

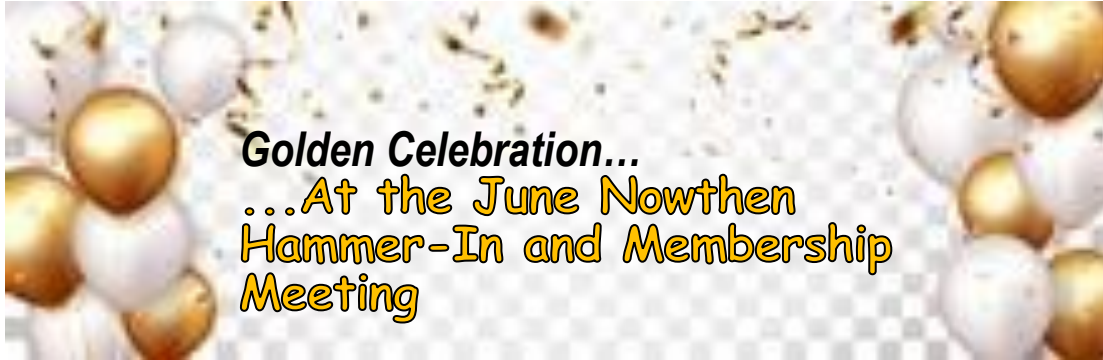
'The Forum'



June 2026

Vol. 28 No. 6

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



Golden Celebration... ...At the June Nowthen Hammer-In and Membership Meeting

2026 is 50 years since the beginning of The Guild of Metalsmiths

Come join us at the June 2026 Nowthen Hammer-In and Membership Meeting. This year, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Guild of Metalsmiths. Check page 4 for a quick TGoM history. The Nowthen Power Show grounds are located at 7415 Old Viking Blvd, Nowthen, MN 55303.

- **Friday, June 5: 4:30pm to 0dark:thirty.**
- **Saturday, June 6: 0light: thirty to 0dark:thirty (all day.)**
- **TGoM Membership Meeting Saturday, June 6, at the Hammer-In. 12:00 PM – Potluck & Business Meeting. Bring a dish to share.**
- **Sunday, June 7 Morning – Final forging & cleanup/departure – Pack up and go home happy!**

Hot (and golden) stuff will be happening at the annual Hammer-In taking place at the Nowthen Threshing Show grounds Blacksmith Shop. The blind forging competition will return on Saturday afternoon. The goal will be a friendly forge off.

Blind forging competition rules:

- An object is placed inside a box, and you must create (forge) the unknown object by what you can feel. No peeking!
- We usually do a time limit with this as well.
- Prizes to be announced!

We will focus our efforts on the Fall Conference contest item, A Towel Holder.

Camping on-site is available Friday and Saturday night on primitive sites. Port-a-potties on site. Five forges are open for use. Coal will be provided. If you want to bring your own equipment, please do! Bring any examples you want to share with others. Bring your own tools if you have them. Some limited steel stock is available, but if you need specific sizes, feel free to bring your own steel. Scrap pieces ok.

This event will hopefully give you some inspiration to help you to come up with your own design for the Fall Conference theme contest, Towel Holder, and help you learn how to make it. If you don't know how to make something, ask ahead of time, and we will try very hard to accommodate.

— Wayne Olson, 320-280-0100

Step Up! Everyone loves the cook!

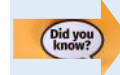
I know it is June, and the Corn Feed/Hog Roast membership meeting is in August, so this may seem early to send out this request for volunteers. It's been one of the hardest positions to fill through the years. We need someone or a couple folks to cook the corn!

How you can help: Peel, clean, and then cook 10 dozen ears of sweet corn on an outdoor fire at Dan Pate's home during the August meeting. The Guild owns the cooking equipment.

Contact: Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com 651-328-7219



'QUICKNEWS'



When a person becomes a member of The Guild of Metalsmiths, their spouse and minor children also become members of the Guild. Your membership is a 'Family Membership!'

Open Forge June 28

FREE to Members Only. Details page 2.

Instructor's Workshop

August 8. Register page 2

Touch Mark Class

August 22. Register page 2.

Mark your calendar now!

2026 Fall Conference is Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Sept. 18, 19, 20 at the Pierce County Fairgrounds in Ellsworth WI.

