

LI ABATE membership meeting 10-11-16 at Centereach VFW

Tonight's meeting was our annual dinner meeting to disburse the funds we raised on our Veterans Appreciation Run to local veteran organizations. We thank everyone who generously prepared and donated food for the buffet style dinner. A special thank you to Nancy G for chairing the dinner committee.

7:00 Buffet dinner served.

8:00 Opening ceremony with the **Marine Corp Veteran Honor Guard** presenting the flags and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence followed for all fallen veterans.

**Pastor Gerry** offered opening words and prayer.

**Introduction of guests:** We were honored to have the following guests present at this event: **NYS Assemblyman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Dean Murray, NYS Assemblyman, 5th District, Al Graf, Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, Dwayne Gregory, and Brookhaven Town Councilman Mike Loguercio**, a great supporter of LI ABATE.

**Introduction of Honored Guests Deborah and Lily Bonacasa**, the widow and daughter of **Air National Guard Sgt. Louis Bonacasa**, who was killed in Afghanistan. We are honored to have them with us tonight.

**Introduction of Bill Quinn**, who is the Chairman of the Veterans Appreciation Run and passionate supporter of veterans. Bill is also responsible for finding three benefactors who matched all of the funds we raised on this run, bringing our total to \$80,000, all of which will be distributed tonight. Bill thanked all who donated to this fund throughout the year. Due to inclement weather, the attendance on our Veterans Appreciation Run was low this year, however thanks to the generosity of LI ABATE members who donated at each monthly membership meeting, **Mike from the Riverhead Polish Hall**, who donated all of the funds raised at their annual steak dinner, and **Rick Trippi from the Red River Inn**, who donated his facility and food for an additional veterans fundraiser, we were able to bring our total up to \$80,000.

**Disbursement of funds:** The following veteran organizations are this year's recipients of the proceeds raised. Each organization assists local veterans with minimal or no overhead cost to themselves: **VA Medical Center, Northport** (canteen books for veterans), **911 Veterans Inc.** (post traumatic stress disorder programs), **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 11** (anonymous heating fuel and food program), **Patriot Guard Riders NY Region 9** (expenses for monthly visit to veterans at VA Hospital, Northport), **American Legion Post 924 Hampton Bays, American Legion Post 273 Riverhead, American Legion Post 694 Northport, American Legion**

**Post 1244 Greenlawn**, (veteran outreach and family programs), **Blue Star Moms #12, Nassau County, Long Island Blue Star Moms #6**, (active duty military support), **VFW Post 4927, Centereach, VFW Post 433, Sayville, VFW Post 2913, Patchogue** (veteran outreach programs), **Marine Corps Veterans of LI** (active duty and veteran support programs), **Elks Lodge Riverhead** (veteran support programs), **Marine Corps League Suffolk County Detachment** (active duty and veteran support programs), **Leathernecks MC** (Northport VA Building 92 outings), **Paws of War** (PTSD veterans program), **Sea Cadets Farmingdale** (uniforms), **Project 9 Line** (Helping veterans cope with PTSD), **FDNY 343 Ride, Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior, Am Vets Chapter 1174, Ladies Auxiliary Am Vets Chapter 48**, (veterans outreach programs), **Spc. Matthew Baylis Memorial Scholarship Fund, Angel Bikes**, (specialized bikes for wounded veterans), **Meals of Honor** (prepares home-cooked meals for veterans), **FDNY 343 Ride** (name incorporates 343 firefighters who lost their lives in 9-11), **Coalition of Fraternal and Veterans Organizations, Nassau County United Veterans** (transportation for veterans), and **USVMC** (outreach programs for veterans).

**50/50:** \$670 collected. \$335 will go toward next year's Veterans fund. Winner donated \$100 back toward this fund.

**Recess at 8:50. Business portion** of our meeting began at 9:07.

Minutes for the September membership meeting were published in the October newsletter.

**Motion 29-2016: Motion to accept September membership meeting minutes as published in the October newsletter. (Seconded) All in favor.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Detailed income and expenditures were reported.

**Motion 30-2016: Motion to accept treasurer's report. (Seconded) All in favor.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Jackie / Membership:** LI ABATE now has **1,600+ members** and continues to grow..

**Nancy / Newsletter:** Take advantage of our 1 month free publication of your motorcycle event flyer in our newsletter. Nancy also encourages members to send in articles, personal riding stories, pictures, etc. for possible publication in the newsletter.

