Content**

6a. **Grant articles.** The Celeste Flores article was in the March-April edition. I have Joy Fire's article done. There was discussion about a Danny Ide article, but nothing received. I don't know if there are any others pending.

6b. **Instructor articles**

Need to stay on top of this. I have several in various stages of completion. These include Ken Kuhn, and Kevin Lauritsen.

6c. **My challenge to the board continues: help me find articles!**

This doesn't mean you have to write: help me find writers/articles  
Please respond with a tip for "I thought everybody already knew this."

Do you know of a special demo, event, etc: let me know so that I can make arrangements to cover it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Mumford

Editor, California Blacksmith Magazine

6. Web Site Update:

mobile version is in review - trying to figure out what it might cost  
security certificate problem has been solved - Wild Apricot is providing the cert

7. Library – Jesse Jensen

i. Needs CC access

8. Grants – Dennis Dusek & Kirk McNeil

**President to talk to Beth and Lance and appoint as appropriate.**

Hi Herb and board. Wanted to let the board know that I am very pleased with Beth Holmberg as our new Grant Chair. She is in engaging, excited and understands how important funding can be for our members. Beth and I have worked together on Serene Silva funding request. I believe Beth is a good choice for CBA.

Some last minute news is Frank Golding would love to have Serene do a slide show/ lecture at Roaring camp if she receives funding.

Both Beth and I are in full support of Serene receiving the full grant amount. Thank you Beth /Dennis

Approved ... \$2000 Paul moved, Herb second

9. Education – Mark Kochan

Education Agenda

We have put several more events on the calendar for this year than in the past.

There are two sides to this event scheduling. While it is great to have so many event options for members, we run the risk of overwhelming members, by holding an event every month or so, we may lower head count at each event. Members have to choose where to spend their event dollar. Assuming there are a maximum number of dollars to be spent, we are just dividing the dollars into smaller piles. On the other hand we may be offering better event opportunities and expanding our base. I don't believe we should worry about returns on these events but they should cover the cost of putting them on. For example with the tong workshop, where from my view, everyone attending learned a lot more about tongs and or workshops than they knew before. We covered our costs and to me this is what education should be. Almost an emersion experience where the member comes away with a new enlightened perspective on the topic at hand. Familiarization by repeating the steps helps to set the action into memory. We can apply this workshop approach to any kind of project from tool making to project planning and project design. This is the direction that I would like to see CBA Education workshops focused in the coming months and years.

I recently received some feedback from the Education Committee asking for clarification of the certification process. The standards that were changed in September of 2016 requiring a level two grill to be satisfactory completed to meet part of the Instructors certification requirement seems to have been well accepted for the most part. Some would like to see a lessor requirement, but others more. We are somewhere in the middle. On the more side, the requests concern new areas of certification. Parallel to the Levels I, II & III we are considering new areas like a Historic Smithing Certification. Other areas of interest could be Blacksmithing Technology or exploring modern techniques. The hope is that we would not stray too far from our roots. All smiths by definition smite or hammer that is basic. Blacksmith basics are covered when the smith completes Level I. Programs that offer an alternate Level II certification with a path to Instructor Status could be of interest, for example: Historic Smithing, CBA Event Management, Photo Documentation, or other general areas that include member interests but don't exclude any legitimate interest that the BOD feels is worth specialized training beyond the Level I.

We could reach out to other organizations. We can't teach what we don't know, but we can help the CBA member find pathways to connect them with organizations that do. Training in areas related to but beyond the levels of basic blacksmithing offers advancement that many of our members are looking for. Advanced certificates can be awarded to those by affiliated organizations to those who have met their requirements beyond our basic Level I and II blacksmithing. We can provide links or affiliations to Associations that offer these specialized training programs in areas beyond our scope without taking anything away from our organization. The student will have to meet the requirements of that organization and have passed a safety test related to that specialty. By doing so they will have shown an understanding of that craft and the certification that goes with it. The certification could be provided by the Associate organization. Examples: Historic Blacksmithing, Fabricating, Knife-making, Welding, Sculpting, Drawing, Design, or Casting just to mention a few areas. In this way we could encourage education by inclusion but not to exclude those (ADA, PVA) who are unable, can not or choose not to complete a grill but would like to create or participate in an Educational Presentation of equal depth and quality. That could in turn help to qualify the smith for an Instructors certificate in that area. This would not be intended to make qualifying for Instructor status easier but it would open it up to those whose interests are less about performance and more about sharing information as an educator. It would be a start.

The website needs to be updated with current education requirements and paths to certification.

Equipment has been an area of education that I believe could be broken off into a new committee. We could consider an Equipment Officer to oversee and focus on maintenance and management of this resource. It would free up the Ed Chair to focus more on education, demonstrators, and event planning.

The evolution of design and safety of the gas forge has been a hot topic. We have made every effort to comply with the requests of the Safety Committee as far as materials usage. We have bought some of the recommended "Hot Face" materials, refractory and brick.