Email Change Notice:

Here is a new email address for Laurel Larkin, Education Co-Chair:

GidgetGoesToThyati-ra@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

The 2026 list of demonstration opportunities is posted on our web page. Follow the link below to see the entire list.

[2026 Summer Demo Ops](#)

The Guild is always looking for volunteers for numerous tasks that keep us in working order. Contact Kim Maas, our Volunteer Coordinator.

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or text/call 651-328-7219.

**Not all help
needed is
smithing.**

Open Forge Free for Members Only

Sunday, June 28, 2026 from 9am to 4pm

Instructor: Harvey Steele, (239) 671-8887 hsteele@handeecleat.com

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing, 6250 Riverdale Dr NW, Ramsey MN (Map below)

The Education Committee is offering a Free Open Forge for Guild Members alone or with a Guild Member Plus One. If you bring a "Plus One" you will share a forge/anvil station. There are eight forges available for our membership to use. There is no lesson or agenda except to get some iron hot and hit it with a hammer. There are sign-ups that will guarantee you a forge space. If you just want to stop by and hang out, you are welcome to do so. If there's space at a forge, have at it. This is an excellent opportunity to hang out with and learn from fellow smiths. Beginners are welcome and there are generally people around that can answer questions or provide assistance.

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class: The Guild provides the space (forges, anvils, etc.) and coal. Please bring your own steel, hammers, tongs, chisels, etc.

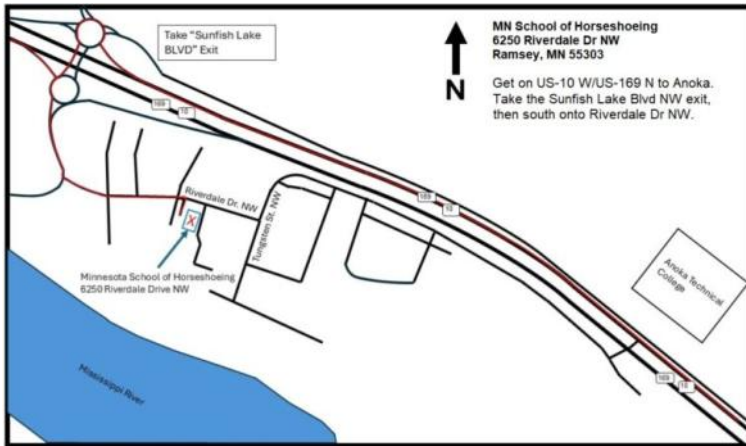
Safety Equipment: The usual for forging with coal: Safety glasses (required), hearing protection (recommended), clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, glove, leather boots or shoes.

Other Equipment: Folding chair, if desired.

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website, <https://www.metalsmith.org/education> or email the champion to reserve your place: Harvey Steele, hsteele@handeecleat.com

Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child.

Lunch Arrangements: Bring your lunch or there are several restaurants in the area.



Instructor's Workshop

Date and time: August 8, 2026, 9am - 4pm, Doors open at 8:00am. Come early for coffee and conversation. Plan on being at least 15 minutes early for a prompt 9am start. **Location:** MN School of Horseshoeing (map above)

The Education Committee offers Instructors Workshops for ALL who are or are interested in becoming part of the Instructor Team. We feel it is important, and we strongly encourage all instructors (new and experienced) to attend this informative session, whether teaching the beginners class, any other class in the Guild setting, or starting out by assisting with class.

Agenda: Morning will start in the classroom with the introduction of the curriculum for The Beginners Blacksmithing Class three-day class. And discuss other possible classes. The Guild's classes have used bits and pieces of lessons 1-25 of the Controlled Hand Forging The curriculum used since 2014. Lessons can be viewed at: <http://www.abana.org/resources/education/chf.shtml>. The class will move to the shop to continue with discussions and role play. There will be some initial training for instructors on 1) How to do a demonstration of a written lesson. 2) 3) 4) 5) 6). How to teach the lesson without wandering. The demonstrator/coach method of instruction. The proper time to interject alternate methods. Ideas on how to motivate a student. The right time to have fun. All attendees will receive a certificate of completion after the class.

Instructor: David Skaurud skaurud.gom@gmail.com; **Class manager:** Kim Maas: 651-328-7219, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Class size: Max 14 Min 4; **No cost. Tools and Equipment or other items to bring to the class:** Hammer, Tongs and Notebook for notes.

