

Guild of Metalsmiths. Monthly discussion FORUM

January 6, 1999

Vol 1 issue 1

Hello Guild Members,

This is the first issue of the "FORUM"

I have volunteered to serve as editor of what I hope will be a continuing community bulletin board.

The Guild currently has 311 members, a lot are in the Twin Cities metro area, but a significant portion of you are scattered out there in places that make participation in meetings difficult if not impossible. By creating this short publication, to be mailed with the monthly workshop and meetings notices, I hope to provide a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, debate policy, propose projects & workshops. In short, to help us run our organization.

On these pages you should find reports on meetings and board actions, as well as letters from members. The length will vary with the letters received, and the amount of space available (we want the monthly notice to go out on one stamp)

I look forward to your participation.

Gene Olson

Your comments can be mailed to me at Gene Olson, The GoM Forum, 8600 NE O'Dean Ave. Elk River, MN 55330-7167 or emailed to: gene@mtn.org (email is preferred as I am a lousy typist and it saves me the pain)

The December Meeting:

The December meeting and banquet was held in the Rathskeller hall of the St. Paul Brewery as it has been the past few years. The main things on the agenda were the election of new officers and the recognition of members who have helped us in many ways.

Officers:

On the officers slate:

Dave Feterl is our new President

Pete Stanaitis returns as Vice President

and Mike Frattalone continues to be our diligent treasurer

We elected directors,

Alexa Kelly 1999-2001

Bob Johnson 1999-2001

Guy Patton 1998-2000

Lisa Havelin 1999-2001

Gene Olson 1999-2000

Mike Richter 1999-2001

Dick Carlson 1999-2001

Fred McClusky 1999-2001

Awards:

The highlight of the evening was the Presentation of the new Juare/Hubler award for outstanding long term service to our organization. The award was presented to Ollie Juare at the meeting, and posthumously to Paul's family the next morning. (Paul passed away an hour before Bob got there) The award is an inscribed plaque and a to scale cast bronze hammer patterned after one of Ollie's diagonal pein hammers. These days it is easy to buy a cross pein, and if you ask at a good tool house you can order a straight pein, but a diagonal pein hammer is a gem that someONE has made.

This year we honored two of those ONE of a kinds. We wish we could have been a bit faster.

Outgoing president Dave Mariette, recognized and thanked all outgoing board and committee members for their service and gave a special commendation to Myron Hanson, who as Dave said was his "Go to" man. Whenever Dave ran out of hours, he called Myron and said "Hey Myron, could you go to ___ and . . ." and Myron filled the gap.

Other Business:

Dues:

A motion was made and seconded to change the dues back to \$25 instead of the \$10 increase from \$20 to \$30 as voted in by the board.

After discussion the motion was voted down on a 2/3 voice vote. Dues remain at \$30. (See Dues in the next section)

Hubler mailings:

A motion was made and seconded to pay for the cost of the postcards sent out about founder Paul Hubler's illness and funeral. It was passed by unanimous consent.

The Dues Issue

This topic is dry and painful.

We all want as much as possible for as little as possible. Being responsible persons we question the definition of possible, trying to optimize our resources without over extending ourselves.

What happened?

The Guild of Metalsmiths, operates as a "fraternal" nonprofit corporation with education stated as a major reason for our existence. We have income from several sources, Dues, workshop fees, conference fees, auctions, raffles, and donations, and expenses including publications (Metalsmith, these notices, internet resources & conference notices), Rentals (workshop sites, conference sites, and the banquet site), there are also misc. expenses of copying, bookkeeping, communications, State and Federal taxes etc.

We can't spend more than we take in.

Paul Hubler, Pete Stanaitis, and Bob Fredell put together a book which they donated to the Guild as a fund raiser for education, scholarships etc. We are not broke, but we have been borrowing heavily from that education fund to cover shortcomings in other areas. One of which has been the cost of publications.

And now I present some of the discussion that has been passed around .

Letters:

At 01:57 PM 12/19/1998 -0600, Pete Stanaitis wrote:

Thanks for the input. As the new VP, I will certainly get involved with the finances in one way or another, I'm sure. My major concern about the price increase was that the board seemed to focus solely on the income side without a lot of analysis of the cost side. I, too, would have had no problem with \$25.

