

Pennsylvania Striker

Dedicated to the preservation, sharing and expansion of the Artist-Blacksmith's skills



September 2026

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, October 10th

Artisans of the Anvil - Clearfield, PA

Fall is coming around and it's very soon time for PABA's October Hammer in. Our President has invited us to his shop in Clearfield. We were last there two years ago when he first moved from his long time location in Stroudsburg. It should be fun to see what has changed in the shop and some of his projects.

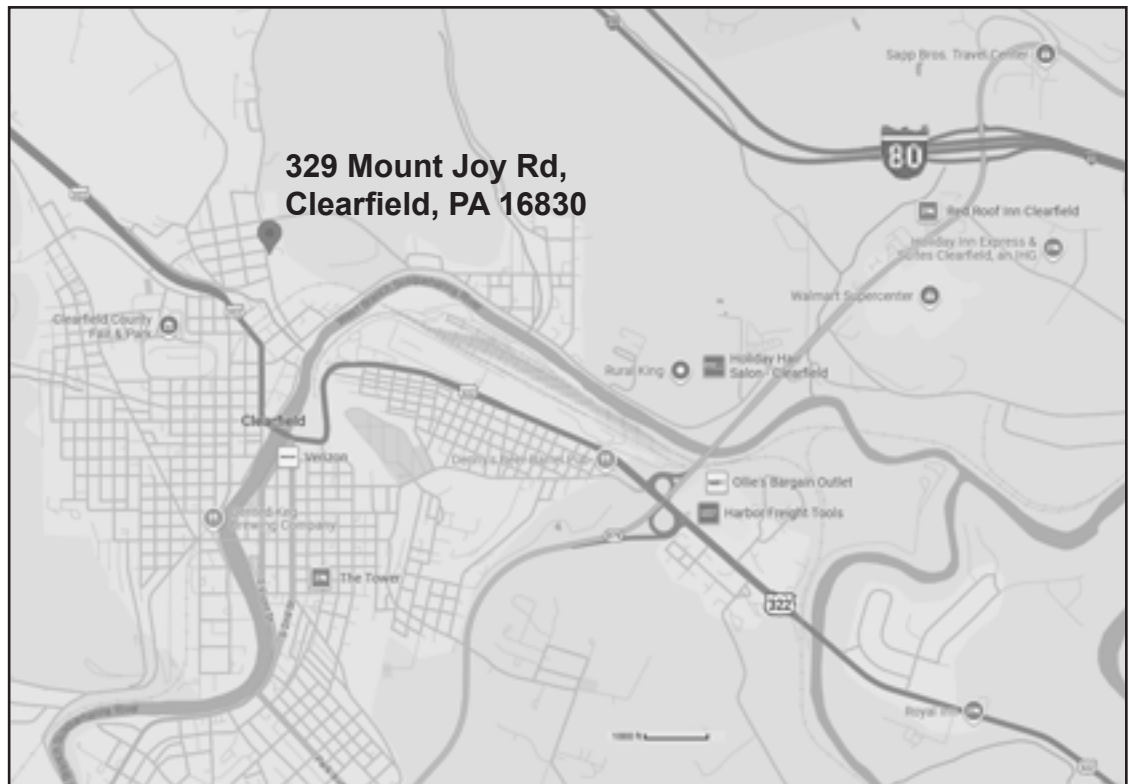
I'm not 100% sure, however, Andrew mentioned he may be demonstrating some architectural work related to railing fabrication. *If you're new to the group, you can take a look at some of his work at - www.artisansoftheanvil.com*

REMINDER - After this meeting we only have one more meeting in 2026. That means we're going to be having elections and PABA annual dues will be requested. PABA members are voting for President, two Board of Directors and Secretary this December.

***Bring a chair and a lunch or visit a local eatery.
IMD - Plant Hanger***

329 Mount Joy Rd,
Clearfield, PA 16830

Exit 120 from I-80 W
or 322 W past State
College



PABA Contacts

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- The Pennsylvania Striker is published bimonthly by the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc. (PABA), an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA). Unless otherwise noted all text content is by the editor and all artwork is by Mark Smith.

