

LI ABATE membership meeting 1-10-17, Ronkonkoma, NY

BBQ before the meeting. *Thank you to Joe, Jackie, Claudia and Mike for barbequing tonight. In addition, we'd like to thank all of the volunteers who assist with set up, clean up, and manning the welcome table at each meeting.*

7:43 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

**Swearing in of Officers:** 2017 LI ABATE Board Officers sworn in by **Justice Dale Solomon**. *Jim thanked all of the 2016 board officers for their efforts and looks forward to a productive year with the 2017 board.*

Welcome new members and guests.

**Treasurer's Report:** Detailed income and expenditures were reported. *Bill also passed around a voluntary donation jug to begin collecting for our 2017 Veterans fund. He, again, was able to secure three benefactors who will match all funds raised. Kathy Pfeil submitted a \$250 donation from the **Mastic Ambulance Company**, which becomes \$1,000 with the matching funds. Thank you to all who donated.*

**Motion 1-2017: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.**

There was no membership meeting in December, therefore minutes were not published in the January newsletter. The minutes for our last membership meeting, November 2016, were published in the December newsletter.

**Motion 2-2017: Motion to accept November 2016 membership meeting minutes as published in the December 2016 newsletter. (Seconded) All in favor.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Jackie / Membership:** January membership renewal letters have been sent out. 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 in protecting the rights and safety of motorcyclists.*** If you are not receiving LI ABATE newsletters or e-mails, please let Jackie know and she will update her e-mail data base.

**Nancy / Newsletter:** A link was sent out to members for the January 2017 newsletter. Nancy encourages all to send her pictures, articles, stories, event flyers, etc., for publication in our newsletter. **Website:** Our website, which was hacked last year and since reconstructed, is up and running. Nancy continues to update the website.

**Mike / Public Relations:** Mike will begin to publicize and seek media coverage for our Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run, which will be in April.

**Mike / Legislative Officer:** Mike is currently reviewing bills Doreen was working on last year. He is also reviewing new and reintroduced bills being worked on by the AMA and the MRF.

The MRF is lobbying to increase the amount of motorcyclists on the national motorcycle advisory committee, with regard to the repair, maintenance and construction of federal highways. Nancy sent out an e-mail with a hyperlink to the MRF's prewritten form addressing this issue. (You can also access this form on the MRF.org website.) Members simply fill in their name, e-mail and hit send. The form automatically goes directly to your own Senators and Congressmen. **Please take the time to fill out and send this form.**

As a direct result of him receiving previous MRF forms sent by members regarding the profiling of motorcyclists, **Congressman Lee Zeldin** has signed on to the Motorcyclist Anti-Profiling Bill.

**Mike / Safety Officer:** Mike will be attending and reporting on the 2017 Suffolk County Traffic and Safety board meetings.

**Joe / Road Captain:** Joe is asking for volunteers for our upcoming runs / events. If anyone is interested in assisting with road guarding, parking/lining up bikes before a run, etc., please see Joe.

**Kathy / Products:** Products (crew sweatshirts, zippered sweatshirts, hoodies, t-shirts) are available for purchase at all membership meetings. New embroidered knit LI ABATE hats are now available for \$15.

**Andrea / Volunteer Coordinator:** Andrea will be collecting e-mail addresses and phone numbers for volunteers who wish to assist, in any capacity, on upcoming runs, events, booths, etc. Please see Andrea if you are willing to volunteer. Your help is always appreciated.

### **Old Business**

**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. In the case of Yoneyama, the driver who hit and seriously injured motorcyclist **Ron Starke**, pretrial testimony will be heard on January 11. LIABATE's presence is not needed on this date. We will notify members of the next court date.

**Christmas Party:** We have received positive feedback regarding last months Christmas party at the **Backstage Pass** in Ronkonkoma. Owners, **Mike** and **Shari** welcomed LI ABATE members and provided free food throughout the night as well as drink specials. Two bands, **Roadside Profit** and **Sucker Punch** provided music. *Roadside Profit, who support LI ABATE's mission, donated their profits for the night to LI ABATE.*

**Motorcycle Only Checkpoints:** This will be a priority for LI ABATE in 2017. We are currently working with an attorney, Double D and Megan, a representative from the MRF, to help us write out an official complaint, after the checkpoint that occurred in November, the day of the St. Mary's Food and Toy run. A FOIA request has been made, and Jim along with other motorcyclists, will speak before the Suffolk County Legislature. **Brian** spoke with **Prospector**, **member of NCOM**, regarding his very negative and dangerous experience on that day. Prospector, in turn, will forward this information to the NYS Attorney General. *Prospector wants to hear from any motorcyclist that has been harassed and/or profiled.*