BTW, how much DOES it cost to mail one Metalsmith using the bulk permit?

Pete.

Gene responded:

Mike and I talked about it before the Dec. meeting.

The Metalsmith has been averaging 3.97 per issue including postage and production.

Monthly notices we guessed at .70 so we said 4 x 4 is 16 and .70 x 12 is 8.40 and 16 and 8.40 is 24.40, of course that didn't include the Madness invite which would add another 50-60 cents. So we have been eating up 25/ member on 20 dues which would account for part of the missing scholarship fund. 300 x 5 is 1500 in one year.

After that discussion I started thinking and came up with the following which I alluded to at the Dec. meeting.

On the other end,

Cost of a new member joining in month shown, who doesn't re-up under the present counting system (Due to the approximate quarterly nature of Metalsmith these are of course impossible to predict perfectly, suffice to say in practice the policy has been to err on the side of being generous)

M = Metalsmith N = notices

Jan	5M	14N	\$29.80
Feb.	5M	13N	\$29.10
mar	5M	12N	\$28.40
Apr.	4M	11N	\$23.70
may	4M	10N	\$23.00
jun	4M	9N	\$22.30
Jul.	7M	20N	\$42.00
aug	7M	19N	\$41.30
sep	7M	18N	\$40.60
oct	6M	17N	\$35.90
Nov.	6M	16N	\$35.20
dec	6M	15N	\$34.50

Average cost of a new member who doesn't rejoin \$32.15

Only stable members cost 24.40.

assuming we lose 50 out of the 300 members to the above category; that is an additional \$350 to add to the \$1500 mentioned above.

Mah bucket's got a hole in it.

I would propose that membership numbering be changed to reflect the issue

of Metalsmith.

New members joining will get 4 copies of the publication.. This way we can hold the cost to \$16. for the Metalsmith.

and following their last issue of Metalsmith, each member would receive 3 monthly notices giving them meeting and workshop info as well as reminding them that their dues are due.

This would be 4M and 17N for a cost of \$27.90 as the maximum we spend on publications for a nonrenewing member.

What with the mess with the first load of coal and a few other honest miscalculations (such as failing to deduct the cost of income tax from the educational fund total value? I'm guessing here) I am sure that the money can be accounted for. We just can't spend it again.

I have CC'ed this to a quite a number of the members who are on line.

and I will fax a copy to Frattalone.

I think these figures should be published along with the Dec meeting minutes in the January meeting/workshop notice together with an invitation for feedback IE. short letters to be published with the Feb. notice.

In that most of our members are mail participants for the most part. This sort of thing would open up the possibility of better communication.

We can do up to 5 sheets on the one stamp, Printing a few letters, and the minutes, and stuff might add 5-10 cents /mailing but that is easily covered by the dues and it is certainly important to keep communication open and flowing.

I think it better to keep "Metalsmith" full of "how too's" and stuff we want to save than to fill it with this sort of vital bickering that often needs to be done.

I guess that means I volunteer as notice editor as well as list keeper.

Gene

Dave Brown, Green Bay wrote:

I Agree. "Metalsmith" seems to have a specific roll to play that is different than day to day (month to month, etc...) business

which could be incorporated into the meeting notices or other means.

"What with the mess with the first load of coal and a few other honest miscalculations..." hmmm

Has there been a continuing mess with the coal, or are you just referring to the problems associated with the first load that was received? If it is a continuing mess, would you please fill me in.

I don't know what can be done from Green Bay, but if I can be of assistance, let me know.

Dave Brown

Gene responded:

The Initial Coal shipment was divided three ways, between Dugan at the School, Dave Wilson, and the Guild.

The measurement dividing into 3 was a bit too loose, the coal pile was larger than before so coal was lost into the gravel, there was no security at the site and some was most certainly lost to opportunists for their fish shacks, work shops whatever.

The coal was priced at the calculated cost, without provision for wastage. (Like stuff lost in the gravel, for sure)

We now own the whole pile, Dugan will be buying it from us as he needs it, it sits on the widened base we "bought" with the first load and in a fenced enclosure. (The gate still needs hanging but the end is in site) Price has been adjusted to cover wastage. IE the coal mess should be over.