Membership is open to anyone interested in blacksmithing. Dues are \$30 per calendar year. Contact a board member for an application.

- PABA makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein but assumes no liability in case of error or changing conditions. Any business relations or other activities undertaken as a result of information contained herein or arising therefore are the responsibility of the parties involved and not the Pennsylvania Artist- Blacksmith's Association, Inc.

Committee Leaders

Iron in the Hat Chairperson - Gary Rhoads

HELPER NEEDED

Equipment & Maintenance - Randy Barlip

Publication Contact - Keith Eckman

Safety Equipment - Herb Moyer

ABANA Affiliate Contact - Doug Learn

Library - John Kauffman & Martin Reynolds

Event Hosting - Paul Huf

Facebook Monitor - Luke Shultz



PABA CALENDAR 2026

December 12 - Gallery, Paradise, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Holiday Item

Please share upcoming events!

Let PABA know about your events.

. Help advertise and show off what you do!

How-to articles and shop tips!

The Striker is always any shop tips you may have and if you have a project or an item that you make... Share a "How-To" article with PABA.

Send info to the editor so this space can be filled.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hay Creek Apple Festival

<https://haycreek.org/hay-creek-applefestival/>

Historic Joanna Furnace

Morgantown Rd (Rte 10) North of Morgantown
October 10-11, 2026 – Saturday 7 am to 5 pm and
Sunday 7 am to 3 pm

The Hay Creek Apple Festival returns to Joanna Furnace. Get a taste of 18th Century life with apple delights and activities for the whole family! For more information call Hay Creek at 610-286-0388 or email mzerr@haycreek.org

Rough and Tumble Black Smith School Oct 24th & 25th.

Start time 9:00 am both days.

Saturdays class we will make two candle holders. Class will be led by John Sturgis.

Sundays class will be a trammel and will be led by Dave Kauffman. Participants must be a member of Rough and Tumble.

10 students max per class - Cost \$50

Email: jcsturgis@verizon.net

4997 Lincoln Highway East, Kinzers, PA 17535

<https://roughandtumble.org>



2026 ABANA Conference Bentonville, Arkansas November 11-14, 2026

Location: Benton County Fairgrounds located at 7640 SW Regional Airport Blvd., Bentonville, Arkansas 72712. It is just 4 miles from the Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA). The fairgrounds include ample room for parking, tent camping, RV hookups, and plenty of space for all conference activities.

<https://abana.org/2026conference/>

Blacksmith Day

Another year and another great day. PABA had beautiful weather for our annual Blacksmith Day. Old Dry Road had an open house for the buildings and the Master Gardeners were there as well. A lot of people got to try out blacksmithing or enjoyed one of the demonstrations happening throughout the day.

We didn't manage to have enough time for the official contest. Everyone gets a chance to practice up for next years! I believe Dave Fisher was our Iron Master of the Day with his Layered copper and steel knife.

This even doesn't happen without all of our members that support our mission and volunteer their time for set up and clean up, in addition to helping the public during the day.





