

LI ABATE membership meeting 3-8-16, Ronkonkoma, NY

BBQ before the meeting.

7:31 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome new members and guests.

Morgan from the American Legion Riders wanted to thank the motorcycle community for the support they gave to the family of one of his club members, after the sudden death of their daughter in a car accident. Morgan also asked that prayers be said for the driver of the vehicle, who was the victim's best friend.

This month's Full Throttle Magazine has an article about Steve Sorensen, written from the heart by Jennifer.

Minutes for the February 2016 membership meeting were published in the March newsletter.

Motion 6-2016: Motion to accept February 2016 membership meeting minutes as published in the March newsletter. (Seconded) All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Detailed income and expenditures were reported. *Bill also thanked all who are contributing to the veteran's appreciation fund. All donations will be quadrupled.*

Motion 7-2016: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

Jackie / Membership: Currently, LI ABATE has 1500+ members. Jackie will be sending out membership renewal letters in March. 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 1,500 members.* If you are not receiving LI ABATE newsletters or e-mails, please let Jackie or Nancy know and the e-mail data base will be updated.

Nancy / Newsletter: The LI ABATE newsletter is posted on our website and community Facebook page. Motorcycle event flyers can be included in our newsletter free for one month. Also, there is a free classified section for members. Advertising prices are printed in the newsletter. **Website:** The LI ABATE Scholarship application link is posted on our website, www.LongIslandABATE.org. You can also pre-register for the April 3 Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run, on the website. *This pre-registration will be shut down after March 31.*

Mike / Public Relations: Mike continues to solicit corporations, food vendors for donations for our upcoming Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run. *We would again like to thank Todd for donating the bread for all of our membership meetings and events.* Mike also asks that members reach out to local publications / media to publicize LI ABATE events: Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run, Veterans Appreciation Run, St. Mary's Food and Toy Run.

Joe / Safety Officer: Joe will be sitting down with the heads of Brookhaven Town, concerning road conditions. If anyone knows of a specific road hazard, please fill out the road hazard reporting form and forward it to Joe.

Kathy / Products: Kathy has been running great sales on merchandise at membership meetings. (Crew neck sweatshirts \$10, Zippered sweatshirts \$20, t-shirts 3/\$25) Kathy is also running a second t-shirt design contest. Designs can be for a short or long sleeved t-shirt. All design entries must be in by the April membership meeting.

Doreen / Legislative Liaison: Doreen has been inviting elected officials to speak at the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run on April 3. This year, many have responded that they will attend. Doreen also reports that some officials have contacted her to ask if they could attend. *LI ABATE has been getting very favorable recognition. Again we stress the importance of increased membership, as the more members we have, the more recognition and clout we have.*

Old Business

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. **Debbie, Pastor Gerry and Ice Cream John** volunteered to be on this committee and have finalized the application. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to children / grandchildren of LI ABATE members. Applications are available on our website. *The deadline for submission of applications is April 17.*

Dealership Packets: **George**, has been 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 who have already given their names to George.*

LI ABATE Handbook: LI ABATE will be printing a 2016 handbook, which will be available at the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run. The handbook is currently 68 pages, with the centerfold containing a calendar of motorcycle runs / events.

Medical Cards: Steve Sorensen was working on developing emergency contact cards, which he wanted all motorcyclists to carry. This was very important to him. A good friend of Steve's, **Matt Bonfio**, has graciously offered to pay for the printing of 10,000 of these emergency cards, in Steve's memory.

Rider Down Assist Program: After Steve Sorensen's motorcycle accident, he became very aware of the needs of downed motorcyclists. He would often say how fortunate he was to have had so many friends that were there to help him, and realized that not all riders were as fortunate as he. He began the **Rider Down Assist Group**, a team of volunteers that will visit and assist a downed rider. This program will be continued in Steve's memory. Unfortunately, the names of previous volunteers have been scattered among Steve's belongings. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please give your name to Margaret or Rory. Any LI ABATE board officer will also see that your name be submitted.

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 continues to monitor 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 March 29 in the chambers of Judge Steven Braslow. Please check postings on Facebook for further information.

Morgan, from the American Legion Riders, spoke of Chris White, who was tragically killed on his motorcycle while on a veteran mission. The driver, Paul Porrini, ran a red light and killed Chris instantly. This driver, who was on heroin when he hit Chris, is also a repeat offender. He is now being considered for parole. Chris' widow, Dotty, is asking for letters to be written to the parole board, denying the parole of Paul Porrini. Letters are to be addressed to the NYS Parole Board, referencing Paul Porrini. The parole hearing is April 15. Letters can be forwarded to ChrisWhite Memorial Fund@gmail.com.