We are testing different designs. The final design will be based on what we need and want to provide for our demonstrators. Safety is our main concern, but it has to work. It can't be so heavy it is impractical to move or so fragile it won't survive travel. We are planning a January workshop that will not be about building gas forges but more about training and safe operation of the gas forge. This is not a certification but an opportunity to get familiar with the operation and issues working with gas as a fuel. It would be great to have forges available that meet our needs and are available for events. I am estimating that we should maintain ownership of at least four. We would like to have ten available for Conference 2018. Weight and space in the trailer may limit transporting more than two. The other two if needed would have to be take by another means.

The Board should weigh in on this. I don't know what others concerns are about gas forge liability, but we should talk about it.

#### 10. Election Committee – John McLellan Paul Boulay

Jessy Wilson	22
Dan Perkins	50*
Shawn Lovell	60*
Francis Leidinger	50*
Frank Golding	45 first runner-up
Dave Carroll	60*

80 ballots received

#### 11. Safety Committee - Georg O'Gorman, Jack da Silva

**Action: Jack to update refractory section and send to Herb to e-mail out for approval vote.**

**See attachment below: Paul moved Dan seconded Approved**

#### 12. Policies and Procedures - John McLellan

No new

#### **Old Business:**

cleared

#### **New Business:**

- a. Election of officers:
  - i. Pres                    Mark Kochan
  - ii. V Pres                Paul Boulay
  - iii. Secretary            Herb Upham
  - iv. Treasurer            Tom Owens
  - v. Ed Chair                Dan Perkins
- b. John was selected to take over the remaining year of Mark Kochan's term
- c. On line store discussion --- tabled
- d. Budget 2017 ... **carry forward 2016 to mid year Paul Moved Dan seconded Approved**

- e. Blacksmithing school listings --- Mike & Herb
- f. Daggett Hammerfest request April 14 2018
- g. Tom Owens' go fund me

**Correspondence:**

None other than routine e-mail and mail

**Comments and questions:**

None ...

**Adjourned: 7:45**

## **Serene Silva**

### **Metal Morphosis Designs**

April 5, 2017

Dear CBA board members-

I'm writing this letter as a formal request to receive a grant through CBA to do blacksmith related research in Cuba. I recently came home from a 2 week trip through Cuba where I met many different blacksmiths, documented their shops, took pictures of their tools (which were crazy), exchanged ideas and with the help of my travel partner, and friend Michael Kusuda, did demos on making tongs and tools made from hardened steel that we brought. I found that tool making was definitely the most compelling thing Cubans were interested in, and the most useful skill to share, as supplies are extremely limited, and they have not been exposed to the notion of creating ones own tools. I toured many different shops- from government contractors, to independent small buisness, to metalworkers literally making gates in their living rooms. In addition, I also toured a blacksmithing school in Havana that trains people in restoration work, and has 2 different campuses around the city. I had an interview with the director of the school, who was very informative about blacksmithing in Cuba, and gave me a signed copy a book he wrote in Spanish about blacksmithing techniques. In addition, I spoke with people about the complexities of sourcing material, buying things on the black market, the poor quality of Cuban made steel stock (of which I have some), and the many impediments the government puts in place to retard business' to flourish under a socialist context.

**What this means for CBA:**

I have great photos of different working shops, some with almost no tools, homemade welders and one hammer used for everything, as well as open air shops outfitted with coke forges, and more tooling then I saw anywhere else in Cuba. I would like to write an article in the CBA magazine, do a photo presentation that can be uploaded to the website for all to see, as well as present my findings at a CBA event of your choosing. My photos are compelling and would translate well to a visual experience on Cuban metalworkers, and my investigation into metalworking in Cuba was fruitful and rich with information. In addition, my best case scenario would be to organize a trip back to Cuba next year for interested CBA members in order to return to some of these shops and exchange ideas and techniques. I have made contacts along the way of my travels to house people, and have a great translator in Havana that could help organize and facilitate logistics on the other end. I also have one shop in particular, that really wanted

us to return and host a workshop. I see this preliminary trip as laying the groundwork to return again next year with CBA members to have a deeper experience of sharing metalworking techniques. I would be happy to help facilitate such a trip, and would like to end my article asking CBA members who may be interested to get in contact with me directly about making another trip happen next year.

**About Me:**

I am a UCSC graduate with a bachelors degree in Community Studies, have traveled abroad for my senior project in San Cristobal De Las Casas, in Southern Mexico, and I have traveled through Latin America several times. I have university trained Spanish that is rusty but came back quick on this trip. I am also a young(ish) female voice in the metal world. I come from a Rosie the Riveter (my grandmother), sit on the board of the Monterey Bay Metal Arts Guild, own a coppersmith business, am a Santa Cruz Open Studios artist, and most importantly have a tenacious, and life long love of metalwork. I have had the honor to work in Kirk McNeill's shop, and was lucky enough to be part of his demonstration crew while presenting to the Western States Conference, "Forging on The Fault Line", and have also attended Oktoberfest in the past.

