

LI ABATE membership meeting 8-9-16, Ronkonkoma, NY

BBQ before the meeting. *Thank you to Joe, Claudia, Jackie and Mike for doing all of the cooking.*

7:35 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome new members and guests.

Our website has been hacked. We are currently in the process of rebuilding the site.

Minutes for the July 2016 membership meeting could not be posted on the website. Hard copied were available for members present at tonight's meeting.

Motion 22-2016: Motion to accept July 2016 membership meeting minutes. (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 23-2016: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

Membership: Currently, LI ABATE has 1650+ members. All membership renewals expiring in August have been mailed out. *It is imperative that members renew and that we keep our membership numbers up. We are also encouraging all members to recruit new members, as the more members we have, the more effective we can be when we meet with public officials.* 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. If anyone continues to have problems receiving e-mail updates, please see Jackie or Nancy and your e-mail address will be corrected.

Nancy / Website: Our website remains under construction. Nancy will send a link to the website when it is up. Automatic renewals are still being processed through pay pal.

Newsletter: All recent newsletters will be posted on the website when the rebuild is completed.

Mike / Public Relations: Mike is working on putting together a motorcycle safety course, along with **Don Gomo, Empire State Motorcycle Safety Education Program** and **Steve Bertinelli, On the Road Again**, an MSF state organized motorcycle training school. This course will offer rider skills with a discount to all LI ABATE members. Additional information will be passed on when the date and location is finalized.

Doreen / Legislative Liaison: Doreen sent Senator Robach, chair of the transportation committee, articles on recent motorcycle accidents. Senator Robach also reports witnessing a fatal motorcycle accident, and proposes to draft a bill regarding driver education to keep motorcyclists safe on the road. Doreen went on to speak of exhaust pipe modification legislation. **Marty, Mike and Dale** have volunteered to assist Doreen with this legislation. *Currently any exhaust modification, even if modification remains under the NYS required decibel level, is against the law. Language stating exhaust pipes may not be modified to exceed 86 decibels, equal to automobiles, will be included in the proposed legislation.*

Kathy / Products: Kathy has been running great sales on merchandise at membership meetings. Ladies tank tops in white, black and pink, are now available for \$10. LI ABATE t-shirts in a variety of colors are available for \$10. Veterans Appreciation Run t-shirts are \$15. Kathy also has patches for the Veterans Appreciation Run, Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run and yearly rockers.

Old Business

LI ABATE Scholarship: Two \$500 scholarships have been awarded to: **Logan Rodowicz**, (sponsored by LI ABATE member **Vincent Rodowicz**) and **Tara Boyle**, (sponsored by LI ABATE member **Joy Devine**). We congratulate these two recipients, and wish them much success in their future endeavors.

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 have learned that many motorcyclists still did not know of this free motorcycle parking. LI ABATE had business cards made informing motorcyclists of this lot and have been passing them around to motorcyclists in Port Jefferson. Jim recently met with the mayor and chief constable in Port Jefferson, who appreciated LI ABATE's effort in making these cards, and also took some to pass out. Jim also reported that with the exception of some sport bikes revving their engines while riding through town, there were no other complaints voiced to him during this meeting. *We continue to urge all motorcyclists to ride respectfully through town.*

Motorcycle Only Checkpoints: On June 12, a motorcycle only checkpoint on the eastbound LIE by SCPD was reported to LI ABATE. *(Jim purposefully received a ticket at this MOC in effort to protest MOCs in court).* 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. Jim spoke in front of the **Suffolk County Public Safety Committee**, after hearing that a motorcyclist was chased by police for not stopping at this checkpoint. He informed the committee of past agreements made with the police department as well as informing them that federal funding is no longer permitted for such checkpoints.

Suffolk County Legislator, Kate Browning, chair of this committee, **Police Commissioner, Tim Sini**, and **Chief of Department Cameron** have since met with Jim to discuss this matter.

