



Herewith, are the Nomination forms that are necessary for the nominating of the up and coming election, which will be held in St. Louis on Sunday October 17th, 2010. To be elected are the offices of **Executive Director** and the **Treasurer**. Nominations are to be in the possession of the Nominations Committee Chairman, David Briggs, by **Monday July 19th, 2010**. I understand the limited time remaining, but there is still enough for you to make your nominations.

Also, included, is an envelope for you to mail your nomination(s) to David Brigs, Chairman. Name your nominee, fill in the form, place a stamp on the envelope, and put it in the hands of the US Post Office.

We have suffered a great loss in our organization with the death of Gerald Woody, Past President of the Georgia Leather Guild. We knew Gerald as “Woody” and as a very dedicated member of his Guild and the IFoLG. Leathercraft was so important to Woody that when he retired from the health care industry, he and his son built an outstanding structure in Cochran, GA. There, Woody owned and operated Bar W Leather. I knew Woody as a man with a great passion for our craft and the people who practice the craft. Woody had a willingness to do those things that most individual would consider impossible, and he excelled in the achievement.

Our hopes and prayers are with his wife, Jerry, in this most difficult time.

The Leather Industry has also lost a giant of a man. Bill Reis passed away in the early morning of May 12, 2010. It was in 1991 when Bill and wife Dot took on an insurmountable task of the ownership and publishers of *The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal*. In 2004 Bill received the Al Stohlman Award for Achievement in Leathercraft, and in 2006 Bill and Dot (each) received the Lifetime Merit Achievement Award in Leathercraft. Bill’s enthusiasm and enduring drive to publish The Journal will be forever remembered as a supporting foundation of the leathercraft industry.

On April 23, 2010, Bill received the devastating news that he had terminal cancer. He prepared a letter to all. Within this letter were the words, “. . . It has been my most distinguished pleasure to have known you. We have become friends across America, Canada, and around the world mainly all in the interest of leatherwork and, yes.... I remember well so many of those warm handshakes of yesteryear. It’s been a privilege to bring about a network of companies and leatherworkers. It has been a long journey.”

Bill has given his life’s energy to enhance and make grow our craft. For me, the journey with Bill Reis has been much too short.

HEADS-UP: In mid April, information came to me regarding banking procedures. The info was; that, if your organization does not have a **Federal ID number** to identify your banking accounts, said bank would not allow access to your funds until you had this ID #. (There is more to this new *rule* than we have time for and is imposing to say the least.)

If you have a banking account (checking or savings) for your guild, it is (will be) necessary to have either a person's social security number or a federal ID# to identify this account. You do not have to incorporate (within your resident state) your guild to get this number. You must, however, contact the IRS by either completing the necessary form or calling them. It is easier to just call them on a Wednesday or Thursday at 1-800-829-4933 (they are not so busy then). If you fill out a form and send it by mail it will take 4 to 6 weeks to get your number. If you go on line (internet) to fill out the form and submit it, the lead-time is about 2 weeks. If you call them, you will get your ID# during the call. There is no form to fill out (they do it for you) and there is no cost to this process. The ID# is an Employer Identification Number (EIN).

The form for this process is FSS4 and can be found in a PDF format on line at www.irs.gov. then, find non-profit organizations and the form ss4. It was revised January 2010, and on page 2 it will show "opened a bank account", "Needs an EIN for banking purposes only."

Even though your 'not for profit' guild doesn't plan to have employees, your reason for having this EIN is for **banking purposes**. And, you will have to file another form which will identify your guild as a non-profit (not for profit) entity. The downside to applying for the EIN is that, the individual applying must provide their SS#. And, you will have an annual filing requirement. When and if you continue to file for non-profit status the forms needed are 1023 for a 501 (c) (3), or form 1024 for a 501 (a), which is more likely. Filing one of these forms will have a small cost.

Now, *back to the grass roots*: Do you have to do all of this in order to meet and greet like-minded leather craftsmen, to meet on a regular schedule at a called time and place, and practice and teach the craft we love so much? NO. No you do not. Do you have to do all of this stuff if you collect a dues or a fee for membership? Well, maybe. Or keep your money in a can. Do you need this headache to buy stuff (tools, leather, etc.), or pay a bill, rent, attendance fees, or any other dues? Maybe you should give it some thought. Do you want to own assets, pay rent, demonstrate in a public as a vendor at a commercial site, sell items to make an income for your guild, make an accounting of any money you collect, and deposit it in a bank, and doing any of these things under the name of your guild? Yes, most certainly. And, even incorporating in your state of residence or operation should be considered. Do you need an accountant or an attorney to help you proceed with this process? Maybe and no. Some education about this subject should be in order and some advisement should be considered to bring about a correct and enduring entity. You should know and understand the continuing responsibility.

Please allow me an opportunity to give a disclaimer: I am not an attorney or an accountant. I mean no disrespect to you or your guild, and I understand and respect the trials and tribulations that might exist under and within each circumstance. I am of the 'old school' philosophy of "let's just get it done and do it." You and I are being affected by radical changes in our living systems and we have little or no opportunity to change them to be more favorable or beneficial to us. They (regulations) have a menacing effect on our ability and desire to do the simple things

we enjoy. These banking rules are just another roadblock to getting it done. Do I like it? Well here's a big NO from my end, but I have to learn and apply the correct tool(s) in getting to my objective level of accomplishment. It is without doubt, that I will be challenged, but I strongly believe that the IFoLG should be able to give you information that might help you in achieving your guild's objectives.

