September 2025

CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

FABA voting & convention news

FABA Elections started online at blacksmithing.org/elections on Aug. 15 and run until Sept. 15. Please VOTE!

For 2026, we have the following positions up for election, followed by the person running. Note that we have only incumbents running. Please consider coming alongside one of our officers with an eye toward becoming part of the future leadership. Some of our current leadership is getting a little "long in the tooth" and are looking for some relief.



David Sandlin
FABA President

FABA has lasted 40 years because volunteers like you have been willing to step up and keep the organization growing.

- President – David Sandlin
- Vice President – Lisa-Anne Conner (However, she is pulling double duty as she is also our program chair! Please consider working with her for this conference so you would be ready to take over next year.)
- Secretary – Tia Kitchen
- SW Trustee – Trez Cole
- NW Trustee – Craig Hines

Once elected, all will start service on Jan. 1, 2026, serving until Dec. 31, 2028.

You can vote online at www.blacksmithing.org/elections, by email to secretary@blacksmithing.org or by mail to FABA Election, 114 Choctaw Cove, Valparaiso, FL 32580.

Ballots that arrive after September 15, 2025, will NOT be counted. Results will be announced via the Clinker Breaker and at the general membership meeting at 7 pm on Oct. 11 at the Best Western Gateway Grand Ballroom, Gainesville.

FABA CON 2025

As I am writing this, we are 60 days away from the 40th and there are only 17 early bird specials left. Registering early will earn you a free lunch ticket that can be used Friday or Saturday. You also want to register with the hotel early. Last year, trying to get a room after the cutoff date was VERY expensive.

We have a lot more about the conference and our need for volunteers to help this event run smoothly inside this newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

I mentioned in the last Clinker Breaker that the best memory I had from my Florida forge trip was seeing the "tree" at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement with nails produced by our blacksmiths over the years. Most of the nails have the touchmark of the smith that made them.

This got me thinking about how we might perpetuate this tradition at our new location. Subsequently, I read about the North Texas Blacksmith Association (NTxBA), which built a display case for their touchmarks in brass.



So, here's the President's challenge for this FABA Convention – and maybe for the next several conventions: Bring your touchmark, and I will supply you with a brass token. Stamp your brass token with your touch mark and name of your forge. I will supply letter stamps if you need them. I will then attach your token to our display case, which currently looks a lot like a board, but trust me, it will get better. Extra points if you supply the nail that is used to attach your token.

Regional Events & Information

FABA has eight regions, and regular meetings are held in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: 1st Saturday–Central NE / 2nd Saturday–NW / 3rd Saturday–SE, Greater Orlando & Gainesville / 4th Saturday–Far West & SW.

The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month).

The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can!

The dates may vary, so check the schedule noted in the Regional Reports or on Facebook, or contact the Regional Coordinator.

Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about events, please check the region's Facebook page or contact the Regional Coordinators:

Greater Orlando Region	John Hare	802-373-1190	legacy.john.hare@gmail.com
Gainesville Region	Jordan Borstelmann	352-727-8260	crookedpathforge@gmail.com
Central Northeast Region	William Thornton	386-916-6117	knifegsx@yahoo.com
North Northeast Region	Doug Hayes	910-330-7601	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Christopher Sandlin	850-865-9596	Chris@traditionsworkshop.com

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) is a nonprofit organization chartered with the state of Florida that is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft.

FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc., contained in this newsletter; our website, www.blacksmithing.org; our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/FloridaBlacksmiths; any of our regional Facebook pages; or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

Contributions to FABA are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. FABA publishes the Florida Clinker Breaker monthly and FABA membership includes a subscription. We solicit correspondence and unpaid articles on any subjects related to FABA's purposes. Send to editor@blacksmithing.org. Materials submitted must be your own work, and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting materials, you are allowing FABA to edit, print and post them to FABA's website. ABANA Chapter newsletters may reprint non-copyrighted material, if it is credited to the author and this newsletter. You need the publisher's permission to reprint copyrighted material unless otherwise noted.