Photo by Lenka Votrubova



Photo by Lenka Votrubova



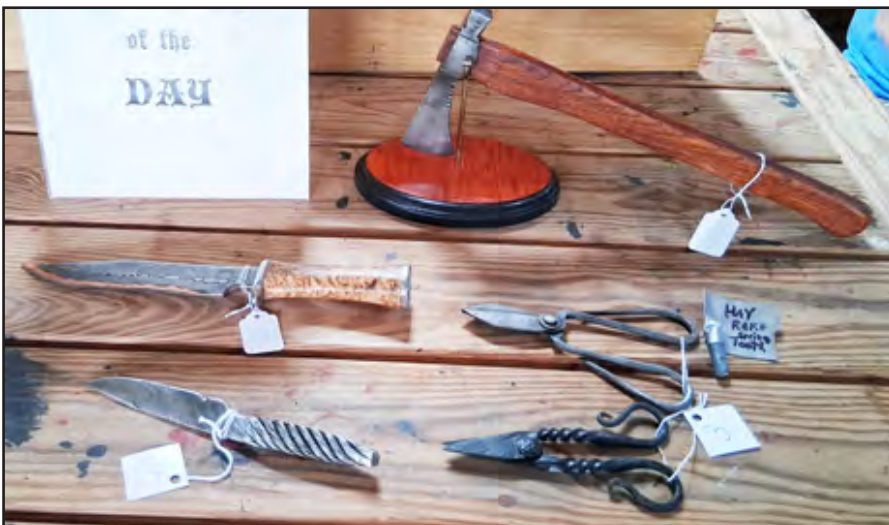
Photo by Lenka Votrubova



Photo by Lenka Votrubova



Photo by Lenka Votrubova



1/2" x 1-1/2"

UPSET

PUNCH 3/8" HOLE
AND CHISEL OUT
STOCK

CUT OFF

HAMMER DOWN

ROUND UP WITH
HAMMER

FORGE
OUT

SCORE
FOR CUT
&
CUT

BEND OUT
AND SHAPE
BACK

DEFINE WITH
CHISEL
CUTS

WRAP
TAIL

FORGE
TAIL TO
TAPER

TWIST

CUT
OFF
AND
FORGE
OUT

DAVID COURT
11/91

New England Blacksmiths

FRANCIS WHITAKER'S SEA HORSE

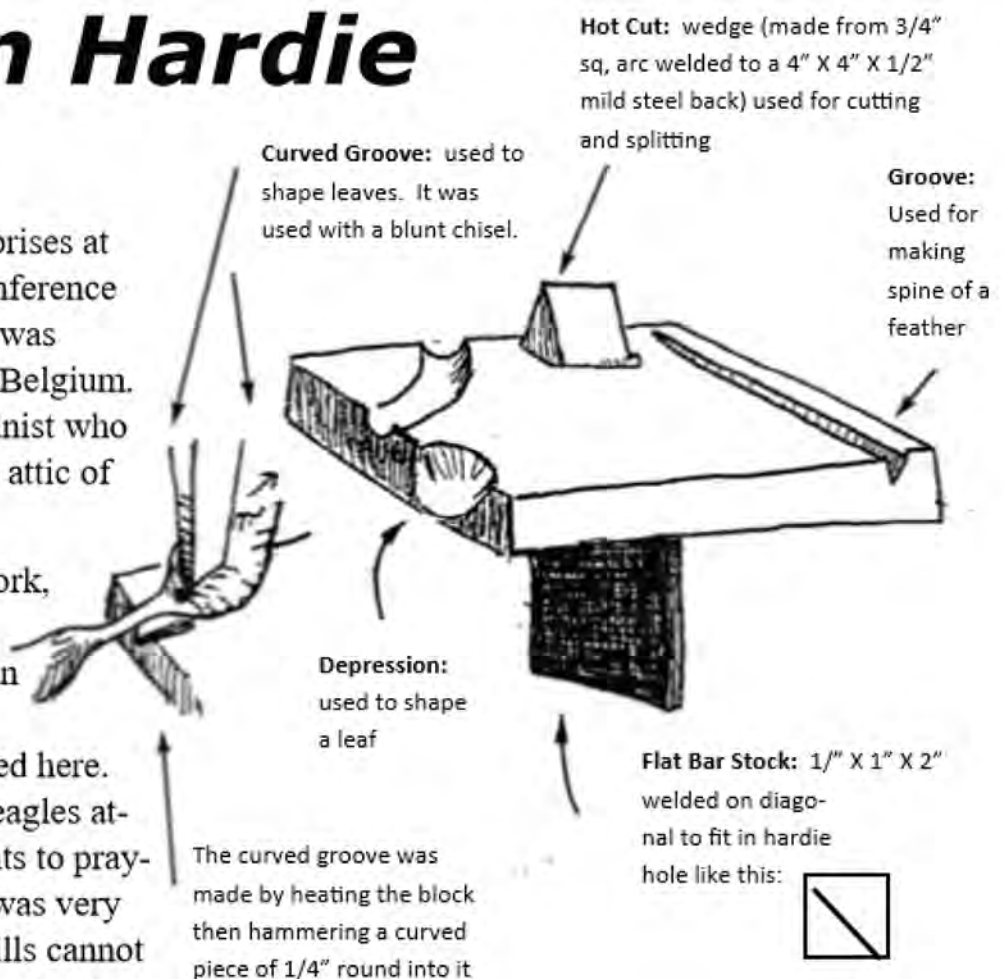
What goes around....

