

LI ABATE membership meeting 4-12-16, Ronkonkoma, NY

BBQ before the meeting.

7:48 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Happy Birthday Nancy!!

Welcome new members and guests.

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

**Motion 9-2016: Motion to accept March 2016 membership meeting minutes as published in the April 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. Bill also thanked Kathy for the great job she is doing with products.*

**Motion 10-2016: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Jackie / Membership:** Currently, LI ABATE has 1500+ members. Jackie is currently processing membership renewals. 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 linked 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 2016 LI ABATE Handbook is posted on our website, [www.LongIslandABATE.org](http://www.LongIslandABATE.org). **Facebook:** Nancy will be continuing with our motorcycle riders campaign; "Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a \_\_\_\_\_, and I ride a motorcycle.

**Mike / Public Relations:** Mike continues to solicit corporations, food vendors for donations for upcoming events. *We are encouraging the donation of socks for our veterans. We would again like to thank **Todd** from **Wenner Bakery** 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: Veterans Appreciation Run, St. Mary's Food and Toy Run.

**Joe / Safety Officer:** Joe will be keeping members informed about road conditions and current construction / paving projects. If anyone knows of a specific road hazard, please fill out the road hazard reporting form and forward it to Joe.

**Kathy / Products:** 2016 Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run t-shirts, in memory of Steve Sorensen, are for sale. Kathy can order additional shirts if needed. Kathy has also been running great sales on merchandise at membership meetings. (Crew neck sweatshirts \$10, Zippered sweatshirts \$20, t-shirts 3/\$25) Our second t-shirt design contest is underway. Designs can be for a short or long sleeved t-shirt.

**Doreen / Legislative Liaison:** Doreen had invited elected officials to speak at the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run. Those that attended this year spoke very highly of LI ABATE. In attendance were **NYS Assemblyman Raia**, who himself rides a motorcycle, **Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning**, **Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine** and **Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Valerie Cartright**. A proclamation declaring April 3, 2016 as *Long Island ABATE Day* was presented on behalf of Brookhaven Town. Doreen went on to speak of anti-profiling legislation which was recently passed through the Assembly and Senate in the state of Maryland. We will focus on emulating this type of legislation in New York. If anyone is interested in participating in a legislative committee, please see Doreen.

### **Old Business**

**Scholarship:** 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. Currently **Formula One Motorsports, Oakdale Harley** and **Funwheels** would like to purchase dealership packets. *Thank you to those who have volunteered to help George promote this program.*

**LI ABATE Handbook:** LI ABATE's 2016 handbook is sold out! Handbooks were available at the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run. Like last year, the centerfold contains a calendar of motorcycle runs / events. *(There was one error advertising the LI ABATE campout. Tickets the day of the campout will be \$40 not \$35 as printed in the handbook.)*

**American Motorcycle Association:** LI ABATE is now a charter member of the AMA. We will now sanction all of our runs through the AMA. Insurance will cover participants on the run. *Our previous liability insurance covered participants at meetings and after run events.*

**Court Cases:** *All court dates are printed in the newsletter.* Yokito Yoneyama, the driver who hit motorcyclist **Ron Stark**, was arrested on DWI charges. His bail has been set at \$75,000 cash / \$150,000 bond. The judge in this case has stated, if the defendant does make bail, he is to surrender his passport. LI ABATE will continue to follow this case. LI ABATE is also following a court case in Pennsylvania. One of our members reached out to us, asking if we could contact ABATE of PA, and inform them about how we are monitoring the cases involving motorcyclists who are the victims in an accident. We were met with very favorable feedback. LI ABATE is attempting to inform ABATEs across the nation of this practice, as it does make a difference, as any advocacy group in attendance makes a difference in court proceedings and outcomes.

**Motorcycle Riders Foundation:** Jim spoke with **Lenny Holkem, the SC MRO representative**, who asked Jim if he would be interested in giving a seminar in Oklahoma about how LI ABATE is involved in the court cases of motorcyclists who are the victims in an accident, and how other ABATEs could get involved in this practice.

**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 councilperson's name alongside LI ABATE and will be posted from April 1 – June 30. **Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine and the entire Brookhaven Town Board**, unanimously sponsored this legislation.

**CSEA Safety and Health Conference** was held in Lake Placid, NY. **Nick, our Vice President and President of CSEA**, lobbied union to put motorcycle awareness into the program. Kathy and Don Gomo hosted a program promoting motorcycle awareness to union members. LI ABATE also had a booth set up in the lobby and gave out motorcycle awareness materials.

**Motorcycle Profiling Legislation:** The state of Washington is currently the only state in America which has a law passed prohibiting the discrimination of motorcyclists. Recently, the state of Maryland unanimously passed a bill through their State Assembly (136-0) and Senate (46-0) prohibiting the discrimination of motorcyclists. The bill is now sitting on the Governor of Maryland's desk awaiting his signature. *The Governor is himself a motorcyclist, and member of ABATE of MD.*

**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. We will do this again for the 2016 riding season. 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. 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).