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President's Message

BLACKSMITHING ON THE FARM

Each summer, I have an opportunity to escape the Florida heat and retreat to "Gamal Färnör" for a month of cooler weather in Sweden (high around 72°F each day). "Gamal Färnör" is now our farm; it has been in my bride's side of the family for five generations, and we have become the current stewards.

This place is steeped in history, as there are at least a dozen Viking era grave sites that are "culture marked" on the property. Other homes have been built on this farm and taken down, wells dug and filled in, barns and store houses built then built again.

One of the outbuildings is now called "The Rusty Forge." It predates the current farm house by at least 20 years. The current farm house was built in 1928; electricity and running water were both after thoughts brought in well after the home was constructed.

Needless to say, with harsh winters wearing on the buildings and much improvement needing to be accomplished to bring things up to a modern standard, there is a lot of work to be done on the farm!

The golden rule of any farm is simple: "If you're not fixing something, it's getting worse." So, unless we need to replace a metal part, make a latch or a hinge, I usually don't get an opportunity to fire up the Rusty Forge for some blacksmithing fun. Right now, that looks like it may be a while, as there are a lot of fences to be fixed. I may have escaped the heat of summer, but I never seem to escape work.

One thing that I have noted it the paucity of effort applied to the metal projects I see around here. "Get the job done!" is the priority. Making it look good is a much later afterthought (unless it's going in the house, then it's got to look nice). Take, for example, how a simple gate can be made from a horse shoe. Draw out the ends of a large horse shoe into points. Bend the points 90° so they can be hammered into a post. Slide a rail though the resultant ring and you have a gate that can last 100 years! Lesson learned: It doesn't have to be pretty to get the job done.





NEW CLASSES AT FABA CON 2025

First of all, I want to thank Ben Thompson. For the past two years, Ben has offered a class on making skulls. This year he is changing it up a bit, offering a class on **How To Make Little Pendants** that make great gifts, such as key fobs, necklaces, bracelets or ornaments. They are also an item that you can just keep in your pocket so you have something to show people when you talk about blacksmithing. Hearts, leaves, spirals, twists: the possibilities are many and you will have plenty of opportunities to learn new techniques in this moderately advanced class.



Our **Rivet Class** has been totally revamped. Although this is still an introductory level class, if you are quick, you can make 3 projects in this session, or maybe make one or two projects and take the rest to the open forges to finish up. If you don't have time to take the class but feel confident in your skills, you can purchase the blanks for the hand trowel and the hoe at the Traditions Workshop vendor tent.



Although not an intro level class, the **Dragon Bracelet** is a fairly simple project because the shape is already cut out with a plasma cutter. You will want to texture (hand tool Chasing/Repouss'e will be taught) the surface of your dragon bracelet to make it more interesting before bending it around to grip your wrist. Typically, the wings are bent back toward each other, leaving a gap of approximately 1 and ½ inches. However, this gap all depends on the size of your wrist. The long tail can also be forged into an interesting shape.



With such a simple project, this leaves a lot of time available for ornamentation during this four-hour session.The first ornamentation process we would like you to learn is how to apply enamel to your dragon. Enameling is the art of applying a glass coating on a metal surface.

The next embellishment for your dragon will be using metal dye. We will have a small compressor set up with two airbrushes: one with blue metal dye and the other with green metal dye. Other applications and finishes will be discussed as time permits.

Repairing A Broken Heart is a little bit tongue in cheek, but this class is a lot of fun. You will receive a pre-cut brass heart that you will cut and hammer into a three-dimensional shape. You will also be encouraged to drill some holes that we can use to attach gears, keys, or other embellishments to the heart that you're working on.



This is a family friendly class without prerequisites. However, discretion is advised as we will be doing both hot and cold work and be using power tools.

Viking Era Lock. This may be a simple lock but this is not a simple class! In order for us to finish the project in the 4 hours available, we have simplified several steps, but be forewarned! This is an ADVANCED project.



To save time we will not make our own lock bodies but use 3" of 1" OD pipe for the body. The pipe will be left cut 90° on one end but you will use an angle grinder and belt sander to cut 45°+/- on the other end. Then you will use a hack saw or an angle grinder to cut about ½ way through the pipe. You will punch and drift a hole in the end cut to 45° to accept the shackle.