Thanks Dave,

You can count, that was a big help.

Gene

Roger Degner wrote:

Thank you for keeping us posted on Paul's condition. Not being much of a church person instead of the funeral I rewatched Paul making a bird from a cultivator sweep at Tunnel Mill. I then attempted one. As always with Paul's work it looked much easier than it was. I am quite happy with the second attempt as it looked like a bird as did Paul's. As

you are on the board and my name is probably mud for suggesting they are charging too much here is a fund raising suggestion for when the scholarship money dries up. BAM at their big yearly auction have people donate a day in the shop to the highest bidder who can come to the shop and work with that person, this money goes into the scholarship account. An example of the last auction I was at they had 6 or 8 people donate I.E Doug Hendrickson, Elizabeth Brim etc. all BAM members.

Roger R. Degner
Franklin, Minn, USA

Hi Roger,

Thanks for the vote of confidence.

You will recall that I voted for the dues at 25.00

So I must be mud too.

As I said at the meeting we need to count pennies better.

The meetings that I sat at the edge of while Chris was on the board are what made me question whether reality ever impinged on their sense of euphoria at getting thousands of dollars off the book. They kept saying we have x thousand in the scholarship fund, when we are a cash basis org and the treasury only had hundreds in it. I realized that Social Security wasn't the only fund in trouble. We instituted the new instruction program at less than cost. Dreamers.

Enough, . . . the past is gone.

We need to have better communication with the members on money in money out.

The cost of publications and projects.

The day in the shop thing is good.

I had another thought, both as a service and a fund raiser. We have our annual auction at the conference.

There are a lot of us that have things that we don't need, can't use, but are reluctant to donate because they are worth more than we are willing to part with. There are also folks that would come to a machinery auction.

I think we ought to have a separate equipment exchange/auction

An organized tailgate with a percent donation, followed by an auction with a percent going to the guild to clear off any items not sold but which the owners would just as soon not haul home. This could be tied to a mini conference/demonstration. Say, do this late spring a month or so after Bemidji.

Gene

From: Norm & Liz Doyone
<ndoyone@presenter.com>
Subject:

Guild, business, dues costs discussion

I don't know who coined the phrase, "A committee invented the moose;" however, they are a necessary evil (the committee, not the moose).

As an ex-farrier, I joined the Minnesota Farrier Association which became the Guild of Metalsmiths. You can check with Dugan on this. As a practicing farrier and amateur blacksmith, I've enjoyed the last 40 years. Attending meetings has been very hard. I did manage to attend some good workshops - the Trip Hammer of a couple of years ago comes to mind.

I have also offered my shop for a meeting place before and was never taken up on it. In regard to your email of 12/23, I feel a rapport still when I receive the Guild issues. They are one of the main bonds, such as the news of Hubler as an example.

I suggest a sale every month at various shops with the purpose of a large percentage going to the Guild's cause, for openers, and the other smiths bringing quality pieces to his or her shop for added input. If the distance or weather is too much, maybe an arrangement can be made to pick up awkward pieces and brought by others, the rest can be shipped. Advance advertising may also enhance the sales and let the public know of the shop and smiths' whereabouts. Local newspapers human interest is good. Hand bills put in craft shops, churches, feed stores, extension homemakers groups, and what have you.

As a practicing metal sculptor artist, I

would be glad to host a meeting, perhaps one a year.

Each shop could carry the burden of advertising expense as a tax writeoff, thereby lessening the Guild's expenses and adding to the Guild's coffers.

In conclusion, if dues go up, so be it. If class costs go up, that's OK too.

Want Ads:

See, there is still a bit of room left, and space permitting I'd like to publish members want ads for materials and equipment wanted or for sale.

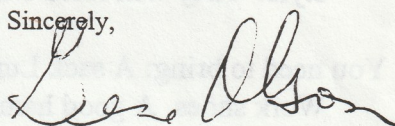
With a monthly notice that we try hard to get out the first week of the month, this may work. However. Any notice MUST be in my hands by the end of the month. I cajole our overworked volunteers to get me their meeting and workshop notices if they are late, but your free advertising has to be here on time.

