

# 'The Forum'

November 2020



Vol. 22 No. 11

Visit our website at <http://www.metalsmith.org>

## **BULLETIN!** TGoM's October 14 virtual meeting **has been rescheduled to November 18 via 'Zoom'--join us!**

Hello and welcome. The Guild of Metalsmith's October membership meeting *has been rescheduled* to Wednesday, November 18 and will be on Zoom again at 6:45 p.m.

We at the Program Committee are excited that Hans Early-Nelson will do a video shop tour of his shop in North Minneapolis as the demo part of the meeting. He is an accomplished smith with years of experience and willing to let us get a peek at his space.

We will have the business part of the meeting first and show and tell just before the tour.

Hans expects to be there to share comments and answer any questions. Check out his website:

[www.primativeprecision.com](http://www.primativeprecision.com).

Rick Wessling is the champion for this meeting. Contact him with questions at [rgwessling@gmail.com](mailto:rgwessling@gmail.com) or 612-875-4420

### **Email invitation to members to join Zoom meeting:**

To join the Zoom meeting, we will be sending out an email with a link to the meeting to all current Guild members that have email addresses. If your membership is not paid up and current, this is a good time to do that to make sure you get the email. You should not have a login id and password for Zoom to attend this meeting but will have to download a small Zoom program to make it work. Normally you just have to click on the link in the email and follow the prompts.

### **The Zoom access information is:**

#### **Join us for the November Guild Meeting!**

Derrick Phillips is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join Us!

Topic: November Guild meeting

Time: Nov 18, 2020 06:45 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

This is a **New** meeting link (just a reminder)

#### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87950285347?pwd=Q2hFV3ZKK3NuUEdGbmhHSTIUY2pudz09>

Meeting ID: 879 5028 5347

Passcode: forge

#### **Dial by your location to listen in via phone line (landline) only:**

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 879 5028 5347

Passcode: 652123

**Note that Zoom can be accessed from a computer, a tablet, a smartphone, and is even accessible via your 'landline' telephone to listen. See instructions above.**

## **What is 'Zoom'?**

Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars.

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local, desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with or without video. Zoom users can choose to record sessions, collaborate on projects, and share or annotate on one another's screens, all with one easy-to-use platform.

## **Request for Gallery Entries**

### **Please read!**

What entries would have been in the Fall Conference Gallery this year, if there had been a (traditional) Fall Conference? The Gallery is a favorite for many of us, and this is the question that we would like you to answer.

Please email pictures of what you would have entered into the Gallery this year to: [metalsmitheditor@metalsmith.org](mailto:metalsmitheditor@metalsmith.org). Please include your name, piece name, and materials that were used.

With this information a presentation will be put together to be shared during the December virtual meeting.

**Due date for this project is Sunday, November 15, 2020.**

Looking forward to seeing what you have to share this year!

### **Or, you can mail them to:**

Kim Maas  
965 Gorman Ave.  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

## **NOTE: December TGoM virtual meeting**

We will have our holiday party Zoom meeting on Sunday, December 6 at 4 pm, with invitation to come.

We are looking forward to photo submissions from as many people as possible. These will be used for both the holiday party and the traditional Gallery pages in the December *Metalsmith*.

# Meet the Instructor Paul Widenhoefer



Paul Widenhoefer

Spotlighting a member of The Guild of Metalsmiths who has generously shared knowledge, talent, and time as a class instructor for TGoM.

*...sharing our  
passion for  
metalworking!*



I've been interested in knives and weapons since childhood, not realizing that I could actually make "real" ones at that time. Everything I had made, up to that point, was made from mild steel. I went on to get an art degree and did much metal casting. It wasn't until after joining the Guild that my interest in knifemaking and metallurgy took off. Since then I've taken every knife making class I could, whether it was through the Guild or elsewhere.

This has included taking classes through the ABS, American Bladesmith Society, in Arkansas and attending some of their knifemaking symposiums and this has had a huge impact on me and what I look for in my knives.

## **Q: How long have you been blacksmithing? Teaching?**

I have been blacksmithing since 2004 and taught my first class in 2012.

## **Q: What drives you to teach?**

My car or van depending on how much stuff I need to move.

## **Q: What is the most common misconception that novice smiths have about the craft?**

There are many misconceptions about making blades. Ideas I try to emphasize are using good steel, metallurgy, safety and keeping your blades straight.

## **Q: Any tips for a new blacksmith?**

Start with good steel and the best equipment that you can afford. That includes taking the best classes you can afford with instructors who can give you good feedback on how to improve your skills. You can start with little equipment, but you need to know where to best put your money. Ask around to find out what other smiths recommend. We are an opinionated bunch and will tell you what we like. Also be willing to seek out those more knowledgeable than yourself and LISTEN to their feedback, especially when they are pointing out things you can improve on with your knives. Be willing to put your blades to the test and make sure they function well and hold up in real world scenarios.

