

LI ABATE membership meeting 9-13-16, Ronkonkoma, NY

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

7:38 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome new members and guests.

A special welcome to **Jack Monti**, and his wife **Josephine**. Jack was involved in a serious motorcycle accident on Rt 25 and Rt 112 in Coram, when a taxi driver ran a red light and broadsided Jack on his motorcycle. Jack was very seriously injured. Members of LI ABATE gave Jack a motorcycle escort home from the hospital, after a lengthy stay. Jack thanked those who escorted him and explained how much it meant to him. **Attny. Mike Della**, who is representing Jack, also praised LI ABATE members for uplifting Jack and escorting him home.

Minutes for the August 2016 membership meeting were published in the September newsletter.

Motion 26-2016: Motion to accept August 2016 membership meeting minutes as published in the September 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 27-2016: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

Membership: Currently, LI ABATE has 1650+ members. All membership renewals expiring in September 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 is up and running again. Past and current newsletters are posted on our website. If anyone has pictures or articles they wish to have posted on the website or newsletter, please send to Nancy.

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 advanced rider skills with a discount to all LI ABATE members. The course will be approx. 5 hours and, if the interest is there, will be held in October at Suffolk County Community College. Participants will receive a 10% insurance discount upon completion of this course. *Additionally, for those riding with a permit, a road test waiver upon completion of this course can be received.* Mike reported that News12 did cover the escort ride home for Jack Monti, and was also happy to report that **Governor Cuomo**, wore a LI ABATE / Watch for Motorcycles bracelet on the 9-11 Tribute Ride.

Doreen / Legislative Liaison: Senator Robach, chair of the transportation committee, drafted legislation to include motorcycle safety in defensive driver courses. 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.* Doreen is getting this legislation ready for the new Senate / Assembly session. Doreen also passed around a petition opposing the rule allowing E15 fuel, which is harmful to small engines, such as a motorcycle engine, and may void the motorcycle warranty.

Kathy / Products: Kathy has been running great sales on merchandise at membership meetings. All current LI ABATE products are being sold for \$10. Kathy also has patches for the Veterans Appreciation Run, Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run and yearly rockers. *On a side note, Kathy was very happy to see a wide array of LI ABATE shirts being worn by members at recent court proceedings.*

Old Business

Motorcycle Only Checkpoints: Suffolk County Legislator, Kate Browning, chair of the **Suffolk County Public Safety Committee, Police Commissioner, Tim Sini**, and **Chief of Department Cameron** have met with Jim to discuss the matter of motorcycle only checkpoints. Commissioner Sini stated that there was no intentional harassment of motorcyclists intended. and 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:

Sabelo Ndala, the driver who hit and killed past vice-president **Tom Heissenbuttel**, will be

sentenced to 4-8 years on 9/28 in Riverhead, Judge Braslow's courtroom. We ask any members who may be available, to please attend this proceeding. *(Attorney Dan Rodgers stated that the presence of LI ABATE at these court proceedings made the difference in the revocation of the 3-6 year plea deal and the offering of a 4-8 year plea deal).* Ndala will also be in court 9/30 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, 9/23 in Central Islip. We ask LI ABATE members for their attendance as well in support for Ron.

Edward Okon will be in court 9/27, before Judge Dunne in Central Islip. He is being charged with DWI, resulting in the fatality of motorcyclist, **Tomasz Myske**.

LI ABATE member, Dale Solomon, who is an administrative law judge and motorcyclist, reported that the Department of Motor Vehicles conducts safety hearings in any accident resulting in a fatality, when there is no criminality. The administrative law judge has the right to revoke or suspend a driver's license. (If an arrest was made, cases are heard in criminal court). Dale will look into a way that these cases can be tracked.

*Morgan, American Legion Riders, spoke of one of his club members, **Danno Lenley**, 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. Morgan reported that Danno is still in the hospital and thanked all for their prayers.*

Golf Outing: LI ABATE sponsored a hole at the 2nd Annual New York SportsScene Children's Foundation Celebrity Golf Classic. LI ABATE offered a 2016 Road King to the first golfer who gets a hole in one at the LI ABATE designated hole. **Oakdale Harley** delivered and set up the motorcycle on the green. We obtained an insurance policy covering the cost of this motorcycle through **Specialized Insurance**. Unfortunately, although one golfer came very close, there was no winner of this motorcycle. All proceeds from this event will benefit children's charities.

Radio Sponsorship: A member of LI ABATE, **Tom Schilaro**, hosts the radio show *Your Island*, Monday – Friday from 12-2pm, on LI Talk Radio 103.9. Jim has been a frequent guest on this show, speaking about a variety of motorcyclist's issues. LI ABATE is now a sponsor of this show. Tom promotes LI ABATE during each show and urges others to join.

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, Copiague, to rally for a drag strip. Like *LI needs a drag strip* on Facebook for further information and updates.

Motorcycle Awareness Materials: New lawn signs are available.

New Business

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.

Motorcycle Rider Foundation, MRF, Meeting of the Minds, 9/22-9/25 in Oklahoma City, OK. Jim and Mike will attend this conference, which offers a great opportunity to network with ABATEs and MROs from across the country.

False Report Circulating: Information has been falsely circulating that the AMA stated it's a federal law that you are not permitted to have a passenger under the age of 18 on your motorcycle. This is not true. The AMA never made such a statement.

Road Sign Removal: We are in need of volunteers to remove the 4' x 4' motorcycle awareness signs posted on county roads. We have a list of locations for volunteers to sign up.

Future LI ABATE meetings: October 11 LI ABATE meeting will be held at the Centereach VFW, Horseblock Rd., Centereach. This will be a buffet dinner / business meeting where we will disperse the funds raised to local veterans organizations. The second portion of this meeting will begin nominations for the 2017 LI ABATE Board. Our November meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday in November at our regular meeting location, Ronkonkoma FD. (The second Tuesday is Election Day and this meeting location is a polling place.) At this meeting, nominations will be concluded and members will vote on the 2017 LI ABATE officers. There will be no December meeting.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

November 6 – St. Mary's Food and Toy Run. Run begins at Riverhead Elks Lodge

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

9/16- Charlie Daniels concert, NYCB Theater, Westbury. 5:30

9/24- Safety Day, Brookhaven Ecology Site, Holtsville. 10:00-4:00

10/2- Dee Snyder / Long Island Cares Run, Lido Beach

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.

Leathernecks MC: Thank all who supported their VA Hospital Run. All money raised goes to social events for veterans.

HALI MC: 9/18, 18th annual Poker Run. Sign up 9:30-11:30 @ Bellmore Train Station. 12 noon party starts @ Long Island Hells Angels clubhouse, Hempstead.

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

Widows Sons: 10/29 Halloween Party. All are welcome. Amityville Masonic Lodge, 14 Avon Place, Amityville. \$20 adult, \$5 child. Food, raffles, games, cash bar.

NY Red Knights Ch.26: 11/20 Teddy Bear Run. Registration @ Terryville FD

Angel Bikes Inc: 9/24, Project Miller/22 Plus 1, *fundraiser in support of the 22 veterans and 1 active duty military we lose each day to suicide.* 2pm-6pm, Patchogue, \$25pp

Farmingville Holtsville Lions Club: 10/30, 8am – 4pm Son of Monster Mash: custom motorcycle / car show / swap meet / flea market. Something for everyone.

50/50: \$86 to the winner. *Thank you to **Paul**, who donated his winnings to the Veterans Fund.*

Motion 28-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

