

LI ABATE membership meeting 5-10-16, Ronkonkoma, NY

BBQ before the meeting.

7:40 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome new members and guests.

Minutes for the April 2016 membership meeting were posted on the website.

Motion 12-2016: Motion to accept April 2016 membership meeting minutes as posted on the website. (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 13-2016: 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.* Membership pins will no longer be mailed, in effort to save on mailing costs. A coupon will be included with your membership renewal, which can be exchanged for a pin at any membership meeting or LI ABATE booth.

Thank you to **Sovereign Brotherhood** for signing up 10 new members.

Nancy / Newsletter: The May newsletter link will be sent out tonight. 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. **Website:** The 2016 LI ABATE Handbook is posted on our website, www.LongIslandABATE.org. There is a link for pre-registration for the upcoming Veterans Appreciation Run. Donation links through paypal for the Veterans Appreciation Run and for motorcycle awareness are also available on the website. Nancy is working on establishing a *Go Fund Me* account for motorcycle awareness.

Mike / Public Relations: Mike is working on getting media coverage for the Veterans Appreciation Run. 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. Joe also attends the Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board meetings each month in effort to keep motorcyclists and board officials up to date about current conditions and concerns. *We are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to attend traffic safety meetings in Nassau County.*

Kathy / Products: Kathy has been running great sales on merchandise at membership meetings. (Crew neck sweatshirts \$10, Zippered sweatshirts \$20, t-shirts 3/\$25) She will be ordering new LI ABATE t-shirts, as well as ladies tank tops. A new design for the Veterans Appreciation Run t-shirt will be available at the run.

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. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to children / grandchildren of LI ABATE members. **Debbie, Pastor Gerry and Ice Cream John** volunteered to be on this committee, and we thank them sincerely, for all of their efforts. The scholarship committee has selected two finalists, and will recommend their selections to the board. It was suggested that the winners come to the June membership meeting to receive their awards.

Court Cases: *All court dates are printed in the newsletter.* Yokito Yoneyama, the driver who hit motorcyclist **Ron Stark**, was arrested on DWI charges. The charges against him were recently ungraded to felony charges. His next court date will be 6/15 in Central Islip. LI ABATE will continue to follow this case. *A Go Fund Me account has been established for Ron: Ron Starks Road to Recovery, in effort to help Ron with medical costs.* The driver, Ndala, who hit and killed **Tom Heisenbuttle**, remains incarcerated. His next court date is 5/24 in Riverhead. Jason Monet, the driver who hit motorcyclist **Sid Hughes**, has a court appearance on 5/16. He is now out on probation. The driver, Paul Porrini, who hit and killed **Chris White**, is being released on parole in September, after serving 3 years of a 3 – 9year sentence. Outrage was expressed and a discussion ensued about actions LI ABATE could take.

Road Signs: 4' x 4' motorcycle awareness signs will be posted at 15 locations on county roads for the motorcycle season. Volunteers to help post these signs will meet 8am @ Cathedral Pines this Saturday.

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. In addition, after last year's run, it was suggested that LI ABATE host the after party instead of going to an establishment that served drinks. We took this suggestion

under consideration and hosted a barbeque, however incurred large expenses which were taken from the funds raised. A discussion ensued about reconsidering going to an establishment that will host us, instead of hosting it ourselves, in effort to save on expenses.

Motion 14:2016: Motion to go to an establishment that would be willing to host the after party for next year's Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run. (Seconded) All in favor.

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. 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. You can volunteer at LongIslandABATE@aol.com subject: Rider Down Assist Program.

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

New Business

National Coalition of Motorcyclists annual conference was held 5/5 – 5/8, Atlantic City NJ. LI ABATE board members Jim, Nick, Mike and George attended. **Attny, Mitch Proner** covered expenses. This conference was attended by motorcycle clubs from around the country. Board members were able to network with motorcycle rights lobbyists, including **Double D**, author of the anti profiling legislation passed in Washington State.

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. LI ABATE is working on getting such a bill passed in Suffolk County, then expand this legislation to New York State.

Drag Racing Track: LI ABATE is trying to get a drag racing track brought to Long Island. We are in the process of getting a feasibility study.

Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program: **Don Gomo** will provide free safety / skills seminars for all motorcyclists this year at Americade. We would also like to thank Don for producing a video for LI ABATE emphasizing motorcycle awareness and motorcyclists themselves. The amazing music for this video was written by Don's son. Thank you both again.

Full Throttle Magazine article, written by Jennifer, about the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run was published in this months edition.

AAA now covers motorcycles with \$30 membership.

Biker Girl: LI ABATE member, Maureen Griffin, has CDs available with songs she has written about her experiences riding a motorcycle.

Roadkill: LI ABATE member, Willie, has remastered mixes from the old Roadkill Band started in the 90's.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

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

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.

USVMC Clubhouse 5/21

Bayport Aerodome 5/22: Celebration of vintage transportation: planes, cars, motorcycles.

Full Throttle Bike Nights: LI ABATE sponsors 2nd Wednesday of the month @ JD Wings, Centereach

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.* 5/28 putting flags on the graves at Calverton, Section 42.

Full Throttle Bike Nights: Weekly bike nights will be held Wednesdays @ JD Wings, Centereach.

Queensboro MC: 8/14- Summerfest 10am-5pm \$10 donation. Swap meet, bike games, food, beverages, vendors. Fireman's Field, Baldwin

Leathernecks MC: 8/28 VA Hospital Run. All money raised goes to social events for veterans.

Pastor Gerry / Rushing Wind Biker Church, Bikers for Christ MM: 6/5 Down Biker Run, reg. 10am at church, Knickerbocker Ave, Bohemia. \$15 donation. Run approx. 1 hour, will start and end at the church. Vendors welcome, \$25.

Debbie / Am Vets: 8/27- Doo Wap Under the Stars \$35pp, all money raised goes to veterans org. 6-7:30 food, drinks, music, Am Vets Post 48, Hawkins Ave, Ronkonkoma. 10/30 Son of Monster Mash (car, bike show) Bald Hill, Farmingville.

Final Americas 9-11 Ride will be held 8/19, 8/20. Sunday 8/21 will be at Ground Zero. For more info, visit www.americas911ride.org

50/50: \$126 to the winner.

Motion 15-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:33.