Well, that's all for this time folks.

If we get positive response on this, it may continue. If not, cest la vie.

Hope you have a pleasant January and maybe make it to the February meeting.

Sincerely,



Gene Olson

Guild of Metalsmiths

Educational Workshops

Monty Bygd
1928 80th Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703
(715) 835-8197

POZ Tongs Workshop

Twin Cities 70 mi

When: Saturday Feb 20th, 1999
9:AM till 4:30PM

Pl #100 2-25-99

Where: Monty Bygd's Shop
in EauClaire WI

Instructors: Monty Bygd
1928 80th St.
EauClaire, WI 54703
715-835-8197

and Pete Stanaitis

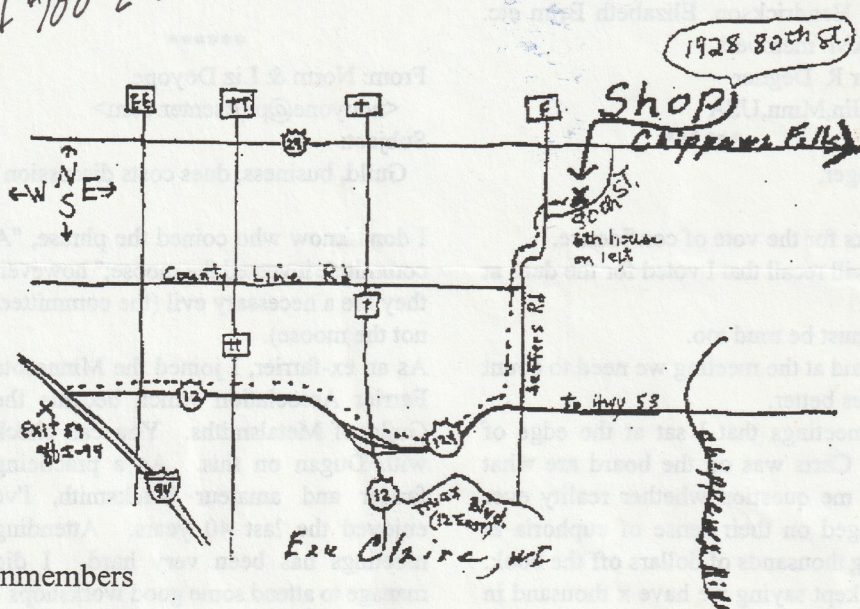
Cost: Includes materials
Check payable to:
The Guild of Metalsmiths
\$20.00 members \$30.00 nonmembers

Class Size: 8 intermediate to advanced smiths

Class Description: Monty says, " We will be making poz-tongs, Rob Gunter style. They will Hold 1/2" sq, 1/2" round, and 1/4" flat."

You need to bring: A sack Lunch. Eye, ear, and hand protection. Cotton, wool or leather work clothes, Work shoes. A good hammer and your favorite pail of blacksmith tools, if you have some. Material for the tongs will be furnished. If you sign up Monty will discuss tool needs with you

EauClaire, Wisconsin is about 70 miles east of the Twin Cities on Interstate 94.