## **Q: What is the most important quality of a successful blacksmith?**

Two important qualities are patience and tenacity—the willingness to fail and fail again, then learn from those failures.

## **Q: What is your favorite thing to make? Most challenging project (tried or accomplished)?**

Right now, I have been diving into the wide world of making Damascus. There is so much to learn and so many possibilities.

## **Q: Who did you learn from? Is there a memorable lesson or anecdote you'd like to share?**

I have had many, many instructors. One great experience was when I brought a knife to the Northern Metalsmiths' conference in Itasca and Ed Caffery, an ABS Mastersmith, was demonstrating. I showed him the knife I made and asked for feedback on how to improve. He was very generous and kind, but also very blunt. He gave me a long list of things I could improve on my knife. After talking, I quickly ran to my car and wrote down several pages of notes on what he had told me.

## **Q: Finish this sentence: If I wasn't smithing, I would be...metal casting and doing other arty things.**

# Volunteer Opportunities

*The Guild of Metalsmiths is a Nonprofit Organization Relying 100% on Member Volunteers.*



Paul Widenhoefer and Larry Wasmund are creating a new committee and are looking for volunteers to join the team.

**Position:** Partnership Committee Members

**Requirements/Qualifications:** Outgoing personality

**Specific Tasks and Responsibilities:** The Partnership Committee will be contacting current site partners to maintain the ongoing relationships. Research potential new site partners. Make contact with potential partners and start establishing a relationship.

**Why Should You Join the Team?:** You will be able to contribute your ideas for potential site partnerships and learn about current site partnerships.

**Contact:**

Paul Widenhoefer  
952-930-0070

[pwidenhoefer@gmail.com](mailto:pwidenhoefer@gmail.com)

Larry Wasmund  
507-469-0205

[poundedtreasures@gmail.com](mailto:poundedtreasures@gmail.com)

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## 'A' Class, October 2020, Beginning Blacksmiths



New blacksmiths attend beginners classes at Minnesota School of Horseshoeing, October 17, 24, and 31, 2020. Derrick Phillips is shown here demonstrating.

Our newest blacksmith beginners are: Mike Hartwig, Jake Hartwig, Bethany Joy, Bonnie McKinney, Kasey McKinney, Kent Gulbrandson, Riley Adelsheim-Marshall, Zane Johnson.

Instructors: David Skaurud (lead), Derrick Phillips, Wayne Olson



# Guild of Metalsmith Board Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2020

By Zoom

**Present:** Gordon Barr, Peter Bettenberg, Christina Dodge, Taya Gavin, Jesse Gavin, Martin Masters, Derrick Phillips, Larry Wasmund, Paul Widenhoefer, and Richard Zielike

**Absent:** Mark Lockwood

**Guest:** Kim Maas

Called to order at 6:40 pm

Minutes-Motion to approve the minutes by Jesse, seconded by Gordon, motion passes.

**Treasurers report-Taya-** Business Checking: \$14,245.10, Simple Checking: \$3,313.77, Savings: \$64,660.49. More dues have been coming in on Neon.

**Membership-Gordon-**without our in-person meetings, our new member numbers are down, but people are renewing.

**Communication-Peter-The Forum** continues to come out as scheduled. Asa will edit the December **Metalsmith** issue. Our new website should be live by the new year with new wording and pictures

**Education-Christina-**The first beginner class began on October 10, and next January's class is full.

**Program-Derrick-**We had over 30 people at our Zoom fall conference. We are canceling our in-person membership meetings until June. Motion to approve by Derrick, seconded by Jesse, motion passes. We will be holding Zoom meetings through April.

**Old Business-**The Rich Herman memorial fund is \$550. We discussed different ways to honor Rich's legacy, and eventually came up with a decision, pending Cathy's approval.

Election of officers-we decided to hold our election of officers when we can have an in-person membership meeting. Those board members whose term is expiring are willing to serve another term.

Our contract with the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing was discussed. Motion to approve the contract by Christina, seconded by Gordon, motion passes.

**Long Term Planning,** we are looking at expanding the committee, and developing more ongoing relationships with different facilities.

**New Business-**Kim Maas was appointed as Volunteer Coordinator by acclamation. Kim offered to make membership cards, since we get discounts with businesses like Carhartt. She will also be mailing post cards to individuals with expired memberships and making stencils to identify Guild property.

Coal-Larry will contact the supplier and trucking firm.

