

ABATE membership meeting 2-14-12 at the Am Vets Hall, Ronkonkoma

7:38 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance; Moment of silence for our soldiers. Jim also asked that we keep in our thoughts and prayers Bill Earley, an active ABATE member and Patriot Guard Rider who recently passed away.

Motion 3-2012: Motion to wave the reading of the January membership meeting minutes. (seconded) All in favor.

2011 Veterans Run Presentations: Chairperson of our 2011 Veterans Run, Bill Quinn, along with **Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore** presented donations to the following veterans organizations and veterans interests: (Bill first wanted to say that while only 180 riders attended the Veterans Run, through their generosity, \$5,000 was raised.) Bill was able to get a matching grant for a total of \$10,000 being donated tonight directly to our Veterans.

1. \$500 to Mandy's Heart, a cause supported by the Enders Motorcycle Club for the daughter of a Navy Corman who was born with a congenital heart defect. (A special thank you to the Enders MC for their road guarding on this run.)
2. \$500 to Suffolk County United Veterans
3. \$1,000 to the Stony Brook Veterans Home to be used for their recreation program.
4. \$2,000 to the VA Medical Center in Northport, given to veterans there to purchase supplies. (An additional \$2,000 check was reissued to the VA Medical Center from the 2010 Veterans Run which had gone uncashed.)
5. \$500 to the American Legion Post 924, Hampton Bays, who were the Color Guard for our Run.
6. \$1500 to the 911 Veterans
7. \$2000 to the US Veterans MC, Long Island Chapter to help purchase a trailer to continue with their outreach work for Veterans.
8. \$500 to the Patriot Guard for flag maintenance and other expenses.

9. \$1500 to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 11, for their home heating oil program.

Old Business

NYS Senator Flanagan recently held a Town Hall Meeting in which 60+ ABATE members attended. Jim spoke of the profiling by the NY State Troopers and their motorcycle only roadblocks.

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore, who is a supporter of ABATE, also attended this meeting. At his invitation, ABATE board members met with Legislator Muratore, who will support stopping this “harassment of motorcycle riders”.

State Senator Zeldin’s office reached out to Long Island ABATE. Jim set up a meeting for Friday 2/24 @ 9:30 to discuss the motorcycle only roadblocks at the state level. Jim will discuss how the Suffolk County Police now use grant money for safety, awareness and education, instead of their previous practice of motorcycle only roadblocks.

2012 Long Island ABATE Motorcycle Handbook: Advertising rates are \$50 per business card (3 business cards per page) or \$100 for a full page. One thousand handbooks will be printed and first distributed at our Motorcycle, Safety and Awareness Run. Membership is encouraged to seek advertisers for this handbook.

Guest speakers for future membership meetings: If anyone has a suggestion, please see a board member. At the ABATE of NY state seminar, it was stressed how many motorcyclists are underinsured, so an insurance agent to speak of this may be beneficial. *Rich Rossi from Specialized Insurance has offered to review any ABATE member’s motorcycle policy, whether it is through his agency or not, to assist the motorcycle community with this issue.*

April 15th Safety and Awareness Run: Sponsored by Long Island ABATE, Full Throttle Magazine and **Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone**. Run will begin at the Dennison Building in Hauppauge. A bike blessing by the Bikers for Christ will

be offered, and exhibits from the Suffolk County Police, NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, Governor's Traffic Safety / Motorcycle Safety Program, various motorcycle schools, etc. will be set up. Radio station WRCN will also be there. The run will be escorted to the Brickhouse Brewery in Patchogue.

March 25th Chili Run: Run will begin at the Riverhead Elks (Registration begins at 10:00, kickstands up at 11:30) and will end at Finnigan's Wake, South Jamesport. There will be a chili contest (members please enter your best recipe), door prizes and music.

Officers Reports

Bill / Treasurer: We no longer get a rebate from the state for our dues money, so our treasury is low. Money is beginning to come in from advertisers in our handbook, and we will also be receiving a \$2000 reimbursement from a community initiative grant submitted on our behalf by then **Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington**. Bill stated that our newsletter cost alone is \$500+/month and again asks if anyone would like to receive the newsletter via email, to help keep our costs down, please let a board member know. Bill also stressed that one way to raise money is through our runs /events, so please attend.

Wayne / Vice-President: is looking into getting ABATE advertisements emphasizing motorcycle awareness on the tv screens in gas stations. These ads will reach our targeted audience (drivers on the road) and will be repeated approximately every 5 minutes (the time it takes to fill a gas tank). Wayne is applying for \$10,000 through ABATE-MAC, a 501C-3 corporation that has been approved for \$50,000 in grant money through the Governor's Traffic Safety Board.

Bob / Sergeant At Arms : asks membership to support our upcoming chili run.

Jim H., Wayne O./Road Captains: ask if anyone is interested in road guarding on our runs, please sign up with them.

We thank ABATE member, **Kathy Pfeil** , for her initiative in getting a **Look Twice Save a Life** sign posted in front of the Mastic Ambulance Building.

Motion 4-2012: Motion to adjourn. (seconded) Meeting adjourned at 8:40