**Emergency 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 Bonfido**, has graciously offered to pay for the printing of 10,000 of these emergency cards, in Steve's memory. These cards are now available and we encourage all to carry one.

### New Business

**Voter Registration Forms** are available for anyone who wishes to register to vote. LI ABATE encourages everyone to be informed and vote!

**Road Signs:** We have 4 x 4 motorcycle awareness signs to be posted on county roads for the motorcycle season. We are looking for volunteers to help post these signs. Also if anyone knows of property where we could post additional 4 x 4 signs with permission, please let board know.

**LI ABATE Booths:** Nancy is currently putting together a schedule of events where LI ABATE will be setting up a booth in order to hand out motorcycle awareness materials and sign up new members. Last year, we had at least one booth set up almost every weekend. If anyone is willing to volunteer to help us run these booths, please contact Nancy.

**National Coalition of Motorcyclists** annual conference will be held 5/5 – 5/8, Atlantic City NJ

**Motorcycle Riders Foundation Bikers in the Beltway** will be held 5/12 in Washington D.C. to lobby political officials.

**ABATE of NY Freedom Rally** 5/16 in Albany to lobby for legislation on the state level.

**Street Smarts: Rory**, who worked with Steve Sorensen in Steve's Motorcycle School, used to run the *Street Smarts Program*. Rory and Bill will be conducting a practice session to sharpen riding skills on May 15, 9:00am @ Ronkonkoma train station parking lot. This skills session will be free of charge. Please contact Rory or Bill to register, or register at [LongIslandABATE@aol.com](mailto:LongIslandABATE@aol.com) and this info will be passed to Rory / Bill.

**Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program: Don Gomo** provides free safety seminars for all motorcyclists. The next seminar will be held at the Deer Park Public Library on April 12 from 1 – 3pm. This seminar, along with participation in a skills class will help riders to have a safer riding season.

## LI ABATE Run / Event List

**Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run** in conjunction with **Full Throttle Magazine**, was held April 10 due to rain. We had a lighter turnout than usual, approximately 200 motorcycles were present, due to weather conditions. We would like to thank **Bikers of Christ MM** for the blessing of each bike, the **Suffolk County Police Department** for the full escort on the run, and **Andrea** for organizing all of the volunteers for this run. Elected officials attended and spoke highly of LI ABATE. In attendance were **NYS Assemblyman Raia**, who himself rides a motorcycle, **Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning**, **Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine** and **Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Valerie Cartright**. A proclamation declaring April 3, 2016 as *Long Island ABATE Day* was presented on behalf of Brookhaven Town. All funds raised on this run will go toward LI ABATE's 2016, motorcycle safety and awareness campaign. *The run was dedicated to the memory of Steve Sorensen, since he was so passionate about motorcyclists and motorcycle safety.* Pictures from the run will be posted on our Facebook community page and website. Picture taken by **Ron, from Full Throttle Magazine** will be printed in the magazine as well as on their Facebook page.

**June 5 - Veterans Appreciation Run.** This year the run will begin at the Riverhead County Center. Sign up is from 9 – 11am, \$20 per person. *All proceeds from this run will be quadrupled by three private donors and will all go to local veterans!* **Fingers from WBAB** will be the Grand Marshall. This year the **USVMC** will be honored at the ceremony in Montauk. *We are asking for supplies, such as socks, which will be donated to our veterans.* The DAV Bus, which LI ABATE helped to purchase last year, will transport some veterans to the run. *Thank you to Brian for the painting he did of the Veterans Appreciation Ceremony in Montauk. This painting will be auctioned and all funds will be donated to the Veterans Appreciation Fund.*

**August 20-21** LI ABATE Annual Campout, Cathedral Pines County Park. Advance ticket sales will be \$30, increasing to \$40 the day of the campout. Ticket price includes food, music, bike games, bike contest, and camping fee for Saturday night. **Yankee Rebel** will be headlining. Additional music will be provided by **Wildflower** and **Simple Days**.

**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.*

**Full Throttle Bike Night** Tuesday 4/19 @ Sidetracks, Sayville. Full Throttle weekly bike nights will begin in May.

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

**Pastor Ski / Rushing Wind Biker Church:** 4/12 Thrift Store open, 6/5 Downed Biker Run

**Alliance MC:** 8/14 Life Ride Event

**Final Americas 9-11 Ride** will be held 8/18, 8/19, 8/20. Sunday 8/21 will be at Ground Zero.

**50/50:** \$126 to the winner.

**Motion 11-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.** Meeting adjourned at 9:27.