We discussed the President's Award and the Juare/Hubler Award.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Zielike, Recorder

## New Discounts for Guild Members Now Available

New discounts are available from the companies listed below. To take advantage of these offers, you will need to take your latest issue of *Metalsmith* with you as proof of membership, along with your picture ID to receive the discounts. These discounts are for Guild members only. Please do not abuse these privileges.

### Carhartt

Coon Rapids, MN  
952-885-8000

Bloomington, MN  
612-328-6422

[www.carhartt.com](http://www.carhartt.com)

Carhartt at Work Program

15% discount on everything Carhartt except, Flame Retardant (FR) which is a 10% discount.

From now until November 15, 2020 the 15% discount will be 25%.

### Minnesota Glove & Safety & Bob's Workwear

West St. Paul, MN  
651-552-8840

[www.minnesotaglove.com](http://www.minnesotaglove.com)

10% discount on merchandise. Does not include items already on sale or otherwise discounted.

**A full list of companies that extend discounts to members of The Guild of Metalsmiths can be viewed on our website at the link below:**

<http://www.metalsmith.org/about/friends-of-the-guild/> Scroll down on the page to see the list of companies.

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## TGoM Virtual Fall Conference makes history!

(This is a repeat story in case you missed it in the October *Forum*!)

Thank you to all who were able to attend the ad hoc Virtual Fall Conference on Saturday, September 19 for The Guild of Metalsmiths!

A huge thank you to Matt Jenkins and Karen Rufolf from Cloverdale Forge in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and to Farrier Justin Klejeski and B.C.S. Blacksmith for the use of shop and video equipment!

Check out pages 4 and 5 for photos (screen captures) of the virtual demonstrations. Thanks to Peter Bettenberg for submitting the photos.

**If you missed the conference, here's a link to the recorded portion from ZOOM;**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1ZvnUcCsSghbXYV1S95Vog9nqdSaDy3H6XrwDMX-bhdzQqtpzX0BZF48mtqY0kUB.mfeO2ZkobGd3mAT8>

Passcode: 36\$V\*LSi

**Here is the link to the YouTube portion:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ08PkJ3u3U&feature=youtu.be>

Personally, I miss the face to face meetings, side chats and the gallery.... but alas, it is a strange year! We hope all of you enjoyed what we were able to do virtually this year.

Keep your eyes out for the invitation to the October Meeting (see page one). If you have any meeting/demo ideas, contact the Program Committee! They are always happy for suggestions and offers of locations!

— *Derrick Phillips, TGoM Program Committee Chair*  
[derrickphillipsa3o3@gmail.com](mailto:derrickphillipsa3o3@gmail.com)

*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*



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## Our neighborhood of smiths

### The Guild of Metalsmiths (TGoM)

All membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October, except December. For these meetings a potluck meal begins at 6:30 pm and the business meeting begins at 7, with a demonstration or activity starting around 8 (times approximate). To check your membership expiration date, see the mailing label on your latest copy of "Metalsmith."

President: Larry Wasmund      Vice-President: Paul Widenhoefer  
[poundedtreasures@gmail.com](mailto:poundedtreasures@gmail.com)      [pwidenhoefer@gmail.com](mailto:pwidenhoefer@gmail.com)  
612-599-4762      952-930-0070  
Our website is: <http://www.metalsmith.org>

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### Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information:

President: Dave Weiss      Newsletter editor: John Grump  
715-379-5007      715-829-4559  
[diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com](mailto:diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com)      [johngrump@att.net](mailto:johngrump@att.net)  
Badger website: <https://sites.google.com/site/badgerblacksmiths/>

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### Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month. Potluck at noon with meeting to follow.

**Contacts are:**

Charley Brown, President, [CharleyRB@charter.net](mailto:CharleyRB@charter.net), 218-428-7906  
Dave Hanson, VP, [duluthblacksmith@yahoo.com](mailto:duluthblacksmith@yahoo.com) 218-391-4466

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### Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths

The NMM meets the first Monday of the month at Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers (LIRPF) show grounds, 1/4 mile east of the north entrance to Itasca State Park.