Belgian Hardie

By Mark Smith

One of the pleasant surprises at ABANA's Ashville Conference this summer [ed. 1998] was Roger Bockstaele from Belgium. Roger is a retired machinist who forges as a hobby in the attic of his home.

When I watched him work, making leaves, bird feed, feathers and human figures, they revolved around the tool illustrated here. From dragons to owls, eagles attacking serpents, and ants to praying mantises, his work was very realistic. My writing skills cannot do it justice. I will remember it as pure enjoyment; to see Roger Bockstaele forge and see his work.



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OBITUARIES



Ray D. Anthony, 65, of Kunkletown, PA, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at his home. Born in East Stroudsburg, PA, on September 27, 1960,

Ray was the devoted husband of Karen (Haffner) Anthony. Together they shared 41 years of marriage, celebrating their 41st wedding anniversary on March 16, 2026.

Ray dedicated much of his career to his craft as a tool and die maker. He worked for more than 25 years at the former Instrument Specialties in Delaware Water Gap, PA, and later spent five years at Bihler of America in Phillipsburg, NJ. He was also a proud member of the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmiths' Association of North America.

Ray was a member of El Shaddai Assembly of God in Nazareth, PA, where his faith was an important part of his life.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, Ray found his greatest joy in the people he loved. When his sons were young, some of his happiest moments were spent taking them to fishing tournaments or to a local creek, creating treasured memories that would last generations. He cherished time with his family and was always happiest when they were together.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made In Loving Memory of Ray D. Anthony to:
Valor Clinic Foundation, P.O. Box 315, Brodheadsville, PA 18322

Mousetown Forge's Fall Hammer-In

- Gary Rhoads -

On Saturday, September 19th, I attended the Mousetown Forge's Fall Hammer-In. Mousetown Forge might be better known to many folks as the Blacksmith Guild of Western Maryland, an organization started by Wally Yater. BGCM has a very well furnished facility that has many forging stations plus an instructor's forge. They also have three different power hammers as well as a Coal Iron hydraulic press and a Coal Iron 15 kW induction forge. They are located just east of Boonsboro, MD that is about 13 miles southeast of Hagerstown. Their address is 21012 Mousetown Road, Boonsboro, MD. To avoid a longer stretch on a single lane gravel road when coming in from the east, I would suggest going into Boonsboro first and then proceeding to the forge.



This Fall Hammer-In featured Blacksmith Anna Koplik. The five days preceding the hammer-in, Anna was the instructor of "Hammer and Tongs: Tools for Blacksmiths". This class was advertised as including the forging of punches, hammers and tongs. Heat treating, grinding and handling was also to be included. At the hammer-in, Anna gave a great demonstration on making a set of 1/2" x 1" box tongs out of 3/4" square stock and then a bending fork made out of 1/2" x 1" x 8" long stock. The box tongs she made were used in the making of the bending fork.

It took just over three hours for

Anna to forge the tongs. I'm certain that she would have completed these tongs in significantly less time had she not been stopping often to show the steps as she worked. Anna was an excellent demonstrator that kept the attendees informed as to the steps she was taking and giving explanations for everything as she went along.