**Budget for the Grant:**

I am requesting the full **\$2,000** grant to cover traveling costs once I arrived in the country. In reality, this trip cost more then \$2,000, but I am happy to augment the additional costs. I hired a translator (to help create a richer depth of communication for the interviews), and she also was a great point of contact for getting us in touch with different shops, I couldn't have done it without her, and I paid her **\$200.00** Getting around Cuba is expensive because they're not set up for the waive of tourism already there, and so this was probably my largest expense. This includes all buses/taxis/collectivos to rural townships and communities, as well as getting around all of Havana, costing about **\$550. 00** I stayed with local families the entire time, which made it more affordable, and also brought money directly into their homes. I spent \$30/night for 16 nights, costing **\$480.00**. I budget that food costs were about **\$550** for the 16 days. The grant will also help cover a budget for research in museums and architectural tours.

<sup>2</sup>  
There is also an insurance tax paid per day for visiting Cuba as an American, as well as a 10% transaction fee every time U.S. dollars are converted into the local currency. In addition, I made a stipend to bring something to the blacksmith's I come into contact with. I brought a dozen pairs of Kevlar gloves (**\$120.00**), which people were into, and also a bunch of tool steel that I found was a commodity that was impossible to get there. I am more then happy to give a more detailed budget upon request, and really took a gamble on doing this trip before the grant was to be decided.

I greatly appreciated being a representative of CBA, found to be very welcomed into the metalsmithing community in Cuba, and hope to utilize this grant as the groundwork to bring more CBA members to Cuba, as well as bring a little of the island back to all of the members through a compelling visual/written article specifically tailored to our shared interests,

Sincerely yours,

Serene Silva

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## **Draft 6a CBA Lung Safety Update**

### **2.3 Lung Protection/Conservation**

Hazards associated with blacksmithing that potentially can affect lung health are well known and should not be disregarded. Familiarity with these hazards and the benefits of protecting the lungs from exposure is clearly understood. We are each responsible to become informed.

Use of respirators/dust masks is recommended. Be sure to provide consistent fresh air source and air movement. Proper selection and use of various devices and materials for their intended function, while conforming to manufacturers guidelines, is key for best practices of personal safety.

#### **2.3.1 General Blacksmithing/Forging**

Proper fire management is always important. Working at the forge discharges toxic fumes and particulates, be mindful of others nearby. Sufficient ventilation, switching to burning coke, charcoal or gas can help to reduce exposure to these hazards.

#### **2.3.2 Gasses**

Products of combustion include Carbon Monoxide and other noxious gasses. Chronic exposure can lead to cumulative health impacts ranging from short term to severe. This can be avoided by practicing proper fire management. Protection can be achieved with appropriate ventilation and using a functioning carbon monoxide monitor.

#### **2.3.3 Fumes**

Fumes are generated from burning solid fuels and burning off coatings on metal. You can avoid their affects by practicing proper fire management. Further protection is possible with appropriate ventilation and wearing protective masks as appropriate, such as when arc welding.

#### **2.3.4 Smoke**

Smoke is generated while burning solid fuels. Also, soot, from incomplete combustion can become an issue. Each of these can be avoided by practicing proper fire management. Further protection can be achieved with appropriate ventilation and wearing proper masks, such as when arc welding.

#### **2.3.5 Dust Particulates**

Sources for dust particulates include earth floors and solid fuels such as coal and charcoal dust. These may become stirred up from activity, possibly becoming wind/air borne. Wearing an appropriate mask while working on a fire proof floor, such as gravel or concrete, maintaining reasonable house keeping, can help to minimize health impacts.

#### **2.3.6 Metallic Particulates**

Grinding, disc cutoff saws, power/hand sanding are sources for metal particulates that may be scattered and become air borne. Be sure to wear safety equipment and be aware about the direction and location that the metal particulates are broadcast.

#### **2.3.7 Ceramic Particulates**

Inhalable Ceramic Particulates can result in a serious impact on lung health, that over a long term exposure, can become lethal. Insulating materials inevitably break down. They are not designed, or intended, to be subjected to direct flame or abrasion, such as found in many gas forge interiors (i.e. refractory wool, fiber board, soft refractory brick, etc.)

Protect these fibers from being disturbed in the long term by shielding and containing with a durable "hot face" material such as Super Duty Hard Firebrick, Mizzou high temperature, strength castable, etc. At minimum, make sure that any exposed soft insulating materials are in some way contained or at least coated to temporarily help to reduce release of fiber and/or frayed particles from getting into the air. (ITC100 or similar product)

#### **2.3.8 Respirators/Dust Masks**

Respirators/dust Masks are the blacksmiths' personal line of defense against lung injury. Dust masks are generally disposable, provide only limited lung protection, a reduced duty cycle and must be replaced regularly (hours). Respirators are equipped with a non-disposable structure, with multiple replacement