Safety Equipment: the usual for forging with coal: gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes.

Lunch Arrangements: Bring lunch or there are restaurants in the area. There is a refrigerator in the classroom. Bring plenty of water to keep yourself hydrated during the workshop.

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website, <https://www.metalsmith.org/education> Or to mail in a check, contact the class manager's email address and phone number for additional information and to reserve your place.

Touchmark Class 2026

Date: Saturday, August 22, 2026, 9:00am - 5:00pm (could run longer)

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map below left)

Instructor: Stephen Olivo

Class Description: Ever wanted to make your mark on the world? Come make a maker's mark to mark your hot steel projects. Sign that cool steel project you just finished with a maker's mark you made. Will cover design, forging, and heat treat. Class is for intermediate to advanced smiths.

Class size: Maximum students: 8 Minimum students: 4

Price of Class: Member: \$120.00, Non-Member: \$140.00

Class Manager Kim Maas 651-328-7219 tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class:

Students need to bring: Forging hammer, jewelry files, scribes, punches, chisels, bring your own rotary tool (Foredom, Dremel, etc.) and bits for said tool.

Safety Equipment: The usual for forging with coal: gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes.

Other Equipment, Instructors: 5 vises post or hardy mount, reverse stamps, rotary tools, punches, chisels.

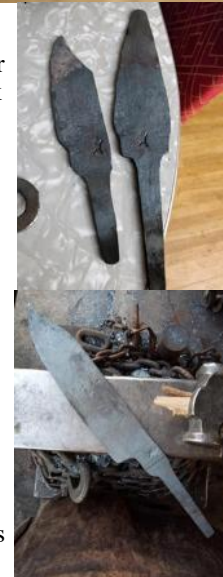
Students, if you have these tools listed feel free to bring them

Lunch Arrangements: We will break for lunch around 12:00 for an hour. Bring your lunch or eat at one of the local restaurants. There is a refrigerator in the classroom. Bring plenty of water to keep yourself hydrated during the class.

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website, <https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

To pay by check, email the class manager listed above to reserve your place in the class and receive additional information on where to mail the check.

Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child. There will be no sharing of forges.



Guild classes held through St. Paul Community Education—Adult Enrichment

To register for any of these classes, go to: [the SPSS website](#).

SPSS classes for the Spring/Summer session.

July 11, 2026 Twisted Magic Wand

If you have questions, please contact Kim Maas by email:

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com



Associate Editor for 'Metalsmith'

Have you ever thought that being an editor of a magazine would be a challenge you would like to take on? Well, here is an opportunity just for you. This is a way you can impress your parents, children, and friends, plus have control over what you want 'Metalsmith' to feature and publish.

Our 'Metalsmith' team is looking for someone to create one issue of 'Metalsmith' per year, working with our lead editor, Peter Bettenberg, and our 'Metalsmith' team.

Putting it together:

- Gather any articles from the members, and the President's letter.
- Try to take Show 'n Tell photos from the Membership meetings and do photo layouts.
- Any extra space can be filled in with articles from other blacksmith groups. Only use those that are high-resolution; due to low-resolution copies don't look/work good.
- After laying out the magazine, send it to our 'Metalsmith' team for proofreading.
- Email articles submitted by members to get their approval after edits have been made.
- Request mailing list from the NEON administrator.
- When issue is completed, email final draft to printer, cc 'Metalsmith' editor and Communication Committee chair.
- The printer will print and mail 'Metalsmith' out.

Requirements:

- Willing to assist members with their articles.
- Time management skills. We want 'Metalsmith' to be ready for printing and mailed in the month when members expect the magazine in their mailboxes.
- Basic computer skills. The magazine is created on the computer, sent to the printer via email.

You do not need to be a college graduate, professional reporter or a wordsmith. You will have support.

To respond to this ad, please contact either of the folks listed below:

Peter Bettenberg: tgomeditor@gmail.com

Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Fall Conference Registration Update

We are all excited for the upcoming 49th Annual TGoM Fall Conference, aka "The Madness"!

NEW this year will be the ability to register for "The Madness" in Neon (watch for updates concerning when registration will begin). This will include conference registration, adding family attendees, meal choices, electric hook-ups, dues, and conference t-shirt pre-orders.