The bolt is made from a piece of 1" round stock. You are encouraged to ornament the "face" of the bolt.

Shackle and key are both made of 3/8" round stock.

After all the parts have been made, tested, filed and fitted and tested again several times we will accomplish finally assembly.

So for FABA CON 2025, our 40th anniversary we have a lot of great classes to complement our demonstrations.

— David Sandlin, President

FABACON Schedule So Far

A quick thumbnail review of our current class listings:

Friday AM:

Blacksmithing 1 (introductions)
Blacksmithing 2 (rivets – new this year, garden tools)
Cold work, metal dye and enamel Dragon bracelets with Christopher Sandlin
Viking Era lock with David Sandlin

Friday PM:

Blacksmithing 1 (introduction)
Copper Roses & Critters
Friction Folding Knife with LeRoi Price
Making Tongs for your Toolbox
Pendants & Things with Ben Thompson
Family program: Bags to Baskets with Shiloh Thomas

Saturday AM:

ABANA National Curriculum Level I with Rusty Osborne (6 hours)
Knife making with Peter Hill (6 hours)
Copper Bracelets & Bangles
Forge Welding
Leather Knife Sheath Making (6 hours)
Hammer Swing Ergonomics
Treadle Hammer Workshop with Kirk Sullens

Saturday PM:

ABANA National Curriculum Level I with Rusty Osborne (continued)
Knife making with Peter Hill (continued)
Leather Knife Sheath Making (continued)
Heat Treating
Projects with Nails
Treadle Hammer Workshop with Kirk Sullens
Wrapping Paracord Handles and Low Voltage Electro Etching with Dawn Fortenberry
Presentation by Jordan Borstelmann about the lessons learned during his sword class
Family program: Ribbon Flowers with Shiloh Thomas

Sunday AM:

Blacksmithing 2 (rivets – new this year, garden tools)
Forge Welding
Making Tongs for your Toolbox
How to Repair a Broken Heart with David Sandlin (white smithing, working brass)

Registration is OPEN!

The Gateway Grand hotel is ready for reservations; the event is loaded on the website (www.blacksmithing.org) and classes are almost all posted, but being continually updated (check back often).

Now is a great time to register for FABA CON 2025, our 40th anniversary event.

Remember the first 50 people registered will get a lunch ticket included with their registration ($50/all 3 days, $25/one day. See the full pricing at www.blacksmithing.org.)

A couple of changes for our 40th anniversary event:

Friday classes we run as per before, 4 hours in the morning and 4 hours in the afternoon.

Friday night we will have a forging competition hosted by the Bearded Brotherhood of Blacksmiths starting at 7:30pm.

Sunday classes will also be as per normal; 4 hours but only in the morning.

However, Saturday classes and demonstrations will be shorter, 8-11am and 1-4pm, or 3 hours each.

This will leave us with a 2-hour lunch break, allowing more time at Iron in the Hat. And in the evening, it gives a chance for everyone to cool off and freshen up prior to our banquet (6pm), general membership meeting (7pm) and auction (7:30pm).

This will also leave you some time to visit the gallery, vote for the Best in Show, peruse the Auction items and go through the bookstore, all of which will be in the ballroom.

On Saturday, expect the ABANA Level 1, Peter Hill's knife class and the leather sheath class to use both sessions (6-hour classes). The rest of Saturday's classes will be 3 hours each, but many classes are now limited to 6 students.

Consequently, you will note that pricing for classes has gone up, but our student/instructor ratio has gone down. Yes, the cost for classes is more than last year, but I believe we are delivering a better-quality product. Individual class prices range from $60 to $120 per student.

You will be able to register for classes once you have signed up for the event. There will be a link in the email receipt to allow you to pick classes, plus there is a new feature on the website allowing you to select the classes that you want to pay for after you register.

Demonstrators are still being finalized, but Eric Velleca of Velleca Metal Design will be in the house. Velleca Metal Design creates custom functional and non functional metalwork, from hair pins to commercial ironwork. Eric Velleca has decades of experience in forging and fabrication and creates large scale architectural ironwork, furniture and sculpture as well as custom bikes, cars and bicycles.