**NY Motorcycle Show:** LI ABATE participated in the NY Motorcycle show at the Jacob Javits Center, December 9-11. **Attorney Mitch Proner** paid for a booth for LI ABATE, ABATE of NY and CMRA (Connecticut Motorcycle Riders Association). *The edition of **Full Throttle Magazine** given out at the Javits Center contained a 2page spread about LI ABATE's Veterans Fund Dinner.*

**LI ABATE Towing:** A new idea was presented about forming a committee to tow motorcycles that break down on Long Island, as another benefit to joining LI ABATE. *Discussion ensued about the requirements necessary to tow on local parkways.* Feedback about this idea is wanted along with any information on towing companies willing to tow motorcycles.

### **New Business**

**LI ABATE 2017 Motorcyclist Handbook:** Nancy is now working on the 2017 Motorcyclist Handbook. The handbook will be limited to 66 pages. Advertising prices are the same as last year: \$50 for a half-page ad, and \$100 for a full page ad. These prices are for camera ready layouts. (There is an additional \$25 fee for those ads that require artwork or layout. If you advertised with us last year, we have your artwork on file.) *The fee is due along with advertising copy.* The deadline for advertising in this handbook will be March 1st, so the handbooks can be printed and available at our Awareness Run in April. The centerfold of this handbook will once again list bike runs and events. *If there are advertisers who know they want to be in this handbook, please contact Nancy to reserve your space.*

**LI ABATE Scholarship Fundraiser:** *A paint night* has been scheduled for March 7, 7:30pm at the Backstage Pass, Ronkonkoma. All profits will go toward the 2017 LI ABATE Scholarship.

**Motorcycle Awareness Idea:** Karen shared an idea of coming up with a form / game that kids could play while riding in a car. "How many motorcycles do you see?" The form will include an area for kids to record the color and make of the motorcycle, how many riders on the motorcycle, etc. *This is in effort to increase awareness of motorcycles to those riding in cars.* Once form is finalized, it will be available on our website, in our newsletter, on Facebook.

**LI ABATE Booth Setup:** LI ABATE will be purchasing an additional booth setup (tent, table skirts), in effort to increase opportunities to spread our motorcycle awareness message, hand out motorcycle awareness materials, and increase membership. Nancy and Andrea will be working together to coordinate a schedule for booth dates and volunteers for the season.

**Texas Legislative Lobby Day:** Jim has been invited to, and will attend the Texas Legislative Lobby Day, January 23<sup>rd</sup> in Austin, TX. Double D will speak about motorcycle profiling legislation, which will be lobbied for, after an organized run to the Capitol.

**2017 LI ABATE Meeting Location:** The Ronkonkoma Fire Department meeting location has been renewed for 2017. We will continue to meet here the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month through the month of August. Alternate arrangements will be made for September, which is primary day, October, where we meet at the Centereach VFW, and November, which is election day. There is no meeting in December. In addition, we will begin membership meetings in Nassau County on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. These meetings will be held at the Marine Corp. League Building 99, New York Avenue, Massapequa.

**Organizational Meeting** for the 70 motorcycle clubs on Long Island will take place on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss runs and events for 2017. **Nancy, LI ABATE First Vice-President** and **Nick, LI ABATE Second Vice-President** will attend this meeting.

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

There will be no **Chili Run** this year. Instead, bring your best chili to our March membership meeting for our chili contest.

**April 9** (tentative date) - Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run in conjunction with **Full Throttle Magazine**. *This year we will be inviting people who have been impacted in a motorcycle accident, due to a driver's carelessness, to share their stories. We are hoping that the media will then push the motorcycle awareness message. We will again be inviting local politicians to this event.*

**June 11** - Veterans Appreciation Run

**August 19-20** - LI ABATE Annual Campout

**November 5** – Food and Toy Run

**December 9 – Holiday Party**

**Motorcycle Clubs Runs / Events**

**Patriot Guard Riders:** January 13, 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*

**HAMCLI Dinner Dance:** February 12 @ Watermill Inn, Nesconset Hwy, Smithtown, 3:30 – 8:30. \$80 per person includes food, open bar, music. *(LI ABATE has purchased tickets for a table. If anyone is interested in going, please let Jim know.)*

**50/50:** \$113 to the winner. Thank you to **Gerry** who generously donated half of his winnings to the Veterans Appreciation Fund.

*Bill reported that due to the generosity of our members, tonight's donations to the Veterans Appreciation Fund, with the funds being matched, totaled \$2400.*

**Motion 3-2017: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10.