

LI ABATE membership meeting 6-14-16, Ronkonkoma, NY

Heroes, salads served before the meeting.

7:30 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence for Flag Day and recent terror attacks.

Welcome new members and guests.

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

**Motion 16-2016: Motion to accept May 2016 membership meeting minutes as posted on the website. (Seconded) All in favor.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill, who was not present tonight, sent treasurer's report to Jim, who detailed income and expenditures. *Jim also thanked American Legion members for contributing \$300 to the veteran's appreciation fund. All donations will be quadrupled.*

**Motion 17-2016: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership:** Currently, LI ABATE has 1500+ members. *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.

**Nancy / Newsletter:** The June newsletter link was sent out earlier today. 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:** There have been difficulties reported on the LI ABATE website. Nancy will be looking into these complications.

**Mike / Public Relations:** Mike expressed disappointment that the Veterans Appreciation Run was not covered by local publications / media. News 12 did cover the dedication of the DAV van that was donated by LI ABATE with the funds from the 2015 Veterans Appreciation Run, however air time was very limited.

**Kathy / Products:** Kathy has been running great sales on merchandise at membership meetings. (Crew neck sweatshirts \$10, Zippered sweatshirts \$20, t-shirts 3/\$25) Veterans Appreciation Run t-shirts are also available for \$15. Kathy will be ordering new LI ABATE t-shirts, as well as ladies tank tops.

**Doreen / Legislative Liaison:** Doreen reported on bill #20757, which would include motorcycle awareness education in defensive driver courses. This bill went through the transportation committee, but has yet to be voted on. Bill # S4892 included motorcycle awareness in new driver classes. 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. 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 the two scholarship recipients. *Four applications have been received. Two, however, were disqualified for incomplete entries: one did not submit college acceptance letter and one did not submit a completed application.* Awards will be presented at the July membership meeting. A discussion ensued about changing the scholarship requirements. It was suggested by the scholarship committee, and agreed upon by membership, that one \$500 scholarship be awarded to one graduating high school senior who will be attending a college or trade school, and one \$500 scholarship be awarded to a student already enrolled in a college or trade school.

**Motion 17-2016: Motion to change scholarship requirements to include one \$500 scholarship be awarded to one graduating high school senior who will be attending a college or trade school, and one \$500 scholarship be awarded to a student already enrolled in a college or trade school. (Seconded) All in favor.**

**Dealership Packets:** **George**, continues to work 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. *George continues to seek volunteers who know dealers on Long Island to help promote this program.*

**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. *This year some members of BID did object to this reimbursement, as motorcycles continue to park on Main Street.* Parking on Main St. is strictly limited to 30 minutes (they do chalk tires). While we do not mandate that motorcycles park in this designated area, we do encourage motorcyclists to take advantage of this free and

unlimited parking space and to keep this program alive. George and Mike handed out flyers to businesses along Main Street, requesting that they post them in their windows to inform motorcyclists of this free and unlimited parking.

**MRF / Bikers in the Beltway:** The Motorcycle Riders Foundation, MRF, advocates for motorcyclists on a federal level. In May, Jim, Mike, and Gary attended their annual Bikers in the Beltway. Legislative packets were given and participants lobbied their local congressmen for specific motorcycle legislation. Jim reports that he may have gotten a congressman to sponsor the anti motorcycle profiling bill. *We will be asking all members to contact their congressmen to support this bill once a bill number is received.* In addition, Jim reports that the FAST Act / Federal Highway Bill, includes legislation that NHTSA is no longer permitted to give out federal grant money for motorcycle only checkpoints.

**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. Jim was asked by **Lenny Holkem, the SC MRO representative**, 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. Jim contacted **Attny. Dan Rogers**, about producing a pamphlet / guidebook, which gives MRO's around the country a starting point on how to become involved in the court system.

**Veterans Appreciation Run:** Under threatening skies, LI ABATE held our annual Veterans Appreciation Run. While attendance was low, those that participated were taken on a beautiful route to Montauk Point, thanks to our Road Captain, Chris. Opening ceremonies in Riverhead included a color guard by the **Sea Cadets**, the National Anthem sung by **Amber Ferrari**, and a prayer by **Bob from Bikers for Christ** and **Spock from Christian Motorcycle Association**. We left Riverhead under a flag arch from the **Riverhead Fire Department**. **Fingers, from WBAB**, was our Grand Marshall. We were escorted by a **Suffolk County Sheriffs, Southampton Town Police** and **Easthampton Town Police**. As we crossed over the bridge in Sag Harbor, we were greeted by **Leathernecks, Patriot Guard Riders, Boy Scouts** and other patriots. We left Sag Harbor under another flag arch provided by the **Sag Harbor Fire Department**. Once in Montauk, **USVMC** members were honored for their service and continued dedication to the veteran community. A free lunch was provided afterward by the **Shagwong Restaurant** in Montauk. LI ABATE would like to thank all the motorcycle club members who helped with roadblocking and parking. You helped to make this run safe for all participants. LI ABATE would also like to thank **Andrea** for helping to coordinate all volunteers. We only brought in \$3800

the day of the run, however donations continue to come in. *All proceeds will be quadrupled.* LI ABATE will hold another fundraiser to support the Veterans Appreciation Fund. Further information will be provided.

### **New Business**

**Motorcycle Only Checkpoints:** On June 12, a motorcycle only checkpoint on the eastbound LIE by SCPD was reported to LI ABATE. Previously, LI ABATE had an agreement with the SCPD to end motorcycle only checkpoints. Since then, however, a new commissioner and new administrators have been in command. LI ABATE is now seeking to end these checkpoints through legislation. A meeting with **Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker** to discuss motorcycle profiling legislation in Suffolk County has been scheduled for June 16. In addition, Jim will be on the live radio show *People, Politics and Power* with **Tom Schillaro**, to speak about motorcycle only checkpoints.

### **LI ABATE Run / Event List**

**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.

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

### **Motorcycle Club 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 Nights:** Weekly bike nights will be held Wednesdays @ JD Wings, Centereach.

**Bill / Am Vets:** 7/1-7/2 Antique Motorcycle Show, Rhinebeck, NY

**Sticky Finger Motorcycle Run:** 7/17 to benefit Stony Brook Cancer Center, Reg. 12 noon, \$30 rider, \$30 passenger(admission gets rider/passenger into the Great South Bay Music Festival), KSU 2:00

**VFW Post 4927:** 7/24, 11:00 – 4:00 Motorcycle Poker Run and Car Show for homeless veterans. VFW Horseblock Road, Centereach. Motorcycles \$20, passengers \$10 includes food, music, bike blessing, raffle prizes.

**Bob / LI HOG:** 8/7, 13<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Roadhouse Motorcycle Ride. Reg @ Texas Roadhouse, East Meadow, ends @ Deer Park Fire Dept. Training Field, \$30 single rider, \$50 with a passenger, \$10 non-riders, includes breakfast, bbq and concert at end of run.

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

**Tom / Alliance MC:** 8/21, 20<sup>th</sup> annual Life Ride to benefit Bridges of NY. Starts Eisenhower Park and ends Wantagh Park, \$20 rider / \$10 passenger reg. 10-12, KSU 12 noon.

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

**Dee Snyder Run:** 10/2 to benefit LI Cares

**Mary, Chaplin for Crusaders for Care** asks for prayers for Harry, a member in the hospital, who has had a very difficult time and facing at least 4 more surgeries.

**50/50:** \$135 to the winner. Winner donated half back to the Veterans Appreciation Fund

**Motion 18-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.** Meeting adjourned at 9:07.