2010 IFoLG Annual Show is being hosted by the Gateway Leather Guild of St. Louis, MO. The event SHOW ME THE LEATHER will be held at The Renaissance St. Louis Hotel Airport on **October 14th thru the 17th, 2010**. Guild President and Show Chairman, Ben Bass is on a definite path of producing a supper show. Competition Chairman, Charlie Crow has already produced a display of outstanding awards that will represent some of the best competition we have yet seen. Head Judge, Ernie Wayman is promising an award winning team of qualified judges in the Masters, Advanced, Open, and Special Z Divisions. This year should produce some of the best competition we have seen. Each year it just gets better and better.

Informing Ben's team of your interest of attending and participating in competition is important in the over all success of the Annual Show. Being a registered guest at The Renaissance can have a major result to the show's success by helping achieve the necessary 'room nights' requirement. One more room-night can make a difference. A special rate of \$94.00 has been negotiated with the Renaissance and you will be impressed with this facility.

After you have read the above, go to website www.ifolg2010show.org. Enjoy. Ben and his team have put together a terrific information site for this show. You can copy your form(s) or fill them out on line and even pay on line with pay-pal. There is also a link to The Renaissance Hotel site. You should sign up (see the form) and then you can sign in and move around in the site. The certified 2010 Competition Rules are also there. You will also want to visit frequently to get updates on the classes being offered.

Future Annual Shows: It will continue to be a practice to give a wide berth to the Host Guild of any current year; to advertise, and promote their show without competition from future show hosts. The Board of Governors meeting on the Sunday of the Annual Show marks the beginning promotional drive for the next annual host. However, as each future Host agrees to take the enormous responsibility of a future show, it is important to give everyone the 'heads up' on who and where: **The 2011 Annual Show** is being hosted by the **International Internet Leather Guild, Ron Ross, President, in Albuquerque, New Mexico**. The site has been chosen and committee heads are eager (that's an understatement). **The 2012 Annual Show** will be hosted by the **South Central Leather Craft Guild, Sam Hagan, President, in Nashville, TN**. The final site negotiations are pending. Sam and his guild have been making plans for the past year even though they are still two and a half years out. **The 2013 Annual Show** is still pending but I am hopeful to revisit Denver, CO, with the Columbine Guild as host. **The 2014 Show** is now being considered by two guilds, and the **2015 Show** is being considered by two guilds.

A reminder: Thirty (30) days before each IFoLG Annual Show it is necessary and an obligation of each IFoLG Member Guild to provide a list of its members to the Host Guild, AND a copy of this same list sent to the IFoLG Treasure with a check for membership dues in the amount equal to \$1.00 per member. (This has not changed since the beginning of time.)

The list to the host guild must reach the Competition Chairman for proof of membership. All competitors must have a Guild Membership with an IFoLG Member Guild. If competitors are not listed as a member of an IFoLG Guild they cannot compete. Any new member of your guild should be listed at this time. If you re-submit a member(s) later that 30 days because of typo error (or any other reason), their name(s) should also appear on the previous year's list. Otherwise, competition item submitted cannot be judged.

Your list with payment of dues is important also. This is the only means of income for your Federation.

To help remind you with sending these lists, I will send to you the envelopes needed to direct *who* gets the lists and *where* the list goes.

Federation Web Site www.ifolg.org: As of May 20th our web site has been re-set. New format is taking place now. The learning curve in this project has taken its toll, and getting access changed has also been pressing. Time is everyone enemy. When all is completed, the data, codes, user ID, and all other access info will be kept by each line officer. This will include the additional software needed for development of this site. If the Federation is going to pay for something, there should be record of vital information for this asset. Till now, there hasn't been. We owned the safe but did not have the combination to get in.

The data pages that are being set-up are: IFoLG Guild Members and their contact information (to include line officers), Current Annual Show Info, Current Competition Rules and Classes, Competition Results of the Latest Show, Advancement and Tracking Summaries, with Certified Advanced and Master Division Competitors, Photos of Competition Entries, Photos of Annual Show Participants & Activities, News Letters, and Member Guilds Special High-Lites. There have been suggestions for presenting the Blue Book with in the site. I personally believe the Blue Book should not be there. However, if you have comments on this or any other suggestions for the site, will you please contact me. I am assured the subject of the site will be discussed at the coming Board of Governors meeting.

Talk with you soon,
Edd Lucas, your Executive Director.

Here's some information to help with communication:

Executive Director: Edd Lucas
2264 So. Logan Drive
New Palestine, IN 46163
Home Phone 317-861-9711
Cel Phone 317-691-0321
Email: eddjanlucas@sbcglobal.net

Asst. Director: Alex Madson
P.O. Box 233
Marshall, IN 47859-0233
Email: compasroselc@alo.com

Recording Secretary: Carol Higgins
1314 Valdosta Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
Email: Higgins@teknology.net

Treasurer: Monica Nibbe
534 E. 378th Ave., Lot 100
Hobart, IN 46342

2010 Host Guild: Gateway Leather Guild
Ben Bass, President and Show Chairman
Charlie Crow, Competition Chairman
Web Site: www.ifolg2010show.org