This is exciting, as it will simplify the registration process, and our thanks go to Monica Walczak for implementing this. You will still be able to use snail mail to submit registration forms and check if you prefer, but I highly encourage everyone to use the new Neon process.

Looking forward to seeing you in Ellsworth in September!

— Harvey Steele, TGoM Treasurer

Climate Control Storage

The Guild now has climate control storage. If you have Guild property that requires climate control storage in your home, please make arrangements to have it moved to the storage unit.

To make arrangements contact Kim Maas by email: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or text/call 651-328-7219.

Financial Committee Needs Your Help

The Guild's treasurer needs to put a list together of all the Guild's tools and their locations. If you have any tools that belong to the Guild in your possession, please email the list of what you have to the treasurer, Harvey Steele at mstreasurer@metalsmith.org.

Please add as much detail regarding the item as possible.

Example: If you have tongs, what type of tongs do you have? If you have welding helmets, what type of welding helmets are they?

Thank you!

TGoM Membership Perks

Learn about the companies that are giving The Guild of Metalsmiths discounts. You will need to ask for their Guild of Metalsmiths discount, show your membership card (found on the back of your "Metalsmith"), and a Picture ID.

These discounts are a gift to us and can be taken away if they are abused. If you have a hobby shop, no problem. If you are a professional with a few employees, no problem. What is not fair, is turning yourself into a dealership by reselling/trading products that you have purchased with our discount or being a big company and using our discount for your bottom line. Please don't ruin this for everyone. These businesses deserve our recognition and patronage:

Please see The Guild of Metalsmiths website for information regarding discounts and products available:

<https://www.metalsmith.org/about/friends-of-the-guild/>

Coal has been delivered!



The new coal shipment has been delivered to The Minnesota School of Horseshoeing. With the new shipment comes a price increase per bucket/barrel of coal. New price on coal is \$9.00 per 5-gallon bucket, \$90 per 50-gallon barrel.

Huge Thank You to Larry Wasmund for taking on the task of ordering the coal and arranging the delivery of the coal.

Big Thank You to the coal delivery team: Randy Purchase, Rick Wessling, Wesley Waring and Marty Masters for helping at the school in coordinating the details of the drop and clean up.



Coal delivery team: L to R Marty Masters, Wesley Waing, Randy Purchase, and Rick Wessling.



2026 Fall Conference Craft Sale

We will again be having a craft sale September 18 - 20 at the Fall Conference. If you are interested in selling your handcrafted items, please contact me, Paula Wasmund, by text or phone call at 507-469-0404.

You can pick a table and let me know how much room you need. There are nine 8-foot tables available. What does it cost? A donation to the Guild's live auction and a \$10 - \$15 door prize that will be awarded at noon on Sunday during lunch. Doesn't matter what the door prize is, we just want to thank the buyers of our crafts. You will also be asked to volunteer two 2-hr. shifts to work sales. Consideration will be made if you're watching the demonstrators.

Pricing your crafts: Format needed for price tags (to the right).

Vendors (sellers) need to price every item.

This is how sales are tracked by vendors.

Daily tallies of daily sales will be available to vendors. After lunch on Sunday, vendors will receive funds made during sale.

Setting-up craft tables will start at 12:00(ish) Friday.

Craft Sale hours:

- Friday 2 PM – 10 PM
- Saturday 7:30 AM – 6 PM
- Sunday 7:30 AM – NOON Packing up your crafts will be after lunch Sunday.

Cancellation policy: Please give at least 10-day notice if you need to cancel your reservation unless it is an emergency. This will allow someone on the waiting list to take advantage of the cancellation.

Door Prize Rules: You may sign up for door prize with each sales transaction with the Craft Sales. If you have more than one transaction in a day, you may sign up with each transaction. *Must be present at conference to win. *One prize per person.

