

LI ABATE membership meeting 1-12-16, Ronkonkoma, NY

BBQ before the meeting. *Thank you to Joe, Jackie and Claudia for barbequing tonight.*

7:35 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence for **Tom Heisenbottle**, past vice-president of the Long Island Chapter of ABATE of NY, who was killed in a hit and run motorcycle accident.

Present LI ABATE member, **Ed Berger**, thanked all who prayed for him and wished him well after he was involved in a motorcycle accident.

Swearing in of Officers: 2016 LI ABATE Board Officers sworn in by **Bob Brinker, Director of LI HOG**

Welcome new members and guests.

There was no membership meeting in December, therefore minutes were not published in the January newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Detailed income and expenditures were reported. *Bill also reported that in 2015, over \$4,000 was spent on food for monthly membership meetings. At the last membership meeting in 2015, it was suggested that a voluntary donation jar be put out to help offset the cost of food. Tonight \$119 was collected. Thank you to all who donated.*

Motion 1-2016: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

Jackie / Membership: Kim is currently helping Jackie with the membership program. LI ABATE over 1,400 members and continues to grow. Memberships can be renewed by mail, online or at a membership meeting. Memberships can be renewed at any time. Your current membership will be extended for one year. *It is imperative that members renew and that we keep our membership numbers up. It is the only way we can be effective when we meet with public officials, as we are representing over 1400+ members.* If you are not receiving LI ABATE newsletters or e-mails, please let Jackie know and she will update her e-mail data base.

Nancy / Newsletter: A link was sent out to members for the January 2016 newsletter. Nancy encourages all to send her pictures, articles, stories, event flyers, etc., for publication in our newsletter. **Website:** Holiday party pictures have been posted on our website. LI ABATE memberships / renewals can be processed online.

Mike / Public Relations: Mike will begin to publicize our Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run (which will be on April 3) next month.

Joe / Safety Officer: LI ABATE has forms to be filled out for complaints about road conditions. Municipalities are now ordering asphalt for road repairs, so the more informed municipalities are now, the more prepared they can be.

Kathy / Products: Products are available for purchase at all membership meetings. Kathy is running a new t-shirt design contest. Get your designs in to her by the March membership meeting. The winner will get a free 5 year membership to LI ABATE and a t-shirt with their winning design.

Old Business

Court Cases: LI ABATE continues to monitor cases where a motorcyclist is seriously injured by a motorist. This is taken very seriously by the District Attorney and the presiding Judge on the case, as any advocacy group in attendance makes a difference in court proceedings and outcomes. Due to LI ABATE's presence in court, the DA has informed the Suffolk County Police Department that any accident involving a motorcycle must go to the DA Bureau Chief to sign off on. LI ABATE is currently tracking the case of the driver, Ndala, who hit and killed **Tom Heisenbottle**, a motorcyclist and former Vice President of the Long Island Chapter of ABATE of NY. Ndala subsequently fled the scene of the accident. He is being charged with 1st degree vehicular manslaughter and 2nd degree manslaughter, and held on one million dollar bail. The next court date for this case is January 26 in the chambers of Judge Steven Braslow. Please check postings on Facebook for further information. LI ABATE is also monitoring an accident occurring on Sunrise Hwy, in which a member of Riders Don't Play MC was hit from behind and suffered serious injury. This case is now under investigation for leaving the scene of an accident resulting in injury and driving at an unsafe speed. Details will be provided as they are received.

Motorcycle Only Checkpoints: There has not been a motorcycle only checkpoint in Suffolk County by the Suffolk County Police Department since September 2014. Nationally, the MRF has been lobbying against motorcycle only checkpoints. Currently there is a federal bill which includes language prohibiting NHTSA from funding any state for the purpose of motorcycle only checkpoints. (States get grant money for MOC through the federal government.) Nationally, we are very close to getting all federal funds for MOC eliminated.

Scholarship Committee: Long Island ABATE has established a scholarship fund, which this year is being dedicated to **Stavros Dalambakis**, who was the inspiration for starting this fund upon his death last February. We are looking for a committee to develop criteria and procedures in order to implement this fund this year. **Debbie, Pastor Gerry and Ice Cream John** volunteered to be on this committee.