**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.*

**Doreen / Legislative Liaison:** Doreen reported that the rule allowing E15 fuel, which is harmful to small engines, such as a motorcycle engine, and may void the motorcycle warranty, is now off the table as of 9/29.

**Kathy / Products:** LI ABATE crew sweatshirts are available in assorted colors, as well as LI ABATE zippered sweatshirts and hoodies. *Thank you to Bill and Joanne who made, transported and helped sell all of our products.*

### **Old Business**

**Town of Brookhaven Safety Day:** LI ABATE participated in the Town of Brookhaven's Annual Safety Day at the Holtsville Ecology Site, along with the Suffolk County Sheriffs Dept., Suffolk County Police Department, and the Holtsville Fire Dept. We were able to promote motorcycle awareness and hand out motorcycle safety materials.

**Radio Sponsorship:** A member of LI ABATE, **Tom Schilaro**, hosts the radio show *Your Island Live*, 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.

**Nassau Membership Meeting:** LI ABATE would like to begin holding membership meetings in Nassau County. If there are any Nassau County members who can assist us in finding a location, please let us know.

### **New Business**

**Motorcycle Rider Foundation's** annual meeting of the minds was held in Oklahoma City this year. Jim and Mike attended, and had the opportunity to network with over 300 motorcycle activists from across the country. The MRF is a motorcyclist's rights organization on the federal level. LI ABATE, as a sustaining MRO, has the opportunity to participate and vote at this annual convention. Jim spoke about LI ABATE's involvement in the court system, advocating for motorcyclists who are in accidents when the driver is at fault. This was received with great interest from the 40 MRO's in attendance. Double D was present, and discussed motorcycle profiling.

**Donation to LI ABATE:** Jim read a letter written by **Alicia Olsen**, who was close to LI ABATE member, **Vic Cinelli**, who was tragically killed last year in a motorcycle accident, by a driver who turned left in front of him. In memory of Vic Cinelli, Alicia has donated \$1,000 to LI ABATE.

**November Membership Meeting:** Our regularly scheduled meeting date is November 8, which is Election Day. Since our meeting location is a polling place in Ronkonkoma, we have rescheduled our November membership meeting to the **third Tuesday in November.**

### **Election Nominations**

Nominations for officers for 2017 will be taken tonight and at the November membership meeting. Elections will be held at our November meeting. New officers will take effect in January. Our corporation is set up to include five trustees: **President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary.** Elections will be held for these five titles. These five elected officers will then appoint six more officers, who will also be voting board members: **Sergeant at Arms, Recording secretary, Legislative Liaison, Public Relations, Safety and Road Captain.** In addition to these eleven voting board members, six more positions will be appointed. These positions are non-voting board members: **Newsletter, Webmaster, Products, Distribution, Photographer and Chaplain.** We encourage all who are interested to become involved.

President: **Jim Barr** was nominated for the office of President. The nomination was seconded. Jim accepted the nomination. **Mike Lauro** was also nominated for the office of President. Mike declined this nomination.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Nick LaMorte** was nominated for the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. The nomination was seconded. Nick accepted the nomination.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Nancy G** was nominated for the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The nomination was seconded. Nancy accepted the nomination.

Treasurer: **Bill Quinn** was nominated for the office of Treasurer. The nomination was seconded. Bill accepted the nomination.

Membership Secretary: **Jackie Dalambakis** was nominated for the office of Membership Secretary. The nomination was seconded. Jackie accepted the nomination.

**Motion 31-2016: Motion to recess nominations until the November membership meeting. (Seconded) All in favor.** Nominations for this month have been closed. Nominations will open again at our November membership meeting.

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

**November 6 - St. Mary's Food and Toy Run:** The permits are all in and approved. Sign up will be from 10:00 – 12:00 at the Riverhead Elks.

**December 10 - Holiday Party**

### **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.*

**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.

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

**Jim / Red Knights MC, NY Ch.26:** 11/20 – Teddy Bear Run. Registration 10:30 @ Terryville Fire Dept., Jayne Blvd., Pt. Jeff Station, KSU 12:00. *Bring a new teddy bear!* Riders / passengers \$20 (or \$25 without bear) Escorted ride ends for lunch at Painters' Restaurant, 416 south Country Rd., Brookhaven.

**Pastor Gerry / Bikers for Christ Motorcycle Ministry:** 12/17 Christmas celebration, 4-8pm, American Legion Hall, Brentwood. \$15 adults, children under 12 free.

**Motion 32-2016: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.** Meeting adjourned at 10:15.