

LI ABATE membership meeting 3-21-17, Massapequa, NY
March membership meeting in Ronkonkoma cancelled due to weather.

7:54 Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

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

Motion 7-2017: Motion to accept February 2017 membership meeting minutes as published in the March 2017 newsletter. (Seconded) All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Bill was not present at tonight's meeting. Jim gave the treasurer's report which included recent income and expenditures

Motion 8 -2017: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.

Committee Reports

Membership: April is a large membership renewal month. ***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.*** Please note that the LI ABATE board meets 2x/month, so processing membership applications and renewals may take some time. 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 March 2017 newsletter.

Nancy / Website: Nancy continues to update the website. A new events calendar is up and membership renewals are once again working on the website. Information regarding the upcoming Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run is on the website along with pre-registration (pre-registration discount \$15 rider, \$10 passenger).

Mike / Public Relations: Mike is seeking 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. **Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone** and Suffolk County Legislators have been invited to attend press conference before the run. Mike reached out to Oakdale Harley to inquire if LI ABATE can set up a booth at their open house events. The first of these events will be Saturday 3/25 at Oakdale Harley. He, and other board members, presented Oakdale Harley with a plaque in appreciation for their support of LI ABATE.

Mike / Legislative Officer: Mike has picked up the legislation regarding exhaust pipes, with language in this legislation stating that altered exhaust pipes may not exceed current accepted

decibel levels. Mike has been in contact with a representative from *Vance and Hines*, who was unaware that NYS law does not allow for the altering of stock exhaust system. Mike will inquire about literature pertaining to decibel levels on their exhaust pipes. Members discussed getting exhaust pipe manufacturing companies, along with AMA and MRF involved in this legislation.

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

LI ABATE 2017 Motorcyclist Handbook: Nancy is now working on the 2017 Motorcyclist Handbook. The deadline for advertising in this handbook has been reached. The handbooks will be sent to print and will be available at our Awareness Run in April. The centerfold of this handbook will once again list bike runs and events.

LI ABATE Scholarship Fundraiser: We had approximately 60 participants at our *paint night* fundraiser, at the Backstage Pass, Ronkonkoma. Over \$1,000 was raised, which will go toward the 2017 LI ABATE Scholarship fund. **Andrea**, our volunteer coordinator, has graciously named LI ABATE as the recipient of a fundraiser she hosts with psychic Janet Russell. This will be held at Villa Monaco's. Tickets are \$75per person.

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 DWI 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. The **Brotherhood of United Bikers** asked LI ABATE to become involved in a case in Connecticut, where a woman, accused of DWI, drove into a group of 18 motorcyclists, resulting in death and serious injuries to motorcyclists. LI ABATE and **CMRA** (Connecticut Motorcycle Riders Association) attended court hearing, where the driver received an \$800,000 bail. CMRA will continue to monitor this case.

2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Rocky Point: The **Rocky Point VFW** and **Patriot Guard Riders** invited LI ABATE to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Sunday 3/12. This year, motorcycles lead the parade. Although the weather was very cold, motorcyclists did attend.

New Business

Long Island Needs A Dragstrip: Jim / LI ABATE is a member of the Long Island Needs a Dragstrip Committee in effort to provide motorcyclists with a safe place to race. A task force has now been established consisting of two members of this committee and two Suffolk County Legislators. The goal is to develop a motorsports park.

Motorcycle Awareness Road Signs: We have 4 x 4 motorcycle awareness signs to be posted on county roads for the motorcycle season. We are looking for volunteers to help post these signs. Also if anyone knows of property where we could post additional 4 x 4 signs with permission, in Suffolk and in Nassau, please let board know. In addition, 4' x 8' motorcycle awareness signs will be posted in front of all police precincts in May.

Count Motorcycles: LI ABATE wants to encourage all drivers and passengers to play "count motorcycles" while on the road. LI ABATE member, **Karen Wirth**, along with member **Bill Forrester**, developed this idea into a game, which they had printed on pads. These pads will be given out at the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Run.

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. The run will begin at the Riverhead Elks and end in Montauk. *All proceeds from this run will be quadrupled and given to local veterans organizations.* **Kathy Pfeil** has gotten the **82nd Battalion Military Band** to play at Montauk. A bugler will also be present to play *Taps*.

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*

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.*

Leathernecks MC: 10/29 VA Hospital Run. Run begins at the Marine Corp League, Massapequa and goes to the VA Hospital, Northport, then back to the Marine Corp League for after party.

Motion 9-2017: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:31.