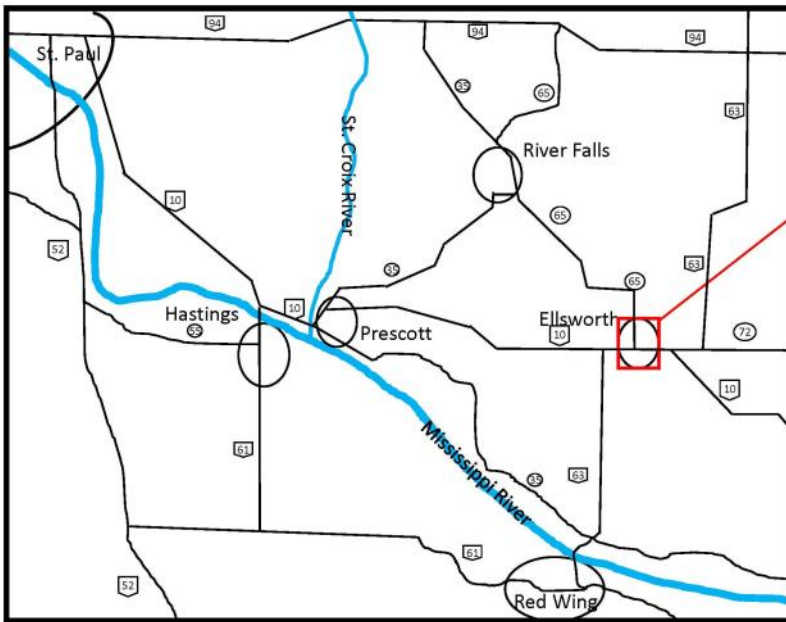
— Paula Wasmund

<p>Seller number of your choice</p>
<p>\$ Price of item</p>

Fall Conference Flyers!
Single page flyers are ready for you to share with friends, family and in your community. Please help spread the word. [Click here to find flyer on our website.](#)

Help Wanted!
Larry Wasmund is looking for help at the Rock County Fair July 29-August 1, 2026 in Luverne, MN. You will be able to sell your items during the event. Contact Larry Wasmund by email: poundedtreasures@gmail.com or by phone: 651-322-6626 to get additional information and to volunteer.

How to get to the Pierce County Fairgrounds



History of The Guild of Metalsmiths

The Guild of Metalsmiths was created in 1976. Several persons from the Minneapolis, Minnesota area attended the 1976

ABANA (Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America) Conference in Carbondale, Illinois. These persons returned to Minnesota excited and enthused about creating a local organization. They placed an ad in the newspaper for people interested in blacksmithing to meet at Gibbs Farm Museum. Out of the Gibbs Farm meeting The Guild of Metalsmiths was formed with fewer than ten persons. Membership fluctuates year-to-year but is often over 330 members.

In the very early years of The Guild of Metalsmiths many of the activities centered around the Renaissance Festival where the members would sell items and demonstrate for the public.

In more recent years The Guild has not held activities with the Renaissance Festival. Rather, activities have focused upon the regular meeting, training workshops, and special events that may be held from time to time.

The Guild of Metalsmiths is incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota as a non-profit corporation. Members are largely drawn from Minnesota and western Wisconsin. There are a few members from other states and foreign countries.



May 2026 Hammer Class



Front row: Louis Kaufman, *Bob Brown, Troy Holkestad. Back row: *David Skaurud, Robert Finney, Kevin Stinson, *Rob Murry, *Derrick Phillips (lead instructor), Zach Christiansen, *Stephen Olivio (behind Troy hiding), Isaac Hodel, Triss Anderson-Hay. *Instructor Team. Photo by Kim Maas.

May 2026 Intro to Arc Welding Class



Matthew Dray, Nicholas Dray, *Marty Masters (lead instructor), Daniel Kaschner, Maggie Ervin, *Alice Bruderer (assistant instructor. Not pictured *Laurel Larkin (champion). Photo by Laurel Larkin.

Taste of Blacksmithing Class-SPPS



Left to right: Sam O Quiney, Kevin Gotch, Alex Rounds, Anna Kapitman, *Kim Maas-Champion, *Lee Meilleur-Assistant Instructor, *Rebecca Hrobak-Lead Instructor, Rich Schifer, Charlie Moburg, Kathleen Corley, Simon Schifer. Not pictured: Laurel Larkin-Instructors Assistant. Photo by Laurel Larkin.

2026 Holtz Farm Spring Festival Demo Demonstrator and Photographer: Kevin Klein



Holtz Farm is in Eagan, MN. They have a Spring Festival and Harvest Festival event where Guild members demonstrate. Kevin Klein demonstrates at the Spring event, and Zach Christiansen at the Harvest Festival.