Best Western Gateway Grand is located at 4200 NW 97th Boulevard, Gainesville, FL 32606. A link to FABACON's discounted rooms is on the website at www.blacksmithing.org/fabacon. Reserve early! The hotel sold out of rooms last year.

Remember, the Gateway Grand is pet-friendly, so there is no need to leave your fur babies at home.



We need YOU!

Volunteers. So many of us work with various educational not-for-profit organizations, and we are Very Aware that our Volunteers are the heart, the spine, the very lifeblood of our groups.

As a member, you *are* a Volunteer for FABA: Your support and your sharing of knowledge are vital to our continuance and our growth! THANK YOU.

As our FABA 40th Anniversary Conference fast approaches, I do want to make you aware of even more direct volunteer opportunities.

There are various direct, immediate benefits when you volunteer for the Conference! From the free Iron-In-The-Hat tickets for bringing cases of water (up to three cases of water per person), to T-shirts, and even to comped registration, there are levels of "swag" for levels of commitment.

Beyond the extraordinary needs of both Thursday's set-up and Sunday's strike & load-out, we need folks for the following:

- Maintain the coolers in each tent
- Monitor the trash receptacles
- Make trips off-site for gasoline and other supplies
- Assist with the Open Forge tent supervision
- Accept donations for Iron-In-The-Hat and then assist with the arranging & display and sell those raffle tickets
- Help with the Gallery & Auction (especially on Saturday evening, when we need folks to help with the set-up of the Memorial Anvil, to spot for our Auctioneer, and to walk through the crowd to display items & encourage bidding, to assist with the close-out and clean-up)
- And serve as ambassadors for those poor folks sharing the hotel who will, no doubt, be wondering just what is going on (and why do these people smell funny).

Should you be unable to join us for this year's festivities, we still need you!!!! Are you into social media? Do you have a contact in the Arts, at an educational venue, at the newspaper or radio station? Please help us to get the word out!!!

— Lisa Anne Conner, Vice President





Greater Orlando's Summer Break

Orlando is taking a break from the heat of the summer and will stay on sabbatical through the holidays. Meetings will resume in January at UnderGround Metal Works, 660 W Kennedy Blvd Suite A, Orlando, FL 32810 FL.

For information, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or legacy.john.hare@gmail.com.

— John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator

Far West Meeting Report

Our Far West meeting was rather small, only 5 of us braved the heat. But, good news, we had two new members and John Butler did an excellent job hosting lunch for our small team. Some work was done on the regional project, parts were made for the storyboard that will accompany the class on the Viking lock in October, but most of the time was spent coaching our two new members on the basics of Blacksmithing. Hopefully they will be able to make it to FABA CON this year.

Far West Meeting Schedule

Our September 27th meeting will be held at Traditions Workshop, 418 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547. All meetings start at 9 a.m.

We hope to be assembling our group project and to be working on our gift exchange projects – "something that opens." There will also be some demonstrations on techniques for the Journeyman standards program.

During the September meeting, we will also be pre-packing the trailer in anticipation of FABA CON 25, our 40th anniversary get-together. Hope to see everyone at the Best Western Gateway Grand on Oct. 10-12, 2025.

We are not planning another meeting in October but we do plan to meet for our now-annual forging competition held at Timber Creek on November 8th. The competition is early this year because we plan to be off Viking the next two weekends in November, then Thanksgiving and Christmas.

January 24, 2026 and February 28, 2026 meetings will be held at Traditions Workshop. We hope to have the BIG barn built on Christopher's property by then, so look for a new address as things progress.

For any meeting where we do not have a specific project or objective expect us to cover the FABA journeyman standards or parts of the ABANA National Curriculum as the year progresses.

— David and Christopher Sandlin, Far West

Central NE Region Report

We had a great August meeting as we made progress on our group project.

Central NE Region Meeting, Sept. 6

Where: Barberville Pioneer Settlement, 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Pierson FL, 32180

When: Sept. 6, 9 am - 4 pm

We will continue to work on our group project. The meeting will start at 9 am and lunch will be provided

Please check the FABA NE Facebook page for more info at facebook.com/groups/381431599058683/, or contact William Thornton at knifegsx@yahoo.com. Thank you!