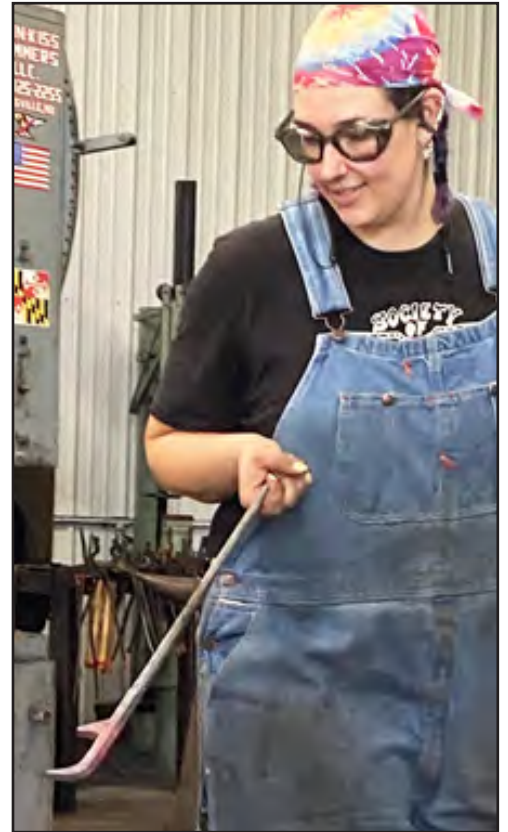
For lunch, there was a pot luck lunch along with tacos that BGWM provided. The lunch break provided an opportunity to peruse the books that Tinka Berger from Blue Moon Press brought to this event. While this was perhaps the smallest event Blue Moon Press would attend, Tinka's support of the Blacksmithing community is always appreciated.

After lunch, Anna worked on making a bending fork. The box jaw tongs made in the morning served to hold the stock for the bending fork. After isolating stock at 1-1/4" and 1-1/2" from the one end, Anna turned that 8" long piece of stock into a fine bending fork. There were two sorts of jigs that Anna used to do this demo. The first was a pair of angle iron pieces that had the corners rounded. Placing these



pieces in a vise to hold the stock did so in a way that did not make a sharp bend or stress point as just the vise jaws alone could do. The second jig was a vertical plate approximately the width of the vise jaws and extending well above the top of the vise jaws. This plate had a horizontal bar on the back that kept the plate vertical and prevented it from dropping. This allowed the stock for the bending fork to be held firmly while maintaining it vertical. This was important as the isolated area between the two fullered spots got upset with a set hammer. Were it not for this vertical plate to prevent bending, some energy directed downward in the upsetting operation would have been misdirected into bending.

If you ever get the chance to visit the Mousetown Forge (BGWM), I would guess you won't be disappointed. It is in a large clearing within a 27 acre wooded site owned by Wally Yater that is adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. A sketch inside the guild's office shows the long term plans that Wally has for the property including dorms and a kitchen among other improvements. This is an active organization with many skilled members. For more information look at: www.blacksmithguildofwesternmaryland.org



Gary has been great at being our unofficial roving reporter and sharing places and events that he's been to. I'd be happy to publish more stories if anyone else want to send a few lines and photos to me.

PABA Member Opportunities

Social Media Committee Member Needed

PABA is looking for a person to manage and grow our Social Media presence. Currently we have our newsletter and website plus our Facebook group and page. Luke Schultz has been managing our Facebook areas for many years but has expressed a desire to hand it over to another person that could possible expand into other sites and more actively promote our group. Also at some point the Striker may go primarily digital. That could mean an expansion of our website to offer more content to our members.

If you have experience or are willing to help in these areas, please let a Board Member know.

Member Offered Blacksmithing Classes

Allen Schaeffer • Furnace Creek Forge • Beginner Blacksmithing Classes • Learn the basics one on one
484.651.9402 • www.FurnaceCreekForge.com

Dave Fisher • Blacksmith Classes • Fisher Forge • 572 Saint Michaels Rd. Hamburg, PA 19526
610-504-8060 • fforge@early.com - **Classes w/Dave Fisher through the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance**
610-562-3106 hamburgarts@verizon.net

Derick Kemper • Damselfly Forge • Phone - 410-937-4244 • Email - Damselflyforge@gmail.com
<https://www.damselflyforge.com/blacksmith-classes>

Drunken Smithy • Blacksmithing Classes • 2236 Lebanon Valley Mall • Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042
(717) 833-4105 • forge@drunkensmithy.com