SEND TO: Monty Bygd 1928 80th St., EauClaire, WI 54703 715-835-8197

\$20.00 members \$30.00 nonmembers Check payable to: The Guild of Metalsmiths

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____

Guild of Metalsmiths, February 10th, 1999 Meeting

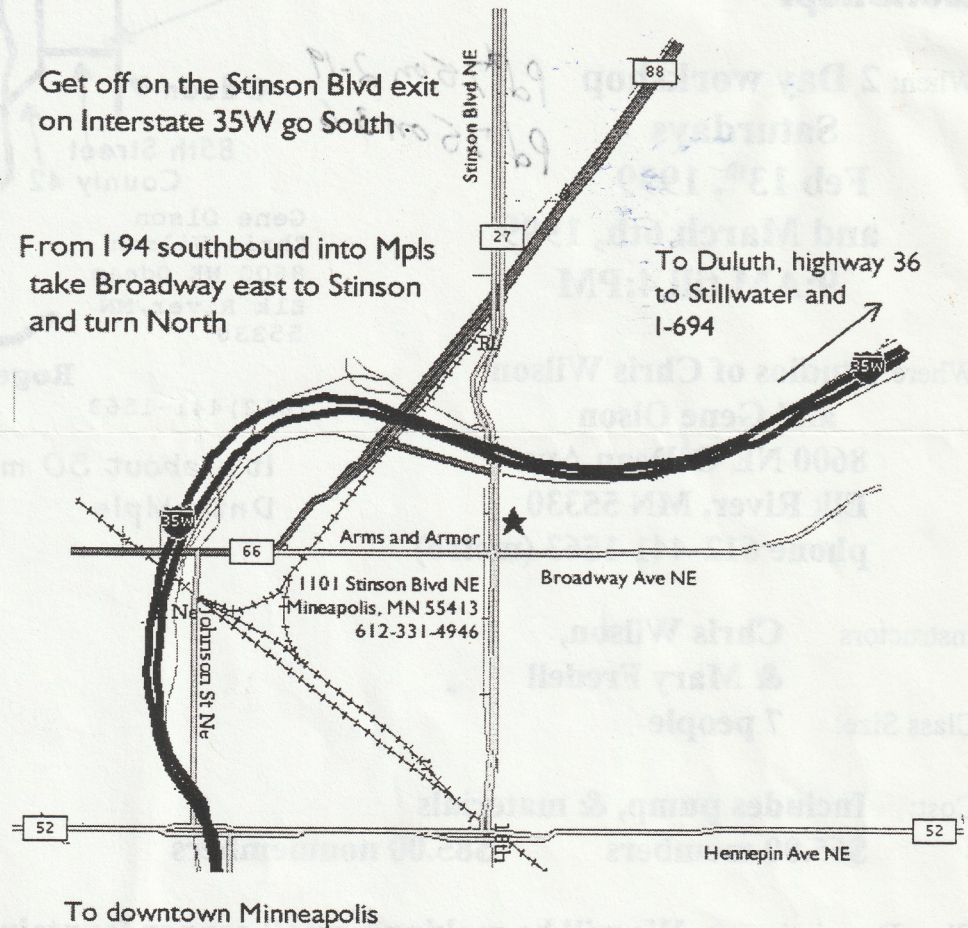
Arms and Armor
1101 NE Stinson Blvd
Minneapolis, MN
55413

(612) 331-4946

Get off on the Stinson Blvd exit
on Interstate 35W go South

From I 94 southbound into Mpls
take Broadway east to Stinson
and turn North

To Duluth, highway 36
to Stillwater and
I-694



The evening's order:

- 6:30 Pot luck
- 7:00 Meeting:
- 7:30 Program:

Christopher
Poor, the

owner will demonstrate armor making technique. Mr. Poor has built a business making real and stage armor for theatre, film and other venues.

Oh yeah,

"DON'T FORGET SHOW AND TELL"

Arms and Armor is on Stintson Boulevard NE Minneapolis..

Copper Fountain

Workshop

Guild of Metalsmiths educational workshops

Our Studios are in the Barn and the Machine Shed.

When: **2 Day workshop**
Saturdays
Feb 13th, 1999
and March 6th, 1999
9:AM till 4:PM

Where: **Studios of Chris Wilson**
and Gene Olson
8600 NE O'Dean Ave
Elk River, MN 55330
phone 612-441-1563 (metro)

Instructors **Chris Wilson,**
& Mary Fredell

Class Size: **7 people**

Cost: **Includes pump, & materials**
\$65.00 members \$85.00 nonmembers

Class Description: **We will be making a small copper fountain, learning a bit about annealing, forming, soldering, & surface coloration in the process.**

You need to bring: **A bag lunch. Eye, ear, and hand protection. Cotton, wool or leather work clothes. A small ball pein and a cross pein hammer, if you have them.**



Send payment to: Mary Fredell, 3500 45th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55406

home phone: 612-721-2298

\$60.00 members \$80.00 nonmembers Check payable to: The Guild of Metalsmiths

with

your name _____

address _____

& phone # (_____) _____