— William Thornton, Central NE Coordinator

SW Region Meeting Report

There was no SW meeting in August.

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator

SW Region Meeting, Sept 27

Hopefully the extreme heat of this of summer will be over but just in case we will start our SW meeting earlier at 9 am on Saturday Sept 27th at my NEW workshop – FishnChips Forge. Please note the new address.

We will finalize the build for our cross project, which will involve riveting and collaring and cleanup.

FishnChips Forge is located at Unit 213 Sawyer Business Park, 4023 Sawyer Road, Sarasota. The location is close to the corner of Sawyer Road and Bee Ridge Road.

Please bring an item for the Iron and Hat raffle. Please also dress appropriately and bring something to share for lunch. Also, be aware of the heat and humidity and keep hydrated!

Please check our FABA SW Facebook page for more info at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674, or contact antony.fenn@gmail.com. Thank you!

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator

NW Region Meeting Report

The Northwest region had our August meeting at the home of Craig and Marcia Hines. We had good attendance, 24 people signed in. Craig gave us a demonstration of making a trivet. I had forecast no raffle and to bring your own brown bag lunch, but people brought donations for the raffle anyway, so we had one. Someone brought hot dogs for the grill, so we still had lunch for everyone, too.

As I was sitting with the group watching the demo, I noticed that we were getting pretty old, as a group, so I stood up and asked for a show of hands for anyone under 50, and I got none! Anyone under 60? And I got only one! Makes me wonder where the younger blacksmiths are?

I'm not complaining though, I couldn't ask for a better group of people who contribute to the meeting and simply enjoy themselves!



Bruce Everett, right, won the the trivet demonstrated by Craig Hines.

NW Region Meeting, September

For our September meeting, we're going to meet at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. The second Saturday in September is the 13th. The address is N.W. Pioneer Settlement Rd. Blountstown, Florida. 32424.

We teach classes at the settlement during the cooler months of the year, starting in September and ending in May. The classes are offered on the first and third Saturdays, to work around our monthly meeting schedule, so our first class will be Saturday Sept 6th.

One of the things we teach in the classes is how to make tongs. For our meeting, I'm asking for volunteers to make a pair of tongs for our demonstration. It will be a contest, with the tongs being donated to the raffle, and the winner of the contest will be the one with the most tickets trying to win it.

You can bring your own tools and supplies, or we will have everything you need to make them. I'm planning to participate in the contest and I'm trying to decide between "No tong tongs" from 1/4" x 1" flat bar or "Upset the Boss tongs" from 3/8" rod.

For our lunch, we're going to gather in the log cabin. We will also have our raffle in the log cabin, because I'm sure we will all be ready for some air conditioning!

I'm asking Suzy to make a double size pot of her favorite spaghetti meat sauce, and I'll bring pasta and several loaves of French bread to make garlic bread. Ken is going to bring ingredients to make salad, and we can bring sides and desserts. This will be our last meeting before the conference, I hope to see you there!!

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator





North NE Meeting Report

Things were warming up in St. Augustine at Iron Osprey Forge. We had 5 folks who came in, including a first-time visitor interested in joining FABA.

We had a productive day, working with the oxy/propane torch, coal forge, gas forge and introducing a couple of folks to their first experience with MIG welding. Made a couple of tools to get the job done and everyone had a good time.

William Thorton did double duty by continuing his regular visits to St. Augustine even after assuming the role of coordinator for the central NE region. Folks enjoyed some fried chicken and veggies before diving back into work, and we got a lot done for our regional project while letting some folks expand their skills.

Ben Thompson is heading up our NNE regional project, and it is designed to allow folks to work on a contribution at their home forges. Some of the components are easy enough to do even in a small home forge and can be fun and whimsical. Reach out to Ben (thompsoncrafted@gmail.com) or Doug for specifications and sample pics if you are interested. (Cue the spooky music, Twilight Zone-style: You ARE very Interested... VERY INTERESTED...)

And of course we love having you come to the meetings, even if only for a quick visit, so check out the meetings and work days below.