Guild travelers attend 'BAM'

Several Guild of Metalsmiths members traveled to the annual Blacksmiths Association of Missouri (BAM) conference held from April 30 to May 3 this year. This massive conference is held at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, a town in north central Missouri of about 22,000 people. It's around an 8-hour drive from the Twin Cities.

The annual event happens in the Swine Barn, shown in the photo at left. It's a wide-open huge building without doors or closed windows, so you can feel air flowing throughout. Buildings on the fairgrounds are of similar architectural design and construction from the turn of the 20th century. They're awesome! Find details on BAM's website: <https://bamsite.org/bam-ozark-conference/>



TGoM members who attended:

Wayne and Lisa Olson, Dick Carlson, Bob Brown, Gary and Georgia Myers, and Roger Degner joined several friends who drove north from the Louisiana Metalsmiths Association (LAMA), near Lafayette, Louisiana, and many friends from BAM.

Lisa is proprietor of her booth at the conference where she annually sells her paintings and various other items. She's shown in the photo at left working on one of her watercolor paintings. Also in the photo is Lisa's smiling husband, Guild member Wayne Olson. Dick Carlson's personal motorized buggy is also in the picture, as well as two of the LAMA members, Dave Bernard and Marcus Melancon. Dick disappeared just before I snapped the picture!



Colonial Williamsburg Blacksmiths

Joshua Rachita and Broadus Thompson attracted spectators during the conference as they forged 18th century reproduction ironwork. Josh is a blacksmith at Colonial Williamsburg. Broadus recently completed a five-year apprenticeship at the Anderson Blacksmith shop in Williamsburg Virginia. They forged and finished a set of fireplace tools and andirons for the conference.

Scope of Swine Barn at BAM

The bottom photo shows not only Lisa Olson's shop at BAM, but also the scope of the Swine Barn interior, where numerous classrooms, exhibits, demonstrators, and instructors set up during the three-day conference.

The Guild travelers who attended this conference heartily endorse traveling to these types of events for anyone, blacksmith or not. Take opportunities to widen your horizons. Check out even Minnesota events such as those on our summer demonstration opportunities list. Learn new things and make new friends.

— Georgia Myers



Guild Members: Are You Aware?

Most membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October. Date for December will be announced. **Watch each Forum for date and location changes.** 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).

You as a Guild member may attend any of the Guild's Committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings. You do not need to be a member of the committee or the board to attend any of these meetings. All are done on computers using *Zoom*. Meetings are from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. You may attend these meetings from the comfort of your home.

To attend any of the meetings, email a request to the following people and request to be invited to the meeting. They will then email you an invitation with a link to the meeting.

Board of Directors meeting, contact: Martin Masters email at: martin.masters@metalsmith.org

Meetings are held every other month on the second Wednesday of the month, January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Communication Committee, contact: Kim Maas by email at: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com. Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Education Committee, contact: Kim Maas by email at: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com. Meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday of the month.

Program Committee, contact: Derrick Phillips by email at: derrickphillipsa3o3@gmail.com

Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday of the month. The best way for you to know what is happening within the Guild is to attend these meetings. This is where all the decisions are made. You have ideas and suggestions for the Guild, come to the meeting that pertains to your ideas or suggestions and share. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

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



June 2026

June 5, 6, & 7, June Hammer-In at Nowthen-*TGoM's Golden Anniversary!*

June 28, Open Forge for Members Only, MN School of Horseshoeing

July 2026

July 11, Twisted Magic Wand is at SPPS

August 2026

August 8, Instructor's Workshop, MN School of Horseshoeing

August 12, Membership meeting at Dan Pate's home, corn and hog feed! Details TBA.

August 22, Touch Mark Class, MN School of Horseshoeing

2026 Volunteer Opportunities

The new 2026 list of summer demonstration opportunities is now posted on our web page. Follow the link below to see the entire list.

[2026 Summer Demo Ops](#)

Join The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send \$50 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
193 Pennsylvania Ave E
St. Paul MN 55130

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@metalsmith.org.



Address Service

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

The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web

Visit our website at <https://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."

To reach our website quickly, just scan the QR code below.

June 2026



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

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.

The Forum

The Guild of Metalsmiths publishes *The 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

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
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E
St. Paul MN 55130