Life Insurance: As a member of LI ABATE, you are entitled to a free \$4000 life insurance policy. The insurance company will send out a letter informing you of this policy. (The insurance

company gives LI ABATE the letters and postage. We put on our own mailing labels. We do not give out member information.) A card will be included with this letter telling you to contact an insurance representative about this insurance. You do not have to send in this card. The life insurance will automatically be given to your estate.

New Business

Dealership Packets: **George, our Sgt. At Arms**, has been diligently working on packets to be offered to motorcycle dealers informing them about LI ABATE, and encouraging them to promote us through memberships. With the implementation of this program, LI ABATE will give publicity to dealers and in turn, dealers will help to increase our membership. *If anyone knows or has a relationship with a dealer, please contact George. Thank you to those members, Vinny, Mark, Mike, Steve, Josephine and Alex, who have offered to help with this program.*

Organizational Meeting for the 70 motorcycle clubs on Long Island took place on January 9th. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss runs and events for 2016. LI ABATE was very well received. A calendar of runs / events is currently being worked on.

Port Jefferson Parking: LI ABATE has been renting 50 parking spots in the Town of Brookhaven parking lot in order to provide **free** and **unlimited** parking for motorcyclists. This costs LI ABATE \$2500 for the year. The **Business Improvement District of Port Jefferson** has supported this endeavor and has reimbursed LI ABATE \$2000. We have learned that one member of BID has objected to reimbursing us for this free parking since motorcycles continue to park on Main St. While we do not mandate that motorcycles park in this designated area, we do encourage motorcyclists to take advantage of this free, unlimited parking space since parking on Main St. is strictly limited to 30 minutes (they do chalk tires). **Steve Sorensen** suggested we put cards in businesses and give out palm cards informing motorcyclists of this free parking.

LI ABATE Handbook: LI ABATE will be printing a 2016 handbook. The handbook will be limited to 66 pages. Advertising prices are the same as last year: \$50 for a half-page ad, and \$100 for a full page ad. These prices are for camera ready layouts. (There is an additional \$25 fee for those ads that require artwork or layout. If you advertised with us last year, we have your artwork on file.) *The fee is due along with advertising copy.* The deadline for advertising in this handbook will be March 1st, so the handbooks can be printed and available at our Awareness Run in April. The centerfold of this handbook will once again list bike runs and events. *If there are advertisers who know they want to be in this handbook, please send an e-mail to LongIslandABATE@aol.com to reserve your space.*

ABATE of NY has a new President, Mike Giarusso. Jim extended his offer to work together on motorcycle issues in NYS. Jim will be attending ABATE of NY business meeting January 16 in Owego.

Rider Down Assist Group was begun by Steve Sorensen after his motorcycle accident. Steve was grateful for the help he received from friends and family, but not everyone has that help available to them. He is hoping to build a team that will visit and assist a downed rider. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Steve.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

March 20 – Chili Contest

April 3 - Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run in conjunction with **Full Throttle Magazine**, (details to follow)

June 5 - Veterans Appreciation Run

August 20-21 LI ABATE Annual Campout, **Yankee Rebel** will be headlining.

Motorcycle Clubs Runs / Events

Patriot Guard Riders: January 13, NOA, No One in Attendance, ceremony the second Wednesday of each month at Calverton National Cemetery. Group meets up by the restrooms at 9:30am. *Bill encourages anyone to be a part of the flag line and honor those who served our country. In addition, Bill thanked all those who participated in the funeral run for Sgt. Bonacasa.*

Fundraiser for Carolyn LeRoy: January 30 @ Red River In, 2-7pm. Yankee Rebel will be playing

HAMCLI Dinner Dance: February 21 @ Villa Lombardi, Holbrook, 4pm

Mike / Am Vets Riders started second Chapter 111, out of Patchogue. Ron is President.

Debbie / Am Vets: Ladies auxiliary is collecting any hotel toiletries to make up gift bags for the Women's Health Center @ Northport VA. *Donations can be made at LI ABATE membership meetings.*

Pastor Gerry / Rushing Wind Biker Church: January 23 – Thrift Store is open 10 – 3.
February 13 – Women's Valentine's Breakfast 10:00-1:00pm @ church. *Please RSVP by January 31.* February 26 – Blood Drive. Wednesdays at the church dinner, 6:30, and service, 7:15.

Thank you Ron, photographer for Full Throttle Magazine, for his support of LI ABATE.

50/50: \$125 to the winner. Jackie Dalambakis generously donated her winnings to the Veterans Appreciation Fund.

Motion 2-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:08.