Martha Moore Westbrook • Jewelry & Metalsmithing Classes • caersidi@earthlink.net • 610-730-6216
Goggleworks Center for the Arts, Reading PA: www.goggleworks.org
The Baum School of Art, Allentown, PA: www.baumschool.org

Regional Blacksmithing Classes

Adirondack Folk School - www.adirondackfolkschool.org • P.O. Box 2 • Lake Luzerne • NY 12846 • 518-696-2400

Appalachian Center for Craft - 1560 Craft Center Drive • Smithville, TN 37166 • 931-372-3051 or 615-597-6801
www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/workshops/

Augusta Heritage Center - augustaartsandculture.org • 100 Campus Drive • Elkins, WV 26241 • 304-637-1287

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland - Carroll County Farm Museum • Westminster, MD • 410-386-3881 or Karen - ksjones@carrollcountymd.gov • <https://www.bgcmonline.org/classes>

Bryn Athyn College - www.brynathyn.edu/departments/building-arts • 2945 College Drive • Bryn Athyn, PA 19009
267-502-6000 • jkline@brynathyn.edu

Cedar Lakes - <http://www.cedarlakes.com/craft-workshops/> • HC 88, Box 21 • Ripley, WV 25271 • 304-372-7873

Center for Metal Arts - www.centerformetalarts.com • 106 Iron St • Johnstown, PA 15906 • 814.418.0409

Clifton Forge School of the Arts - www.cfsota.org • 518 Church Street • Clifton Forge, VA 24422 • 540-862-7275

Floyd Center for the Arts - www.floydartcenter.org • 220 Parkway Lane, South • Floyd, VA. 24091 • 540-745-2784

John C. Campbell Folk School - www.folkschool.org • 1 Folk School Rd • Brasstown, North Carolina 28902
1.800.FOLK.SCH (365.5724)

Ms Caitlin's School - 26 West All Saints St. - Frederick, MD 21701 - www.mscaitlinsschool.com
301-246-2248 - to schedule an appointment - Info@mscaitlinsschool.com

National Ornamental Metal Museum - www.metalmuseum.org • 374 Metal Museum Drive • Memphis, TN 38106
901-774-6380 or 1-877-881-2326 • info@metalmuseum.org

New England School of Metalwork - www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com • 7 Albiston Way • Auburn, Maine 04210
207-777-6211 Toll Free 888-753-7502 • dglaser@newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com

Peters Valley Craft Center - www.petersvalley.org • 19 Kuhn Road • Layton, NJ 07851 • 973-948-5200

Penland School of Craft - penland.org - 2687 Conley Ridge Road, Bakersville, NC 28705 - 828-765-2359 - info@penland.org

Randy McDaniel, Classes, author of "A Blacksmithing Primer" • 1044 Spielman Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
rams4g@msn.com - www.blacksmithschoolwv.com

Rochester ARC + Flame Center - www.rocafc.com • 125 Fed Ex Way • Rochester, NY 14624 • 585-349-7110

Touchstone Center for Crafts - 1049 Wharton Furnace Rd • Farmington, PA 15437 • 724-329-1370 or 800-721-0177
www.touchstonecrafts.org/workshops • info@touchstonecrafts.org **50th Year Special Events!**

Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing - 200 West Twelfth St. • Waynesboro, VA 22980 • 434-960-9718 • www.vablacksmithing.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Eggerling Damascus - Specializing in Mosaic Blade & Bolster Material

Robert Eggerling 610-682-6836 - www.eggerlingdamascus.com

Andrew Reist - Oak Lawn Blacksmith Shop

717-925-9310 - oaklawnblacksmith@gmail.com - Anvils, Swage blocks and other Blacksmith tools.

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/OakLawnBlacksmithUS> or <https://www.facebook.com/OakLawnBlacksmith/>

SUPPLIERS

Reese's Coal- Blacksmithing Coal - 53 Church Road - Quarryville, PA 17566 - 717-786-3375 (please call for hours)

Elligson Trucking - Freeland, MD 21053 - Blacksmithing coal - 410-357-5720 - <https://elligsontrucking.com/index.html>

Martin's Ag Service - Blacksmith Coal - 717.354.4996 - 338 Grist Mill Rd, New Holland, Pa -

Coopersburg Bagging - 551 Springfield Street, Coopersburg, PA - 610.282.2376. Normally sells coal by the ton, but sometimes has less than ton lots in 50# bags.