Commissioner Sini stated that there was no intentional harassment of motorcyclists intended. He went on to state that there are three areas of focus which he would like to address: illegal drugs, illegal handguns and traffic fatalities. He believed that MOC's would reduce traffic fatalities. The Commissioner said that he was unaware of LI ABATE's position on MOC's and further stated that he understood our point of view. Conversations with SCPD will continue. LI ABATE will continue to seek to end these checkpoints through motorcycle profiling legislation in Suffolk County.

Court Cases: Ndala, the driver who hit and killed past vice-president **Tom Heissenbuttel**, was presented with a 3-6 year plea deal. **Regina Heissenbuttel**, Tom's widow, along with LI ABATE, did not find this plea deal tolerable. **Attorney, Dan Rodgers**, spoke to Judge Braslow on behalf of LI ABATE, resulting in the revocation of the 3-6 year plea deal and the offering of a 4-8 year plea deal. *Attorney Dan Rodgers stated that the presence of LI ABATE at these court proceedings made the difference in the revocation of the lighter plea deal.* The defendant has not accepted this new deal. He must answer Thursday, August 11, in criminal court, Riverhead. We are asking that any members who are available, to be present at this proceeding. Ndala will also be in court August 25 in Central Islip, appearing before Judge Lozito for violating his parole. LI ABATE will be asking for additional time due to Ndala's new conviction and total disregard for his previous punishment. Again, we encourage members to attend.

Yoneyama, the driver who hit and seriously injured motorcyclist **Ron Starke**, is scheduled to appear before Judge Comacho, August 12 in Central Islip. Ron may be in attendance. We ask LI ABATE members for their attendance as well in support for Ron.

LW spoke of one of his club members who was in an extremely serious motorcycle accident after a driver made a u-turn in front of him. This appears to be an accident, as there are no pending charges. LW thanked all for their prayers.

New Business

Radio Sponsorship: A member of LI ABATE, **Tom Schilaro**, hosts the radio show *People, Politics and Power*, Monday – Friday from 12-2pm. Jim has been a frequent guest on this show, speaking about a variety of motorcyclist's issues. LI ABATE has been asked if we would like to become a sponsor of this show. A \$2500 sponsorship for 10 weeks would give LI ABATE the opportunity to air commercials multiple times during the show, as well as the host talking about LI ABATE and urging others to join.

Motion 24-2016: Motion to authorize \$2500 for the purpose of sponsoring the radio show *People, Politics and Power* for 10 weeks. (Seconded) All in favor.

Drag Strip: LI ABATE joins many organizations looking toward obtaining a drag strip on Long Island. One organization, *LI needs a drag strip*, invites people to come together September 24 @ Tanner Park, to rally for a drag strip. Like *LI needs a drag strip* on Facebook for further information and updates.

Town of Brookhaven Safety Day will be held on September 24 at the Brookhaven Ecology Site, Holtsville. LI ABATE will have a booth there again this year.

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 updating 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 2nd Wednesday of the month @ The Pour House, Port Jefferson Station

8/14- Queensboro Summerfest, Baldwin

9/24- Safety Day, Brookhaven Ecology Site, Holtsville

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 @The Pour House, Port Jefferson Station.

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, 20th 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. Leathernecks are collecting socks, underwear, sweatpants, etc. for veterans.

LW / American Legion Riders: 9/24 10th annual PKS Kids Motorcycle Ride and Party. Reg. 9:30, KSU 11:30, after party 12:00, Islip Terrace Fire Department. \$25 donation ride/party. For more information visit www.pksbikerun.com

Dee Snyder Run: 10/2 to benefit LI Cares

Floor

LI Bikers and Friends Night: Community Support Bowling Party. 8/26 @ 7pm, Port Jefferson Bowling Alley. \$25 pp for 2 hours and shoes. *Proceeds to help fellow LI biker Ron Starke and his family.*

LI State Veterans Home: *Concert Under the Stars, 8/19, Stony Brook. Free.*

50/50: \$128 to the winner.

Motion 25-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:51.