Contact Keith Johnson for monthly specifics at [keith@greatriverforge.com](mailto:keith@greatriverforge.com). The NMM's website is [www.nmmetalsmiths.org](http://www.nmmetalsmiths.org)

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### Central Minnesota Blacksmiths (CMB)

Meet on the first Monday of each month. Potluck followed by demo. Locations are different every month so please call or write for info

**President: Ken Zitur**  
320-746-8161  
[mail@kensiron.com](mailto:mail@kensiron.com)

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### Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC)

Quarterly blacksmithing classes, exhibits, and open house events  
[www.cafac.org](http://www.cafac.org) email: [info@cafac.org](mailto:info@cafac.org)

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### Tunnel Mill Crafts

Blacksmith shop, traditional iron work, classes  
Located 20 miles south of Rochester MN, near Spring Valley MN  
507 289-4189 or 507 289-5246  
Carol Adams [jc-adams@msn.com](mailto:jc-adams@msn.com),  
<http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com/>

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### Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

Blacksmith shop offering classes, workshops and more. See [raspberryislandfolkschool.blogspot.com](http://raspberryislandfolkschool.blogspot.com) for details or call: 218-851-6085

Gary and Janet Hill      Raspberry Island  
50569 218th Place      McGregor, MN 55760

# Goings on...a listing of TGoM events at a glance



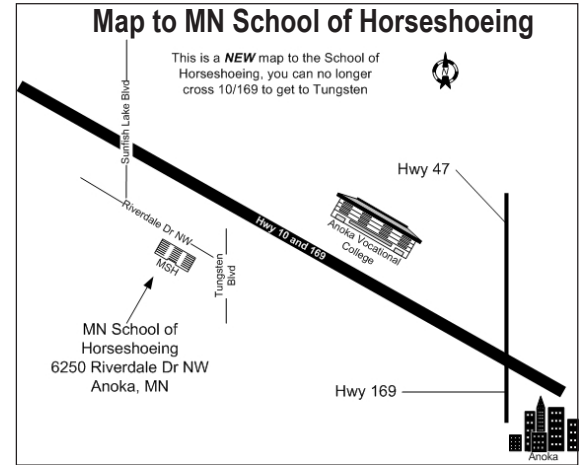
- All membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October. Date for December will be announced. For these meetings a potluck meal begins at 6:30 pm and the business meeting begins at 7, with a demonstration or activity starting around 8 (times approximate).
- Education Comm. meets first Thursday of each month. Contact Christina Dodge, co-chair: [christina.gldmbr@gmail.com](mailto:christina.gldmbr@gmail.com)
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips, chair [DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.com](mailto:DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.com)
- All board meetings are the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Potluck meal begins at 6:30, with meeting starting at 7 pm.

## Events in November

No events planned for November

## Events in December

Dec. 6, Guild holiday gathering will be virtual on Zoom this year.



## The Guild has a new address

The Guild of Metalsmiths  
PO Box 72  
Hudson, WI 54016

Please update your records! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Thank you!

Taya Gavin, Treasurer

[gavin1137@hotmail.com](mailto:gavin1137@hotmail.com) 715-781-4389

## Join The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send \$30 dues to the address below. Please circle if you want to be listed in our membership directory and/or check items you don't want listed.

The Guild of Metalsmiths  
PO Box 72  
Hudson, WI 54016

### List Me

in the directory  
but don't list

address - phones: home - work - fax - cell - email - web page  
(circle items above you DO NOT want published)

### Don't List Me

in the Directory

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships are family memberships. Persons of all ages, professionals and hobbyists, are invited to join.

We do not sell our mailing list.

## ELECTRONIC FORUM

If you have not been receiving an email notification that The Forum is available, please verify that we have your correct email address. Contact Gordon Barr at [agbarr@aol.com](mailto:agbarr@aol.com).



Address Service Requested

If you have items to be included in *The Forum*, please send them to Georgia Myers, editor, by email to: [gldmyers@embarqmail.com](mailto:gldmyers@embarqmail.com) by the third Monday of the month, if possible.

## The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web

Visit our website at <http://www.metalsmith.org>

Looking for something? Try the search engine. On our home page, at the top of the right sidebar, enter your query and click on "Search."

November 2020

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Your membership expiration date will show on the address label of your quarterly "Metalsmith" magazine.

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### TGoM now accepts Paypal and most major credit cards

The Guild accepts Paypal and most major credit cards, in addition to paper checks, for the payment of annual dues. This should make it more convenient for members to pay dues.

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## The Forum

The Guild of Metalsmiths publishes The GoM Forum monthly. It is intended as a tool to further our educational mission, to keep members up to date on current happenings, to publicize projects and workshops, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, learn more about each other—in short, to help us run our organization.

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## Guild educational grants

There is grant money available for Guild members to study intermediate and advanced metalworking techniques.

The Guild educational grant program is designed to bring new skills into the metalworking community. Participants are given money to pay for a portion of their expenses and are expected to learn some new or poorly understood skill, and then to share what they have learned with other members and the public through an article in our quarterly magazine, "Metalsmith." They're also expected to lead a workshop on the topic (or other educational service approved by the board).

Application forms are available from the president or treasurer at a regular meeting, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Guild of Metalsmiths  
PO Box 72  
Hudson, WI 54016