North NE Meeting Schedule

In September we'll resume the FABA Thursday open forge (Sept 11th, 4-8 pm) and our meeting will be the second Saturday (Sept. 13th), as usual, at Iron Osprey Forge, starting at 9 a.m. The address is 102 Marshall Circle, St. Augustine.

October be a busy month finishing up the project, with meetings earlier in the month. Thursday, Oct 2nd, will be the FABA Thursday, the NNE meeting will be on Oct. 4th (same day as the Barberville meeting) and there will also be a catch-up workday on Sunday, Oct. 5th.

Conference is the following week and we'll get to see our friends from across the state.

Hammer on and enjoy the cooler (by a bit) weather. Please check our FABA NE Facebook page for more info at facebook.com/groups/381431599058683/, or contact djhayes29@hotmail.com. Thank you!

— Doug Hayes, NNE Region Coordinator









SE Region Report

Another hot day at the farm, two coal forges burning. Working on many projects today. One new face here(always like to see that). Looking forward to the Conference.

The SE Region meets every third Saturday of the month at The Farm, 1566 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL. Just turn off Military at the pole painted red, white and blue, and follow your GPS or Google maps. It should get you there!

Get more info on the FABA SE Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002

— Gary Becker, member









Support our FABA business members

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Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL
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Cameron LaFrance - Micco, FL

Interested in being a FABA sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Contact FABA President David Sandlin at President@blacksmithing.org and include your business name, tag line, and contact information.

Jerry Grice Scholarship deadline: Dec. 31

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Jerry Grice, one of our charter members. Its purpose is to further the craft of blacksmithing, and any FABA member who has been in good standing for at least one year qualifies to apply. The $1,000 award may be divided evenly amongst multiple winners. If a single winner, the award is limited to the actual cost or $1,000, whichever is lesser. It may be used for materials, tuition, lodging and transportation (paid at the rate of 43.2 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation, whichever is lesser).

A letter of application or a detailed email may be submitted provided the applicant answers the following questions:

1. What is your name, address and phone number?

2. How much experience in blacksmithing do you have?

3. How will this instruction help you with your blacksmithing craft?

4. What is the name of the school you wish to attend?

5. What is the name of the course and the name of the instructor teaching the class?

6. What costs will be incurred (tuition, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Jerry Grice Scholarship, the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of learned skills during a regular FABA meeting, and to write an article concerning the learning experience, including a "how-to" portion, for publication in the Clinker Breaker within 6 months of completing the class.

The next item is not required but strongly suggested: An item should be made with the new knowledge and offered for auction at the Annual Conference.

Completed letters of application or emails should be sent to John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or jgbutler@sprintmail.com.

Deadline for receipt is Dec. 31, 2025. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final, and the successful applicant(s) will be notified after the vote. The scholarship amount of $1000 may be split evenly amongst multiple candidates if deemed so by the FABA Board of Directors.

FABA Veterans Scholarship Fund Application

The FABA Veterans' Scholarship Fund was established to help veterans to experience the world of blacksmithing. The intent is to assist veterans to get started in the craft with an experienced teacher to provide a guiding hand at the start of the journey, maximizing their learning experience. As such, it is not intended for those with intermediate or advanced skills to hone their craft – rather to assist beginners to learn the basics or to advance to some intermediate skills. First priority will be given to first-time students or early beginner level classes, and then to intermediate level courses.

1. Recipients must be veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force).
   a. Individuals must be able to provide proof of current service or honorable discharge with active duty ID or DD214.

2. Scholarship will reimburse 80% of a blacksmithing class/course(s) registration fee up to $100 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. The coursework must be considered to be directly related to blacksmithing (not welding/fabrication). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) reserves the right to determine which coursework is appropriate during the review process.

3. Awardees will be notified via email and USPS the status of their application approximately two weeks after the committee meets.

Get full scholarship and application information at www.blacksmithing.org/scholarships

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association
David Sandlin, President
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September 2025

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FABA Membership Application: Membership begins when your application and $30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via WIX by going to www.blacksmithing.org and clicking the **JOIN FABA** button to access the Square payment system.
OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for $30 to FABA's temporary Membership Secretary at:

FABA Membership Secretary,
C/O Sandlin
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580

NAME _____

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

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