AMA Insurance: Run participants will be insured through the AMA during the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run. It is imperative that each participant sign in, in order to be insured.

ST. Patrick's Day Parade, Rocky Point: LI ABATE has again been invited to ride in this parade, which will be held on March 13. We will meet at the Miller Place Dunkin' Donuts by 12 noon. *Please be there by noon as the road will be closed after this time.*

New Business

Brookhaven Town Councilman Michael Loguercio was made aware of LI ABATE by **Chris** from **Road Reapers MC**. Councilman Loguercio offered to help LI ABATE promote motorcycle awareness. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss what could be done.

Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico wrote legislation for the fourth consecutive year to have each councilperson post a 4' X 8' sign in their council districts promoting motorcycle awareness. Each sign will have the respective councilpersons name alongside LI ABATE and will be posted from April 1 – June 30.

CSEA Safety and Health Conference will be held in Lake Placid, NY. **Nick, our Vice President and President of CSEA**, lobbied union to put motorcycle awareness into the program. Jim, Kathy and Nick will attend this conference and host a program promoting motorcycle awareness to union members. LI ABATE will also have a booth set up in the lobby encouraging membership and giving out motorcycle awareness materials.

Motorcycle Rally in Maryland: The state of Washington is currently the only state in America which has a law passed prohibiting the discrimination of motorcyclists. The state of Maryland unanimously passed a bill through their state assembly prohibiting the discrimination of motorcyclists last year, however it didn't get passed the state senate, as there were no sponsors. The **US Defenders** and **COIR** have been working very hard lobbying for this legislation. This year, there are 10 sponsors in the senate. Motorcyclists are rallying in Maryland in effort to bring attention to this bill.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

March 20 – Chili Party/ Contest, Finnegan's Wake, Jamesport begins at 12noon

April 3 - Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run in conjunction with **Full Throttle Magazine**. Run will begin at the H. Lee Dennison Bldg, Hauppauge. **Bikers of Christ MM** will be performing a bike blessing. Elected officials have been invited and educational and safety booths will be set up. There will be a police escorted ride to Cathedral Pines, Middle Island, for a barbeque. Registration is \$20 rider, \$15 passenger. (For those who wish to go directly to Cathedral Pines for a barbeque, there will be a \$10 walk in fee.) All funds raised on this run will go toward LI ABATE's 2016, motorcycle safety and awareness campaign. *This run is being dedicated to the memory of Steve Sorensen, since he was so passionate about motorcyclists and motorcycle safety. At the conclusion of the run, at Cathedral Pines, there will be a memorial service for Steve in the activity building.*

June 5 - Veterans Appreciation Run. This year the run will begin at the Riverhead County Center. Additional details will follow.

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

November 6 – St. Mary's Food and Toy Run

December 10 – Holiday Party

Motorcycle Clubs Runs / Events

Patriot Guard Riders: 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.*

Bob / LI HOG: Harley Davidson of Oakdale Community Blood Drive, Sat., 3/19 10:30-3:00

Queensboro MC: St. Patrick's Day Party 3/26, 126-42 34th Ave, Corona. \$15 donation

Bob / Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA): Flapjack fundraiser breakfast Sat., 4/9 @ Applebees, East Farmingdale. 8am-10am. Tickets \$10 each.

Riders of Fire MC: Annual Bike Blessing, 4/17, 11:00, Applebees, Farmingville to Shrine, Manorville.

Pastor Gerry / Rushing Wind Biker Church: 3/27 Easter Run, Sunrise run from Rushing Wind Biker Church to Smith Point Park, KSU 5:55am. All vehicles are welcome. *Pastor Gerry emphasizes that the Rushing Wind Biker Church is here for the motorcycle community.*

Widowed Sons: wishes all a safe riding season.

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. *Debbie thanks all who have donated.* 4/10 Spaghetti dinner, \$10pp, American Legion Hall, Ronkonkoma. All proceeds to benefit Little Flower Children's Orphanage.

50/50: \$173 to the winner. **George, Sgt at Arms,** won and generously donated all of his winnings to the Veterans Appreciation Fund. *Thank you George.*

Motion 8-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:18.