Fisher Coal Co. - English Center, PA - 570-337-5764 - Blacksmith coal sales

Mellinger Elvin E. & Sons - Blacksmith Coal - 117 Long Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603 - 717-464-3822

Reifsniders Ag Center - 7180 Bernville Rd Bernville, PA - 610-488-0667 - Blacksmithing coal

Weaverland Valley Coal - 170 Ranks Church Rd, New Holland, PA 17557 - 717-4454488

Blacksmithing Books - Blue Moon Press - Blue Moon Rd, Huntingdon, PA 16652 - 866-627-6922 - www.bluemoonpress.org

Metalworking Books - The Astragal Press - 5 Cold Hill Road - Mendham, NJ 07945 - 973-543-3045 - www.AstragalPress.com

Kayne & Son Custom Hardware, Inc. - Blacksmiths Depot - 100 Daniel Ridge Rd. Candler NC 28715 - (828) 667-8868 - www.blacksmithsdepot.com

GTS Gas - Gas & Welding Supplies - gtsgas.com- locations all over PA and the country - 1-800-942-1148

KEEN Compressed Gas Co. - Welding supplies & equipment. - Wilmington, DE - 800-533-6427 - www.keengas.com

SAHD Metal Recycling & Sales - www.recycleyourmetal.com

1045 Lancaster Avenue, Columbia, PA 17512 - 717-684-8506 - dan@recycleyourmetal.com

Steel and Metal Liquidators LLC, - www.shopmetal.com - 407 Old Airport Rd. - New Castle, DE 19720 - 302-322-9960 & 1584 Bunting Street - Pottsville, PA 17901- 570-391-0141

Rivets - Various sizes and metals, also screws and other fasteners. R. J. Leahy Company, 1475 Yosemite Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124 - www.rjleahy.com • Phone 1-800-514-4106

Larry Zoeller - Forge building info and Supplies. Phone: 502 439-0812 - Zoeller Forge, 7509 Geswein Rd., Lanesville, IN 47136 zman59@earthlink.net - <http://zoellerforge.com>

Custom Forge Aprons - FORGE-APRONS.com - (575) 313-4650 - 1373 S. Powell Dr., Kanab, UT 84741

Page Belting Company - 104 High Street - Boscawen, NH 03303 - www.pagebelting.com - leather belting and gaskets

Brown Engineering Co. - 2135 North 13th Street, Reading, PA 19604 - brownengco.com - 610-929-0909 - Distributer of mechanical parts, lubricants and supplies.

Cattail Foundry - 167 W. Cattail Road Gordonville, PA 17529 - Amish owned metal foundry. Produces castings from nearly any pattern or part you supply.

PENNSYLVANIA



1370 New Danville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603

2027 Dues - \$30 per year.

*PABA Membership is good for the **household** you don't need one for each person.*

*Thanks to the following for
their contribution or assistance
to the Striker.*

Gary Rhoads
Mark Smith
Lenka Votrubova
Mike Awckland

*I apologize if anyone was missed,
it was not my intention.*

www.paba-site.org



PABA-PA-Artist-
Blacksmiths-Association

PABA Membership Application 2027 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) \$30

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

Do you have any particular skills (welder, accountant, carpenter, doctor) that may be helpful to the group or membership? _____

Please circle your skill level... Beginner Intermediate Advanced Professional

PayPal option - Pabapaypal@gmail.com

Make Checks payable to PABA. Send completed application and \$30 (one year) to: Lenka Votrubova - 1023 Old Penfield Rd, Clearfield, PA 16830

PABA USE

Cash _____ Check # _____ PayPal _____

New Member \$30 _____ **New Member after June** _____ **Renewal \$30** _____

June-Dec. price \$15 _____ 2026