

LI ABATE membership meeting 2-14-17, Ronkonkoma, NY

Happy Valentine's Day!

BBQ before the meeting. *Thank you to Joe, Jackie, Claudia and Mike for barbequing tonight. In addition, we'd like to thank LI ABATE junior member, Nicholas, for helping out at tonight's meeting.*

7:35 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence for the recent passing of LI ABATE member Bill Bartasek's father.

Welcome new members and guests.

Minutes for the January 2017 membership meeting were published in the February 2017 newsletter.

Motion 4-2017: Motion to accept January 2017 membership meeting minutes as published in the February 2017 newsletter. (Seconded) All in favor.

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. **Bill Bartasek** submitted a \$500 donation in memory of his father, who was a WWII veteran. His father rode on the back of Bill's bike in the 2016 Veteran's Appreciation Run. Bill's donation becomes \$2,000 with the matching funds. Thank you Bill and thank you to all who donated.*

Motion 5-2017: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

Jackie / Membership: March membership renewal letters will be sent out this week. 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 or Nancy know and the e-mail data base will be updated.

Nancy / Newsletter: A link was sent out to members for the February 2017 newsletter. Nancy encourages all to send her pictures, articles, stories, event flyers, etc., for publication in our newsletter. **Website:** Nancy continues to update the website. A new events calendar is up and membership renewals are once again working on 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. He also reached out to BOCES to inquire if students would be available to videograph this event. Mike will also be approaching Nassau County Harley and Oakdale Harley to inquire if LI ABATE can set up a booth at their open house events. He, and other board members, presented Oakdale Harley with a plaque in appreciation for their support of LI ABATE.

Mike / Legislative Officer: Mike is currently 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 over 300 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 attended the Suffolk County Traffic and Safety board meeting. He reported that many roadways are being remarked with a different material which is not as slippery to motorists / motorcyclists. Mike will also inquire what type of material is being used on roadways during storms, *ie: salt, sand, brine, etc.*

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. *Kathy also proposed a membership challenge. Members who sign up 5 new members will receive a crew neck sweatshirt + 1 year free membership renewal. Members who sign up 10 new members will receive a crew neck sweatshirt + 2 year free membership renewal. Members who sign up 20 new members will receive a sweatshirt of their choosing + 5 year free membership renewal. Challenge is due at the April membership meeting.*

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. In the case of Yoneyama, the driver who hit and seriously injured motorcyclist **Ron Starke**, Yoneyama pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge and will be sentenced 3/23 @

Riverhead in the courtroom of Judge Cohen. Members are encouraged to attend in support of Ron. An e-mail reminder will be sent out.

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, 6:30pm at the Backstage Pass, Ronkonkoma. The cost will be \$35pp with \$15 going toward the 2017 LI ABATE Scholarship fund. The cost will include a canvas and materials to paint a lighthouse with background flag, food and drink specials. *Please support this event and help raise money for the scholarship fund.*

LI ABATE Nassau County Meetings: LI ABATE began membership meetings in Nassau County on the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 7:30pm. These meetings are being held at the Marine Corp. League Building 99, New York Avenue, Massapequa. Last month, approximately 20 people were in attendance. Those new to LI ABATE had the opportunity to question and learn about what we do for the motorcycle community.

March Membership Meeting in Ronkonkoma will be a chili contest. Members are encouraged to bring a batch of their best chili to be judged and enjoyed by members during the meeting.

New Business

Texas Legislative Lobby Day: Jim attended the Texas Legislative Lobby Day, January 23rd in Austin, TX. He brought a banner with him stating *LI ABATE Supports Texas Bikers*, which was well received. Double D spoke about motorcycle profiling legislation, which was lobbied for, after an organized run to the Capitol. Peter, from HAMC attended and met with the organizers of *US Defenders and COIR*. This event was another great opportunity to network with motorcyclists from across the country. *For a detailed account of Jim's trip, please see his President's Article in the LI ABATE February newsletter available on the LI ABATE website.*

2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Rocky Point: The Rocky Point VFW invited LI ABATE to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Sunday 3/12. This year, motorcycles will be leading the parade. Additional information to follow.

Sgt. John Barbato Award: LI ABATE will be one of the recipients of this special award by **Project9Line** for “significant support of project9line’s mission”. *Project 9 Line is an organization that helps veterans cope with PTSD.* The award will be presented at the Sgt. John Barbato Dinner, 2/16 at the Marconi Manor.

Motorcycle Only Checkpoints: Detailed articles regarding the MOC which occurred in November, the day of the LI ABATE Food and Toy Run, have been printed in the MRF and AMA newsletters and *Easyrider* Digital Magazine. Getting this information out through national organizations and other media outlets is helpful toward getting national profiling legislation.

Long Island Needs A Dragstrip: Jim is a member of the Long Island Needs a Dragstrip Committee. A recent survey was sent out to all LI ABATE members. Approximately 700 members responded. Jim encourages all members to take part in this survey.

LI ABATE Run / Event List

April 2 - 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.* The run will begin at the Dennison Bldg., Hauppauge. Registration will begin at 9am, with a press conference at 11am. Local political officials will again be invited. Bike blessings will be offered by **Bikers for Christ Motorcycle Ministry**. The run will go to Backstage Pass, Ronkonkoma. All proceeds from this run will go toward our 2017 Motorcycle Safety and Awareness campaign.

June 11 - Veterans Appreciation Run

August 19-20 - LI ABATE Annual Campout

November 5 – Food and Toy Run

December 9 – 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*

Rushing Wind Biker Church – 2/25 Fundraiser for a member who needs a kidney transplant. The fundraiser will be from 7:00 – 10:00 at the church.

Full Throttle Magazine – 3/5 Ice Breaker Bash, 89North, Patchogue. Party begins at 1:00.

LI HOG – 3/11 Blood Drive @ Eastern Harley. 10:30 – 3:30.

Ladies Auxiliary Am Vets – Debbie thanked LI ABATE for the funds the Ladies Auxiliary received from the Veterans Appreciation Fund. They were able to provide gift bags to homeless veterans at Beacon House, which included hats, scarves and donated toiletries.

American Legion Auxiliary, Greenlawn – 3/26 Craft Fair 11:00-4:00 @ Huntington American Legion Post 360.

Empire Galaxie Club – 4/9 11th Annual Spring Breakout Cruise (cars and motorcycles) from Farmingdale to Orient Point. Rain or shine. Starting @ Multiples Theater parking lot Rt. 110 & Conklin St., Farmingdale, 8am. Cruising time 9:30. \$20 reg. fee *All net proceeds going to America's Vet Dogs.*

50/50: \$110 to the winner. Thank you to **Dale** who generously donated her winnings to the Veterans Appreciation Fund and to Rushing Wind Biker Church for the kidney donation fundraiser.

Motion 6-2017: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:47.